Information Literacy and Social Communities
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Digital Information Fluency (DIF) is the ability to find, evaluate and use digital information effectively, efficiently and ethically. Students preparing for high school graduation need to be able to identify, evaluate and use information related to reading comprehension effectively. Social networking sites may serve as a good learning platform for students, as they have the flexibility and privacy to balance learning with work and personal responsibilities.

Abstract:

This module addresses a needs assessment for librarians helping DC high school students to evaluate internet resources for reading comprehension resources from various social media networks by determining the authority, accuracy, objectivity, currency, and functionality of the information. After a brief instruction, they will complete the web exercise using Facebook, and provide feedback using SurveyMonkey.com. With the explosion of information on the Internet, it is important for users to have the skills to analyze the various web sources using the information literacy competency standards. This module also provides an example to librarians how they can supplement classroom instruction with social networks to teach the importance of information literacy. Combining classroom skills with Web 2.0 strategies allows users to learn at their own pace and can allow students to maintain confidentiality.

For this project:

RADCAB is an information evaluation assessment rubric, which strengthens the user’s digital information fluency! Using the search term “reading comprehension,” which of these social communities do you think provide the top four search results, which would satisfy RADCAB?

- Digg.com
- AuthorsDen.com
- Delicious.com
- Facebook.com

Social networking and other forms of digital communication have radically transformed learning, giving students unprecedented access to a world of knowledge and personal contacts that would have been inconceivable a generation ago (Brydolf, 2007). Educators, including librarians, are influenced by these trends, and some are using Web 2.0 tools in an experimental mode (Ragains, 2008).

Which social community satisfied RADCAB?

Digg.com
AuthorsDen.com
Delicious.com
Facebook.com

None of search results satisfied RADCAB.

Four out of four search results satisfied RADCAB!

Conclusion:

Although all of the social communities researched in this project showed a diversity of presenting information to the users, whether to members or non-members, only one of the four social communities satisfied all of the evaluation criteria. Delicious.com – a repurposed website – was the only site with search results, which satisfied all of the evaluation criteria.

The end result: Don’t believe everything you find on the Internet. Use RADCAB to determine if the information is right for you.

For more information and a list of references, visit http://tinyurl.com/6s7th58