Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics
Lesson 4: Ethics in Conducting Online Research

Contents

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

Engage

📖 Introduction

Fig. 1. Students listening to a group presentation

As the world's population increases, the number of internet users also rises in the 21st century. The recent research of the internet World Stats shows that internet users now are 58.7% of the world's population, which is 4,574,150,134 as of December 31, 2019. With the growing number of internet users around the world, the internet is considered to be one of the most popular sources of information.

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

People use the internet as a source of information according to their needs and interests. One great use of the internet is in education. It is evident that many students and even teachers prefer the internet for their queries because it offers easy and instant access to endless information in just a few seconds. It is important to use it appropriately because it plays a vital role in shaping the minds of the next generation.

Have you tried using the internet for your assignment? What particular search engine did you use in searching? How did you know that the information you gathered is accurate?

⚑ Objectives

In this lesson, you should be able to do the following:
- Understand the internet as a tool for research and information gathering.
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of online research.
- Practice appropriate online research skills.

DepEd Competency

Use the internet as a tool for credible research and information gathering to best achieve specific class objectives or address situational. **(CS_ICT11/12-ICTPT-Ia-b-3)**

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

Explore

👥 ⏱ **15 minutes**

Students nowadays tend to rely on the internet for their various activities at school because it can provide them a wide range of resources that they need for their lessons and task performances. In this activity, the class will have a short debate. We will explore what are the advantages and disadvantages of students using the internet as a tool in gathering information that would help them in achieving their educational goals.

The class will be divided into two groups: Group A will cite the advantages while Group B will cite the disadvantage. Only 3 representatives each group will present at front and will follow the format below.

- 2 minutes for Group A to present.
- 1 and a half minutes for Group B to ask question/s.
- 2 minutes for Group B to present.
- 1 and a half minutes for group A to ask question/s.
- 1 minutes rebuttal points and summary from Group B.
- 1 minutes rebuttal points and summary from Group A.

Guide Questions
1. How do you use the internet in relation to your academic life?

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

2. What do you think are some advantages of using the internet as a tool in information gathering?

3. What do you think are some disadvantages of using the internet as a tool in information gathering?

4. With these stated points, is there a way to maximize the use of the internet while avoiding such challenges?

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

Explain and Elaborate

Online Research

QuestionPro defined **online research** as a method that involves the collection of information from the internet. Whether it may be a personal or a professional purpose, it has a great impact on building one's knowledge.

It is essential to be familiar with researching information online since it is considered to be one of the most important skills a person can possess in today's generation. Search engines were invented to help with researching online. According to Computer Hope, it is a software that searches a database of information according to the user's query which then provides a list of results that best match what the user is trying to find. There are different search engines such as Google, Yahoo, and Bing that give different search results.

> **?** How important is research for your daily life? How about for the country? How can the internet help in providing research information?

Have you ever wondered how search engines work? The video below will further explore what is going on behind the scenes in search engines like Google. It will explain in detail on how they give researchers the appropriate information needed.

> **Youtube** ↗
> Code.org, "The Internet: How Search Works," Youtube (Youtube, June 13 2017), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVV_93mBfSU&feature=youtu.be, last accessed on March 09 2020.

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

Advantages of Online Research

- Researchers have easier access to large information whether they are at school or home through devices such as smartphones.
- Researchers acquire diverse information in different formats, such as videos and audio recordings, that may not be present in a library's collection.
- Researchers save more time in researching online than doing the traditional way.
- Researchers get up-to-date and relevant information since internet sources are updated more frequently than print sources.
- Researchers can reduce the cost of conducting research.

Disadvantages of Online Research:

- Researchers may encounter inconsistent information since it can be easily edited.
- Researchers may be challenged in determining whether the source is reliable.
- Researchers may be charged with payments to have access to some sources, such as some online journals.
- Researchers may find difficulty in locating information since some may require exact details to search.
- Researchers may risk their security and privacy online.

Five Simple Search Process

Even though the internet can be useful in researching, it can sometimes be confusing. In a blog of Kathleen Moris, she pointed out 5 research skills that helps with common challenges faced by researchers such as what search terms to put into search engines, which search results to click on, how to determine what information is credible, how to process, synthesize, evaluate, and present the information and how to cite sources correctly.

6

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

Clarify

For a research process to be more effective and efficient, it is essential to define the task first. Take time to think about what information you are actually looking for in your research. Knowing what you want and do not want is very helpful in getting your aim results and avoiding unnecessary results. This would save time in the whole procedure.

