

2.1. Time for some critical thinking

Information

Data that (1) has been verified to be accurate and timely, (2) is specific and organized for a purpose, (3) is presented within a context that gives it meaning and relevance, and (4) that can lead to an increase in understanding and decrease in uncertainty.⁶

Information: take it or leave it!



What information do we get from the internet?
What information do we put on the internet?

Internet is a two-way street; classes should be given to students to teach them how to use and file all that is on the internet

I use the internet to help with homework, there's so much information there, sometimes there's too much. Once I used this website and then realised that the information wasn't true - it was a total waste of time.

Charlotte

Josh

I'm in a band and we use the net to share information about our gigs and we also upload videos of new stuff we've recorded. I'm not sure that many people look at it, but the people who know it's there do and it's a good way of reaching a lot of people really easily.

It's so useful for buying things, I look at clothes in the shops and then go online to buy them more cheaply!

You have to put so much information online when you want to do anything, I'm always a bit worried about giving out my address and phone number, I mean email address is probably okay, but I've set up more than one, just in case you get loads of spam and junk mail.

Livi

⁶ BusinessDictionary (2012), "Information" (online), <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/information.html>, consulted on 20/08/2012.



What information **do you take** from the internet?



What information **do you leave** on the internet?

TRUE or FALSE? We all think we wouldn't be taken in by a scam. But the truth is that the scammers are getting better and we're not necessarily getting wiser. How many times do we see a pop-up telling us we've won first prize or that we've been specially chosen for something?

It's not always that easy to spot a scam – how good are you?

Look at the websites below – can you identify which are the fake ones?



You can try more of these by visiting
<https://www.phish-no-phish.com/staying-safe-online/quiz/>
and take the quiz to see just how quickly you can spot a fake site⁷.

⁷ Symantec (2012), 'Staying Safe Online' (online), <https://www.phish-no-phish.com/staying-safe-online/quiz/>, consulted on 10/09/2012.

How do we know if what we find online is reliable and trustworthy?

DID YOU KNOW?

In the UK 33% of 12-15 year olds say that if they search for something, all of the search results must contain true information.⁸

▶ Can you list 5 rules for looking up information online effectively?

1

2

3

4

5



Safe surfing on the web.

Unreliable information is not the only risk we encounter on the web. In the boxes below, can you list some of the other risks you need to be aware of? The first box is filled in for you.

Viruses



Take another look at the risks you have indicated, and rank them from 1 to 6, 1 being the risk you are most concerned about. Check with people around you to see if they agree with the risks you selected and the way you ranked them.

⁸ Ofcom (2012), 'Children and Parents : Media Use and Attitudes Report' (online), <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/media-literacy/oct2012/main.pdf>, p.104 consulted on 10/09/2012.

2.2. A toolkit for a credible online journalist

Journalism

The profession or practice of reporting about, photographing, or editing news stories for one of the mass media.⁹

Blogs have become a popular way for citizens to report on events in real time, and can give even children and young people a means of swaying public opinion. Look at the two following examples.

1

"A Taliban gunman shot and wounded Malala Yousafzai, a 14-year-old girl who campaigned for education, in Pakistan's Swat Valley Tuesday, calling her work 'obscurity',..."

The Washington Post, 10/09/2012¹⁰

Look up the story of Malala Yousafzai on internet.

Describe what Malala did and what the outcomes of her actions were?

What did Malala do?

The outcomes of her actions:

Here is another example, this time of a 9 year-old blogger.

2

"Earlier this year, Martha Payne, a nine-year-old schoolgirl from Lochgilphead in Scotland, made headlines around the world when her school meals blog was "banned" by her local council..."

Sarah Rainey, The Telegraph, 2/12/2012¹¹

What did Martha do and how? What have been the outcomes?

What did Martha do?

The outcomes of her actions:

Which were the most reliable sources of information you found on Malala and Martha, and what made you think these sources were reliable?

⁹ The Free Dictionary (2012), 'Journalism' (online), <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/journalism>, consulted on 21/12/2012.

¹⁰ Khazan, O. (2012), 'Interview with 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai who was shot by Taliban (online)', <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs>, consulted on 10/09/2012.

¹¹ Payne, M. (2012), 'Martha Payne: diary of a girl who fed the starving' (online), <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews>, consulted on 10/09/2012.

Write in the box below 5 of the “tools” that you think Malala and Martha used to make their blog both credible and powerful.
Do you agree with the first tool that is provided for you?

1 They speak about personal experience objectively, but not sensationally.

2

3

4

5

➡ Now consider what an online journalist can do that an offline journalist can't?
What about the other way around – are there things that an offline journalist can do which wouldn't be possible online? (e.g. copyright, quality control, dissemination, ...)

An online journalist
can

An offline journalist
can

Both Malala and Martha raised their voice about issues that concerned them. Now try your hand at writing in 10 lines minimum a short informative blog about the risk you ranked the highest in **Safe surfing on the web** on page 14. Why should we all be concerned about this particular online risk, and what can we do about it?



Check your facts first... then check with your friends to see if they consider that what you've written is clear and credible. Upload your blog to www.webwewant.eu. You will be able to rate the other blogs posted there.

