

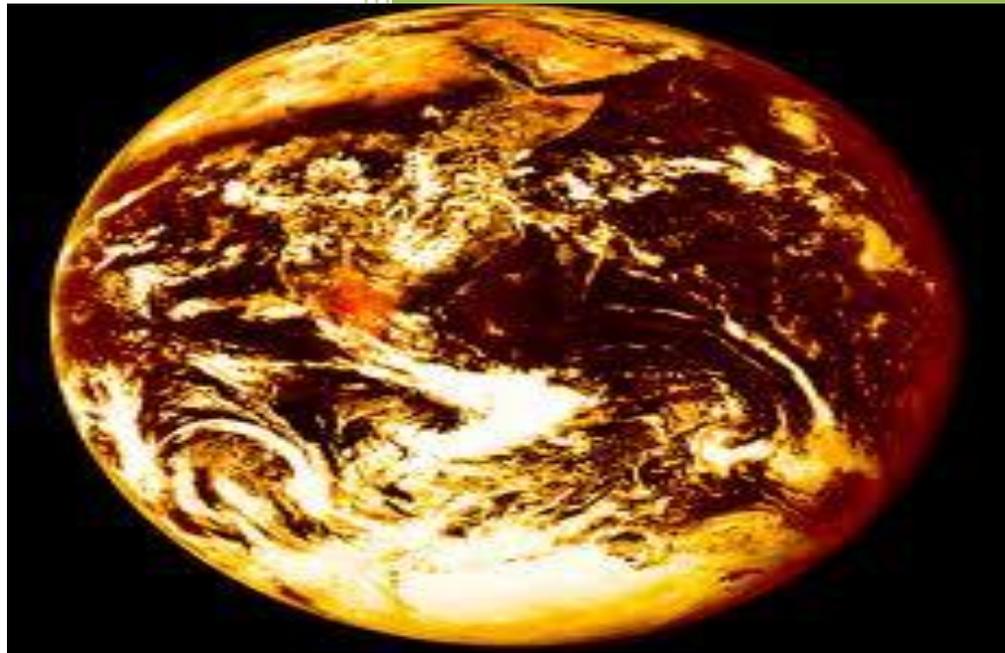
2012

UU100 EPORTFOLIO ACTIVITY 4

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Tutorial: Thursday 3-5 pm

When dealing with information resources, it is vital that students select the resource which provides most appropriate information. In ePortfolio activity 2, an online magazine article titled '*Is global warming real?*' was found while in ePortfolio activity 3, a journal article titled '*Experience-based and description-based perceptions of long-term risk: Why global warming does not scare us (yet)*' was retrieved. In order to decide which of these two resources is the most appropriate for providing information on the controversial side of global warming, both resources need to be compared using the START evaluation criteria.

To begin with, for a resource to be appropriate for an assignment, it must cover the information need. This is known as the **Scope** of the article. The information need deals with the '**controversial**' side of '**global warming**'. Keeping this in mind, the online magazine article '*Is global warming real?*' contains the key phrase '**global warming**' in its title and the words '**is**' and '**real**' depict uncertainty on the existence of global warming. Thus, this **magazine article** provides **brief insight into why global warming is now an accepted reality**. It relates to the entire world in general and relates to the year 2012 hence provides recent opinion and therefore it **marginally covers the information need**. The **journal article** '*Experience-based and description-based perceptions of long-term risk: Why global warming does not scare us (yet)*' covers the reasons why some **people do not view global warming as a risk yet**, and how concern can be aroused towards the risk of this issue. It provides **detailed analysis of people's reaction to risk** and relates it to their perceptions on the existence and severity of the effects of global warming. It is based on research and is thus relevant to the entire world in general and covers a recent time period hence can be said to **extensively cover the information need**.

Furthermore, the perceptions of the author, credibility, grammatical accuracy and amount of research on the article are essential features of an information resource. This is referred to as the **Treatment** of the article. The online magazine article **presents arguments as to why global warming is now starting to be seen as a threat** after previous controversies. It deals **with examples showing that the earth is warming up** and makes comparisons to historical climates. With the **intent of informing the public on the reasons for the acceptance of global warming as a reality** today, the article is **free from emotive words** and is **unbiased** but provides ideas to support the arguments presented. Moreover, the information presented is **valid** but not **well-supported** by primary or secondary research as there are no in-text citations, references or footnotes which **questions its accuracy and credibility**. However, the article is **free from grammatical and typographical errors** indicating a good review process. The author of the **journal article**, on the other hand, intends to **provide a detailed analysis of people's reaction to risk** and **reasons as to why global warming is still not seen as risky** by people by relating it to a **30 year long behavioral decision research** and discusses how **concerns towards global warming** can be aroused. The article is **free from emotive words** as it only **presents facts** and it is **unbiased** in its discussion. The information presented is **well-supported with primary and secondary research** with proper **in-text citations, references and notes** thus the information is **valid** as well as **credible and accurate**. The article is also **free from typographical and grammatical errors**, indicating an effective review process.

