

Reliability of

## Internet Resources in an Open Content World



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## Internet Content

- Organization content: NASA, Amazon
- Subscription content: Britannica
- Open content: Wikipedia
- Social content: Myspace
- Blogs, wikis, sharing: YouTube

Internet content  
is more “open”  
than print content

“open” as in  
Pandora’s Box?



Which resources to explore:

- Genetic Counselor
- Robotics Analyst
- Robotic Surgeon
- Custom Pharmacist
- Nanotech Engineer
- Genetic/Nano/Robot Programmer

Which resources to explore:

- Wiki:  
<http://plcmclearning.pbwiki.com>
- Blogs: Political, News, Personal  
<http://huffingtonpost.com>  
<http://drudgereport.com>
- Blog central:  
<http://technorati.com>

## Did you know?



### Information Changes ...

- As shown in *Shift Happens*,
- Technical information expected to DOUBLE every 72 hours within a few years.
- Information is **increasing exponentially ... so**  
**How does our publishing system stay authoritative?**

### Exploring Reliability

- [DiHydrogen Monoxide Scandal](#)
- [Supressed California Crop Failure](#)
- [Endangered Species Information](#)
- [Truth about a Historic Figure](#)

# DHMO Public Service Announcement

Colorless

## Is it Fact?

### **Fact vs. Opinion**

- broadband penetration in US?
- underlying definitions/assumptions








### **Objectivity vs. Advocacy**

- I want information on rifle safety?
- Should handguns be controlled?



## Can it be Fact?

### **Which are good/bad for us?**

-  Coffee (caffeine)
-  Red wine (alcohol)
-  Fats (olive oil? ... bacon?)
-  Carbs (bread, rice, potato, carrot)
-  Sugar

When do we want **fact**

...

when do we want **opinion**

...

when do we want **fiction?**

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## Who Owns a Website?

🌐 Try this on **martinlutherking.org**

🌐 <http://easywhois.com>

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## Check the History of a Site

🌐 Try the **WayBackMachine** at

🌐 <http://archive.org>

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## Check the References

- Try references at the bottom of any **Wikipedia** page
- <http://wikipedia.org>

## What does the URL say?

- [www.sears.com](http://www.sears.com)
- [www.lehigh.edu/~sgarrigan/](http://www.lehigh.edu/~sgarrigan/)
- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- [www.arin.net](http://www.arin.net)
- [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)
- [cmap.ihmc.us](http://cmap.ihmc.us)
- [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

## Try the “Google Commands”

- Limit your search to certain domains with the **site** command
  - `site:.edu “stem cell research”`
- Find out who links to the site with the **link** command
  - `link:www.martinlutherking.org`

## Academic Searches

- Google Scholar  
<http://scholar.google.com>
  - Nettekker (subscription req'd.)  
<http://nettrekker.com>
  - POWER Library
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## Directories vs. Searches

- Yahoo Directory & many others
  - smaller than a Google search
  - categorized by a human cataloger
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## Expert vs. Novice Search

- Expert knows the domain, search terms, authoritative sites & experts, etc.
  - Expert knows how to **precisely limit search**
  - Novice doesn't know where to start. GOAL: to move from novice to more "expert-like" search
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# Thank You

Contact CAPE to schedule a presentation, workshop  
or consultation for your institution



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