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Reframing Wikipedia as an information source: Concepts and strategies for critical inquiry and digital literacy.

Andrea Baer

Rowan University, baera@rowan.edu

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Recommended Citation

Baer, A. Reframing Wikipedia as an information source: Concepts and strategies for critical inquiry and digital literacy. April 12, 2024. Rowan Teaching Connection Spring Mini-Conference: Great Ideas for Teaching Students. Rowan University. https://rdw.rowan.edu/lib_scholarship/57/

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Reframing Wikipedia as an Information Source

Concepts and Strategies for Critical Inquiry and Digital Literacies

Rowan Teaching Connection GIFTs

April 12, 2024

Andrea Baer, PhD, MIS

baera@rowan.edu

Listen to Wikipedia

Take a pause and listen. Wikipedia is a global phenomenon.

(Project built by Hatnote, Stephen LaPorte, and Mahmoud Hashemi)

Digital and Critical Literacy Concepts & Practices: Using Wikipedia as an Information Source

- Information creation and circulation
- Social nature of (re)constructing knowledge
- Digital representation and information gaps
- Citations and scholarly/public “conversations”
 - Critical source evaluation
- Intellectual property, copyright, and fair use

“Using Wikipedia” Crash Course Video



Core Content Policies

- Neutral point of view
 - Verifiability

(Others can check that information is from a reliable source)

- No original research

(Content must be attributable to a reliable, published source)

Five Pillars

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia
- Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view
- Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, edit, and distribute
- Wikipedia's editors should treat each other with respect and civility
 - Wikipedia has no firm rules

Wikipedia: A Trustworthy Source?

- A starting point for background information and context
 - Numerous research studies indicate that overall Wikipedia articles are accurate, though many have errors of omission (see, for example, [Brown 2011](#)).
- For recent events or highly specific topics, Wikipedia may have more information than other sources.
 - Reference lists can point to additional sources
 - Be critical. Evaluate the given article's credibility.

Evaluation Strategies for Wikipedia Articles (1 of 2)

- Consider the context behind the article.
(e.g., a controversial issue, a current event that is presently unfolding, an article about a small company that hopes to promote itself online).
 - Consider article length.
(Again, longer articles tend to be more accurate, shorter articles deserve more careful evaluation.
- Take note of any [template messages](#) at the top of an article.

Evaluation Strategies for Wikipedia Articles (2 of 2)

- View an article's "Talk" page or "History" page for insight into the article's development and contributors.
 - Review the references.
- When needed check for other sources that confirm or challenge questionable information.

Using Wikipedia Wisely

Workshop Template

Using Wikipedia Wisely Guide

Thank you!

Contact information:
Andrea Baer
baera@rowan.edu