



## What Makes a Website a Reliable Source of Information?

You've heard the warnings about web sources: that anyone can put anything on the Internet; that there are no standards for providing authorship, references, or publication date; and that web pages may be altered or disappear at any time. Print sources have to go through some version of "quality control" before publication. The burden of evaluation – establishing "quality control" – is your responsibility if you want to incorporate web sources into your research. Here are some things to think about when considering the credibility of web pages (you may already be unconsciously doing this to some degree):

**AUTHORITY** – Who is responsible for the content? If the author's name is available, are their credentials listed as well? Are references or a bibliography for the article listed? Avoid anonymous articles, unless they appear within a reputable government, educational or non-profit organization's web page.

**ACCURACY** – Is there an editor for the page? Are there any obvious errors on the page? Avoid articles/pages that make wild claims you can't verify with a reliable print source.

**OBJECTIVITY** – Is the article presenting information, or is it trying to persuade you toward or against a certain view on a subject? Does the author concentrate on facts or express opinions? Beware of bias, especially if you are researching political issues.

**CURRENCY** – Considering the topic you are researching, is the article up to date? Currency of information may be more important for some topics – a three-year-old law review article may still be relevant, but a three-year-old article on computer game design is not. Avoid web pages that have not been updated on a regular basis.

Getting into the habit of using these factors to evaluate web pages will improve your research – and your grades! If you have additional questions about a specific page or research in general, you can always contact a GTCC librarian for help!



## Race Relations Forum—Session #2

During the fall, 2018 semester Library Services co-sponsored with Student Life and the Wendover Campus Administrative team a forum series on race relationships in America.

The first session was held on Thursday, September 27 from 12-1. The topic was Race in America: What Does It Mean? The speaker was Mr. Michael Hughes, GTCC VP for Educational Support Services. Mr. Hughes spoke about the history of racism in the United States, how it plays out in contemporary US society, and what the ramifications are for how US society functions. Mr. Manuel Dudley, Wendover Campus Dean then led an exercise where students identified what country they were from as an example of how culturally diverse US society truly is. Those in attendance represented a total of 23 different countries. Library Services provided a bibliography of books in the GTCC Libraries dealing with racism in the United States. This session was attended by approximately 62 individuals, the vast majority of whom were ESOL students.

The second session was held on Tuesday October 10/23 from 12-1. The topic this time was Your Racial Experience: Telling Your Story. The purpose this session was discuss how to communicate with others about race based on



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**#JOINTHEDIALOGUE**

your life experience. Mr. Keith Burkhead, Wendover Reference Librarian, shared his experience of race as a white male growing up in the deep South US. Ms. Selina Jaber, ESOL instructor shared her experiences of coming to the United States from the Middle East. Ms. Aziza, an ESOL student, then shared the powerful story of her family's experience as Muslims emigrating to the United States and Canada. What was especially compelling about Ms. Aziza's presentation was the story she told, complete with news footage, of how her brother-in-law had been attacked in Canada by 2 white men objecting to the presence of a Muslim man in their community. These men were eventually charged with a hate crime. Mr. Dudley then led an exercise where students worked with a partner to come up with words that expressed personal qualities needed in opposing racism. Library Services provided a bibliography of books in the GTCC Libraries dealing with cross-cultural communication. This session was

attended by approximately 74 individuals, the vast majority of whom were ESOL students.

The third and final session for the fall was held on Thursday 11/19/19 from 12-1. This session's topic was The Meaning of Citizenship. The purpose of this session was to explore what it means to be a naturalized citizen of the United States. The session opened with Ms. Magdalena Rodriguez sharing her experience as a citizen of a commonwealth of the United States-Puerto Rico. Ms. Rodriguez was born in New York City but lived much of her life in Puerto Rico before returning to the mainland United States in 2018. She spoke about the difficulties of being a US citizen without all the full benefits of citizenship, as Puerto Rico does not enjoy the full privileges a state does on the federal level. For example, Puerto Rico only has one representative in the House of Representatives nor can they vote in presidential elections. Ms. Rodriguez also spoke of the sense of being ignored and left on



their own held by many in Puerto Rico following the devastation wrecked by Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the feeble response by the federal government.