Search

The quality of the search terms you put in the search engines will determine the quality of results. Using unique and specific search terms can make a difference. Practicing suitable use of keywords, phrases and questions will help since some sources require exact words or correct details to show desired information. Proper spelling and punctuation marks may also affect the search results. Below are more tips and tricks from system-overload.org that can help improve your internet search which applies to the most commonly used search engines.

- If you are searching for an exact phrase or sequence of words, enclosed it with a double quotation mark (").
- If you are looking for a product in a specific price range, use (..) in between your desired price range.
- If you want to exclude a word or even a page from your result list, put a minus sign (-) directly in front of the keyword which you do not want to search for.
- If you want to search within a certain website only, use the (site:).
- If you want search results to contain similar words, use the tilde (~).
- If you are searching with words using 'or', it should be capitalized. Using parentheses () can also help with the logical OR.
- If you are searching not so popular informations, use the asterisk sign (*) as a wildcard.
- If you want to search for documents with specific file type, include .pdf (Adobe), .doc (Word), .xls (Excel), .ppt (PowerPoint) and .jpg (Image).
- If you want to search for a definition, add the word **'define'** before the word.

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

- If you want to search other related results, check the list of 'Related Searches' or search suggestions displayed at the bottom of the page.

Delve

As important as entering quality search terms, knowing what search results to click on is also an important process. Try to look beyond the first few results. The sequence of the search results does not necessarily mean the information is in order from the most useful to not.

Inspecting the URL, specifically the domain and its extension is essential to check whether the sources are reliable. Domains that include **.gov** or **.edu** are considered to be more reliable sources.

Evaluate

Since search engines do not base its order of results to credibility, you should always double check information. Remember that you cannot believe everything you read online. It is always better to check multiple sources to compare and contrast the information you have just read. It is a good way to examine whether the information you have read is accurate.

> 💡 **Tips**
>
> To search for specific information you are after, you can look for the search box on a webpage or use Control F (Command F on Mac) to bring up a search box that can scan throughout the webpage.

Cite

Being well informed about plagiarism and copyright infringement is one thing you should not forget when acquiring information you need. Although there is easy access to numerous sources online, it does not mean you will ignore the legal terms on them. It is best to know the specific terms that are applied to that specific information before assuming you can reuse them. When you have difficulty in finding these terms, try to check the original source of information.

While paraphrasing and summarizing is a good approach that would avoid plagiarism, a proper citation is still the best way to use information legally. There are different styles of citations you can use for different manner of writing. You can check those out on the link below.

Citation Styles ↗
Unknown, "Citation Styles," p.org (Turtunin, May 18 2017), https://www.plagiarism.org/article/citation-styles, last accessed on March 09 2020.
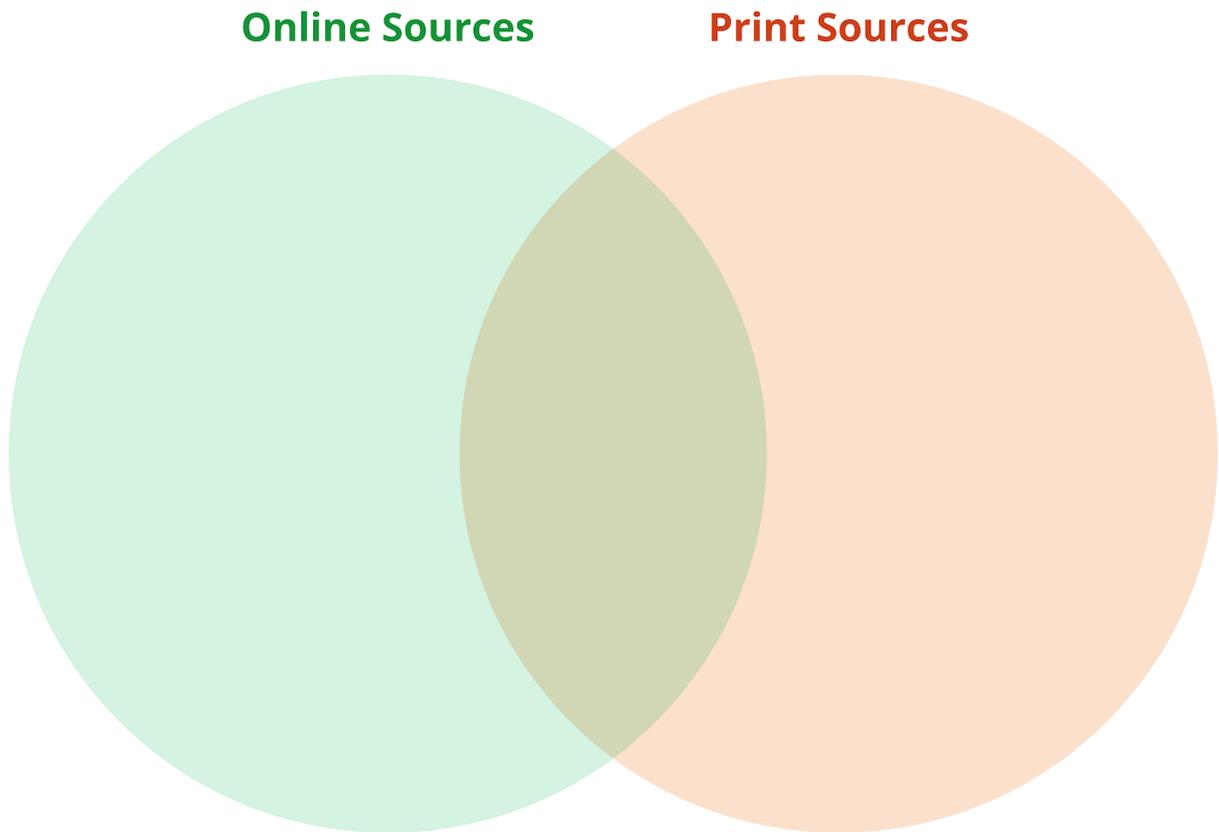
Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

