Secondary Lesson Ideas – Teaching Website Credibility

It is essential that our students learn to identify good sources, especially when it comes to the Internet. With social media, it is becoming more and more evident that people (adults included) are not taking the time to identify the accuracy and reliability of their sources. So much misinformation is "liked" and forwarded on as truth. Therefore it is even more imperative that we teach website credibility. Here are a few ideas that you can use when teaching about website credibility.

1. Have you heard about CRAAP? Yes, some might find this offensive, but CRAAP is an effective tool for evaluating websites. It is an acronym that students can't help but remember when researching. The letters stand for C – Credibility, R – Relevance, A – Authority, A – Accuracy, and P – Purpose. Google CRAAP, and you will find many universities are using it. You can find CRAAP checklists, songs, and worksheets online.

2. A few years ago, Georgia Loutensock forwarded several website credibility evaluation PDFs from EasyBib.com to the listserv. If you didn't get it or keep it, these are great teaching resources and worth repeating here. Go to http://media.easybib.com/ebook/mla_websiteeval.pdf for several examples of real websites that are identified as credible, maybe credible and not credible. They even have one that specifically addresses the credibility of Wikipedia. It makes it clear to the student what they are looking for and why some sites don't pass the test.

We all know how critical it is to teach students about website credibility. These are just a few ideas that have worked for me in the short amount of time that I'm given to teach this important life skill. I am sure there are other good resources and ideas out there. Please share what you do! Send an article of how you teach website credibility to the UELMA newsletter. It would be great to hear from librarians all over the state.