Next came a presentation by Dr. Zitty Nuamalo, a local educator and one time ESOL instructor at GTCC. Dr. Nxamalo spoke about her life in coming to the United States as a small child from Swaziland, a small African country. She relayed the difficulties her family faced in such a massive relocation. Her parents, both respected medical professionals in their native country, had to start all of in terms of training to reach a similar status in the United States. Her family went from being at the very top of Swa-

ziland society to the lower rungs of American society. There were ethnic slurs as well -Dr. Nuxamlo told of being called an “African butt scratcher” when she was a child and her sense of isolation as one of the only black children in pre-school at a local church. But she also went on too much more positive themes-how the hard work of her parents was eventually rewarded with a successful climb up the socio-economic ladder and how this inspired their children to successful careers. Dr. Nuxamlo then took some questions from students about her story.

This session ended with a group exercise led by Dr. Dudley and video of a naturalized citizen

explaining why she came to the United States and what officially becoming a citizen meant to her. This session was attended by 37 persons, the majority of whom were ESOL students. Library Services provided an array of books on immigration and citizenship as resources for future study and thought on this topic.

This success of the series with ESOL students is due in large part to the efforts of Ms. Malai Prokipowicz, Program Assistant with the ESOL program, to encourage instructors to bring their classes to the sessions. The series organizers thank her for her assistance in making the series a success.

— Keith Burkhead, Reference Librarian

## GTCC's Greensboro Campus Library



The GTCC Greensboro Campus Library is a creation of many different avenues that meet the needs of the community. Looking for a pen or pencil? Looking for your class? The library offers valuable experiences in a home based academic environment for success. The library staff at the Greensboro campus interacts and guides the many different populations and variety of students for encouragement and success. Helping the students with their essential needs and providing proper resources, the library reaches many of the expectations that the university sets.

The heart of the library is displayed through the supportive staff and administration that captures the energy and enhances the basic caring and interest that is displayed with a simple smile and helping hand. The Greensboro Campus Library is not a normal library with normal functions it represents the distinctive nature of closeness and home-based values that create a learning environment that produces improved behaviors, significant social and communication skills to reinsure, reinforce, and recognize positive comfortable environment that creates success.

— Grace Price, Library Circulation Technician



## The Library Podcast Series

Do you know...about **the library podcast series**?

The library has a podcast! The podcasts began in 2016 and was originally conceived as 2 series, one featuring the staff of the library and one featuring representatives of various departments and services around the college. This has evolved into a single series that includes interviews with both library staff and persons from departments around the college. The podcasts touch on a wide swath of life in the GTCC community.

You can listen to a podcast and hear useful information about such topics as:

- ⇒ The importance of information literacy
- ⇒ How to get started conducting research
- ⇒ The Global Scholars program
- ⇒ Financial aid services
- ⇒ GTCC sports programs
- ⇒ The Greensboro and High Point campuses



Previous podcasts can be accessed at [http://libguides.gtcc.edu/librarymedia\\_podcastsandvideos](http://libguides.gtcc.edu/librarymedia_podcastsandvideos). Keith Burkhead, the reference librarian at the Greensboro campus, is responsible for the podcast. Keith is always needing ideas for subjects for the podcast. Send suggestions to [bkburkhead@gtcc.edu](mailto:bkburkhead@gtcc.edu)

## The Case of the Clueless Detectives: a Library Video Production

The library staff created a video to help spread awareness of library services and to demonstrate the usefulness of library services. The video uses the theme of “clueless detectives” to demonstrate how the library can help the GTCC community find the clues they need to succeed in their research and work.

The video is totally a library staff production -- from start to finish a library staff

endeavor and product. We do not anticipate taking the film awards season



by storm, but it was a lot fun to put together the film and we learned a great deal about making movies in the process.

Perhaps the feature length adaptation of War and Peace comes next. But until that time we invite you to see our small effort at going Hollywood at [The Case of the Clueless Detectives](#) and marvel at the creativity of your library staff. And who knows-maybe you will learn something about how the library can be of assistance while you are there. Come for the comedy, stay for the information about your library!

