

Finding, Documenting, and Evaluating Sources

January 28, 2004

Three sections

- Finding
- Evaluating
- Documenting

Finding useful literature

- Bibliographies from papers you've read
- "Bibliographic Index: A Cumulative Bibliography of Bibliographies"
- Electronic databases
- Print journals
- Internet

Search terms

- Think carefully about search terms to narrow (or broaden) your search
- Consider using other search terms
- Is a search term thesaurus available
 - ERIC thesaurus
- Learn to use the advanced search features
 - PsycInfo

Searching the WWW

- Learn to use the Advanced Search features
 - Findspot.com is useful for this
- Limit to .edu domain
- Use Internet sources with caution
 - Some professors prohibit use of Internet sources

Evaluating Sources

Group Activity

- Go to class web site
- One computer at a table, visit the Cornell page for [print resources](#)
- The other visits the [web site evaluation wizard](#)
- Create a compare/contrast chart when done

Other Relevant Web Tidbits

- Finding who links to the site
- Use AlltheWeb.com to see who owns a site
 - example: MartinLutherKing.org
- Use Overture.com to find out who makes money of your searches
 - View max bids

Documenting Sources

Notetaking Strategies

- Student sample
- Coding
- Index cards
- EndNote

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Quoting

- Exact quotes require quotation marks
- Used when
 - The text is uniquely worded
 - Is a “classic” definition or view
 - You’re relying on the author’s authority
- Use sparingly
 - Some professors impose limits on number of quotes.

Paraphrasing

- Must be cited unless it is common knowledge
- You are putting the idea in your own words
- A paraphrase is more than just substituting synonyms into the original sentence

Plagiarism

- A serious academic offense
- Can lead to public humiliation in academia
- What constituting plagiarism?
 - Not using quotation marks when they're required
 - Paraphrasing too closely
 - Failing to cite someone else's ideas in paraphrases and/or summaries
- Careful note taking and documentation is the best way to stay out of this kind of trouble

Partner Activity

- Visit Diana Hacker web site at <http://www.dianahacker.com/writersref/>
- Complete research exercise on Avoiding Plagiarism