2.3. Think before you post

Freedom of expression

The right to express your ideas and opinions freely through speech, writing, and other forms of communication but without deliberately causing harm to others' character and/or reputation by false or misleading statements.¹²

➔ You are posting some photos of a party last weekend on a social network – which ones do you upload and which of your friends do you tag?

► **Background:** Amy is one of your best friends. She doesn't use the Internet as often as you. Amy is part of the school drama club and is about to audition for a TV show.

► **Twitter handle:**
@amy_singsdances

► **Aspires to:** Use her talents in musicals/tv shows.

► **Personality:** Fun, caring, sensitive – most likely to listen to you when you need a chat.

► **Enjoys:** Singing, dancing eating piri piri chicken and hanging out with her mates.

► **Background:** Aidan is your best friend. You have known each other since you were both babies! Aidan loves music and spends a lot of his time creating new tracks and getting people's reactions through soundcloud.

► **Twitter handle:** musicandaidan

► **Aspires to:** Be a music teacher.

► **Personality:** Aidan finds it hard to express himself without using bad words! He gets frustrated easily but is always chilled when he is working on his music.

► **Enjoys:** Making music, listening to music, buying music, going to new music festivals.

► **Background:** Sam is a secret genius; she got moved up a year because her maths skills are incredible. She is also the wild girl in your group of friends. She wants to be a part of everything and enjoys controversy.

► **Twitter handle:**
@sexy_sam_can

► **Aspires to:** Get where she wants to be but have fun on the way there.

► **Personality:** A new friend. Sam does everything quickly and doesn't often think of the consequences. She is most likely to make you laugh as she has a wicked sense of humour.

► **Enjoys:** Pretty much everything!

► **Background:** Nate is a complete bookworm. His family is very conservative and very strict about him pursuing his studies. He rarely goes out and is focussed on his exams. When he does go out he tends to "let his hair down" (a lot!).

► **Twitter handle:** He doesn't use it.

► **Aspires to:** Be a lawyer. Nate likes expensive clothes and needs a well-paid job to help him afford them!

► **Personality:** Nate is quite shy.

► **Enjoys:** Girls and more alcohol than is sensible (only when he isn't studying!).

What might have happened over the weekend?

Which of the friends might react badly to photos being uploaded of them without permission?

Are any of these friends more vulnerable than others?

Which of the friends would you expect to be most resilient to online exposure?

¹² BusinessDictionary.com (2013), 'Freedom of expression' (online), <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/freedom-of-expression.html>, consulted on 21/12/2012.

Read everyone's profiles carefully. If an inappropriate photo was tagged, which of these friends could be negatively affected?

► **Background:** Sash is a new member of your group after moving schools. She was bullied online and is very careful about her digital footprint.

► **Twitter handle:** Sash has deactivated her twitter account.

► **Aspires to:** Work for the government to support the work bullying charities do.

► **Personality:** Sash is not shy but finds it hard to get to trust new people. She is in the process of volunteering for a peer mentoring system within a local school.

► **Enjoys:** Volunteering and travel.



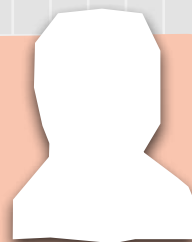
► **Background:** Sabine loves fashion. She has created a blog all about street style. Her blog is successful and she is making money from advertising hosted on the blog.

► **Twitter handle:** @sabinelovesstyle

► **Aspires to:** Work as a fashion journalist.

► **Personality:** Sabine has a huge network of friends – mainly people she has met through blogging. She doesn't often go out with her offline friends.

► **Enjoys:** Making new friends, spending time with her boyfriend.



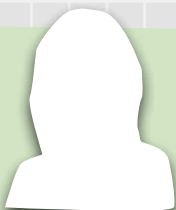
► **Background:** Max is the techie of the group. He has been programming for years.

► **Twitter handle:** @javaMAXpython

► **Aspires to:** Create the next bestselling online game.

► **Personality:** A great friend. Max is always a great giver of advice – offline and online. He often sticks up for people on social networks if he thinks they are being bullied.

► **Enjoys:** Most of Max's time is spent online but when he is in the real world he loves football and is a pretty good chef!



► **Background:** Marcus is the joker of the group. He plays a lot of rugby and enjoys playing pranks on his friends.

► **Twitter handle:** @mrmarcuszzz

► **Aspires to:** Marcus doesn't think about tomorrow.

► **Personality:** Marcus is the centre of fun but sometimes takes things a little too far, particularly online. He is not very good at thinking about things from someone else's point of view.

► **Enjoys:** All sport and being with his friends.



Charlotte

I think that you're the only one who should judge if you should post photos on social networks or not.

It depends on the photo, but I don't want strange people being able to tag my photos.



Isabelle

Freedom of expression is a very important human right. Now take another look at the International Human Rights Convention (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>).

Which human rights do you think we need to be especially careful to protect when we use the internet?

Now write a profile of yourself, like the ones above, that your friends might make up of you based on your digital footprint. **[or]**

Write a profile for one of your friends, based on their digital footprint.
