



Lateral Reading: Detecting Online Sources You Can Trust – English Transcript

[MUSIC PLAYING]

It's easier than ever to find information. But with so much information available at our fingertips, it's becoming difficult to know what's true and what's not. Unfortunately, there's a lot of incorrect or misleading information out there. Untrue or false information is called misinformation.

Remember, anyone can post on the internet, and they don't even have to be an expert. In the OSLIS video "Detecting Trustworthiness," we looked at a video created by ManateeFanClub. We didn't know anything about ManateeFanClub, so we opened a new tab and searched for more information about her.

By doing this, we determined that she is a super fan of manatees, but not an expert or a scientist. So, a good information detective would not use her videos or website for research.

When we opened new tabs to find out more about ManateeFanClub, we were using an important detective skill called lateral reading. Lateral reading is reading sideways across multiple browser tabs on the same topic. The word lateral means sideways or across. Lateral is the opposite of vertical.

You are used to reading vertically, or from top to bottom, in books, magazine articles, and other print sources. You can read vertically in online resources as well. As an information detective, you read vertically to identify the author, the purpose, and the content of an online resource.

On the other hand, there are at least two ways to use lateral reading. You can use lateral reading skills to evaluate the source of the information, and you can also use lateral reading to compare content across different sources to check for consistency. This video will focus on evaluating the source of the information by reading laterally.

Let's say you are doing research about tigers. You find this article, "How to Raise a Tiger Cub." The author is Allyson Shaw, and the article is from National Geographic. You are wondering if this publisher and author are trustworthy. A savvy detective would read laterally by opening a new browser tab and searching for additional information about the creator of the source.



You can read information about either the author or the organization that published the article. In this case, National Geographic Kids published the article. We opened a new tab and searched using the keywords: "national geographic kids" trustworthy. Several results, including one from Common Sense Media, tell us that National Geographic Kids is a reliable source of information about science and history.

If we search for the author, "allyson shaw", we find that she is a journalist for National Geographic who has written over 200 articles. Because we have already determined that we can trust National Geographic, and because they trust Allyson Shaw, we can feel confident that she is a trustworthy source for our research.

Reading what others say about National Geographic and this author helps us decide that this source is a trustworthy one to use for our tiger research. Remember, if you're not sure about the results you found, can always ask a trusted adult what they know about the person or organization.

Now that you know how to read laterally, you can do this as many times as you need to verify sources before using them for your research. A good information detective knows to read laterally, no matter what the topic is. Lateral reading – a skill to detect online sources you can trust.

For specific examples and for more information about this topic and the entire research process, explore OSLIS.

OSLIS – Learn to Research. Research to Learn.

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