

YOUTH CHARTER



You have the right to explore the internet but remember that you cannot trust everything that you see or read on the internet.

Could this be YOU?

There are several case studies of this, one of the main examples is of a student doing an assignment on Martin Luther King, they search the internet and find a site that seems suitable, as they started to read the website it gave some interesting facts, later down the page it started to develop a racial tone. As the website started off outlining facts, some clever websites mix up fact and fiction enabling them to give out a mixture of truth and lies and if information is not checked for accuracy this can be repeated as FACT!

The internet is a fantastic place to find out new information and interesting facts, many of which could help your homework or studies. The number of webpages are increasing everyday and you too could have your own website up and running within minutes. The majority of websites that you will visit will contain correct and factual information.

Other sites that present incorrect information in a factual way are Pro Anorexia sites, Pro self harm groups. A very recent example is the Bridgend Suicides in Wales where seven youngsters hang themselves after visiting the Pro Suicide sites.

Check the authority of a website

- Check to see when it was last updated.
- Check to see if authorship details are available
- Check the URL to see if it is a .gov (government), .edu or .ac (academic) website
- Check the links to the website by going to a search engine such as Google and typing link:www.mysite.com to see who is linking to a site.
- Check to see who the site is owned by. A service such as <http://www.whois.net/> has a nice utility that does this.
- Check to see what the site used to look like by using the Wayback machine.

Remember just because a website says it's the truth, it doesn't mean it is!

If in doubt check it out!

http://www.safesurfingkids.com/evaluating_browser_security.htm