The credentials of the author and the publisher of the articles is called **Authority** and is another feature to consider when evaluating an information resource. The online **magazine article** does not indicate the name of the author however, it can be assumed that the author is closely affiliated with the **publisher** of the article, **National Geographic Society**. This society is one of the **largest non-profit scientific and educational institutes** in the world and has interests in geography, environmental conservation and other fields. It was awarded with the **Hubbard Medal** and the **Alexander Graham Bell Award** for exceptional contributions to research and discovery. Thus, the Society's credentials and level of expertise are **appropriate** for the information resource. The **journal article** was written by **Elke U. Weber** who is a **Professor of International Business at Columbia Business School and Professor of Psychology and Earth Institute at Columbia University**. She has written numerous **books related to risk and dealing with science and climate** and serves on the editorial boards of multiple journals. Thus, her credentials, levels of expertise and affiliation with various organizations are **appropriate** for the information resource. The article was published by **Springer Science & Business Media** which is a **reputable commercial publisher** which publishes about 2,000 peer-reviewed academic journals to do with science, technology and medicine each year and has the most renowned scientists from all over the world as their authors.

Relevance is when the article addresses the specific topic and is relevant for the research needs. The online **magazine article** is intended for the **non-expert audience, or the general audiences** as magazines are published on a large scale and in simple English for all to understand. The article **does not address the specific need** but provides brief discussion on the issue of global warming and could be used for background reading as it does not provide solid evidence hence is not relevant for research needs. The **journal article** is intended for the **technical audience or academic researchers** as it uses specialized vocabulary which may be difficult for the general audience to comprehend. The article **does address the specific research needs** as it covers the issue extensively and provides evidence-based reasons for the way people think about global warming thus it can be used for research purposes.

Timeliness deals with when the resource was published and whether it provides up-to-date information or not. The online **magazine article** was posted **in early 2012** and has **not been updated** since then which indicates that the information presented may not be in accordance with the information needs of the audience. The **journal article**, on the other hand, was **published in July 2006** and last **updated on 6th June 2010**. This indicates that the information has been **revised and updated** to reflect changes in knowledge and is **in harmony with the information needs** of the intended audience.

After evaluating both the articles, it is clear and evident that the **journal article is the most appropriate resource for information** on the controversial side of global warming as it extensively covers the information need, uses facts and figures to support arguments and is unbiased, has credible authors and publishers, is relevant to the information needs of the audience and is also timely and up-to-date.

Similarity Index

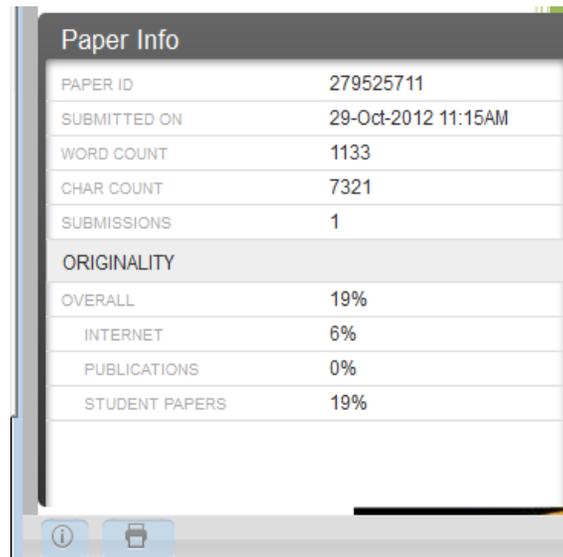
A screenshot of a Turnitin Paper Info window. The window has a dark grey header with the title "Paper Info". Below the header is a table with two columns: a label and a value. The table contains the following data: PAPER ID (279525711), SUBMITTED ON (29-Oct-2012 11:15AM), WORD COUNT (1133), CHAR COUNT (7321), and SUBMISSIONS (1). Below this table is a section titled "ORIGINALITY" in bold. Underneath, there is another table with four rows: OVERALL (19%), INTERNET (6%), PUBLICATIONS (0%), and STUDENT PAPERS (19%). At the bottom left of the window, there are two icons: an information icon (i) and a print icon.

Figure 1: Turnitin Paper Info