Extend

Activity 1

Using the venn diagram below, compare and contrast the internet sources to the print sources.

Online Sources   **Print Sources**

> 💡 **Guide**
>
> **Online Sources** are information from online books, videos, podcasts and forums found through the internet.
>
> **Print Sources** are information like books, journals, newspapers, and encyclopedias found mostly in libraries.

10

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

Activity 2

Practice your research skills to answer following questions about these strangest animals on earth. You are free to use any search engine you want.

Questions	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	Venezuelan Poodle Moth	Blobfish
What does it look like?			
Where does it live?			
What does it eat?			
What is one interesting fact about it?			

Guide

Applying research skills such as to **clarify**, **search**, **delve**, **evaluate** and **cite** helps develop productive online research.

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

Evaluate

A. Choose the word from the word bank below that best matches each definition.

search engines	internet	research skills
advantage	disadvantage	online research

1. A method that involves the collection of information from the internet is called _____.

2. One _____ of online research is that internet resources are updated more frequently than print resources.

3. Having _____ is one of the most important abilities a person can have in this generation.

4. To help people quickly find information online, _____ are invented.

5. When using the _____, researchers may risk their own security and privacy.

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

B. List down research skills that you personally follow as a student by creating an acrostic poem using the word below.

ANALYZE   EVALUATE
CREATE

An acrostic poem is where you choose a word and use each letter in that word as the beginning of a word or a phrase that tells something about the topic.

O -

N -

L -

I -

N -

E -

Unit 2: Online Safety and Ethics

📚 Wrap Up

- **Online research** is a method of collecting information from the internet.

- **Search engines** are software used to search for information online according to the researcher's query. Google, Yahoo, and Bing are three commonly used search engines.

- Like everything else, researching online has both advantages and disadvantages. Since information can be found on a large source such as the internet, it is important to use it with **caution.**

- The five simple search processes according to Kathleen Moris are **clarify**, **search**, **delve**, **evaluate** and **cite**. These are the skills researchers need to develop for productive online research.

- Each individual is naturally unique. One may practice research skills differently from others but the goal is to use the internet as a tool in gathering information effectively and efficiently.

📖 Bibliography

Bhat, Adi. "Online Research - Definition, Methods, Types and Execution". QuestionPro. Retrieved 09 March 2020 from https://www.questionpro.com/blog/execute-online-research/

Computer Hope. "Search Engine." Computer Hope. Retrieved 09 March 2020 from https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/searengi.htm

Moris, Kathleen. "5 Tips For Teaching Students How To Research Online And Filter Information." Kathleen Moris. Retrieved 09 March 2020 from

http://www.kathleenamorris.com/2018/02/23/research-filter/

Unknown. "Google Search - Tips and Trick." System Overload. Retrieved 09 March 2020
From https://www.system-overload.org/google-search-tips.html

Unknown. "internet Usage Statistics". Internet World Stats. Retrieved 09 March 2020
from https://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm