



REVIEW Page

Below is the entire module on one page.



Who is the Author?

Why would you want to know who authors a web page?

Web pages do not undergo the same rigorous editorial process used to create published books, magazines and newspapers. In traditional publishing, peer review, and fact checking are part of the process. Background checks are run to assure that authors know what they are writing about. By contrast, web publishing is less formal, and by implication the information published on the web is less likely to be thoroughly verified. It is up to the reader to check a web page author's credentials. Investigating the author will help you to trust the credibility of the information found on a web page.

Where will you find an author's name?

Sometimes the author's name is prominently displayed at the top or bottom of the web page. Most of the time you'll have to dig for this information. Author information is often found on an "About this Site" page. Once you have the author's name, use it to search for additional writing and biographical information on the site and elsewhere. You can also use a search engine to research the author's background. Sometimes there will be no author's name, which makes it difficult to judge the credibility of the information you seek.

How can you learn more about an author's expertise on a particular subject?

Enter the author's name in a search engine. Pair subject keywords with the author's name to search subject specific databases on the invisible web. This is when you should use lots of synonyms, hypernyms, and hyponyms to find out how much the author knows about the subject. Does the author just know enough to use the latest popular terms, or does s/he really understand the entire field of study?

What Questions should I ask when evaluating the author of a web page?

Let these questions guide your evaluation of a web page author:

- Who is the author of the web page?
- How *much* experience does the author have in this area?
- What is the author's occupation?
- What is the author's educational background?
- What is the author's reputation among others in the field?

Example 1. Who is the author of the following web page? What can you find out about the author using basic investigation techniques?

Plagiarism Stoppers: A Teacher's Guide

*Places to go for help with student plagiarism, how to identify it,
what to do when it happens, how to prevent it.*

| [Detection Tips](#) | [Prevention & Training](#) | [Free Detection](#) | [Fee-based Services](#) | [Potential Paper Mills](#) |

**Thanks go to the many School Librarians & Educators around the country who contributed addresses and ideas for
this list!**

Compiled by Jane Sharka. Last updated 11/03/2003.

If you wish to suggest any additions or identify broken links, please send an e-mail to jsharka@ncusd203.org.

Plagiarism is a rapidly growing problem in many venues today. Because it is so easy to locate information using the Internet, students have given in to the temptation to take materials and use them for their own. This needs to be addressed by all who are in the education field -- by teaching the observance of proper [citation](#) and [copyright compliance](#) AND by making sure our students know that stealing someone else's work is wrong. This site may help you in your efforts towards these goals. Please feel free to suggest additional sites or information and recommendations for redesign.

Items marked with an asterisk "" are taken from "The Librarian's Internet (formerly "Surf For"): The e-Plagiarism Plague.", by Gail Junion-Metz. [School Library Journal, September, 2000.](#)*

Compiled by Jane Sharka. Last updated 11/03/2003. If you wish to suggest any additions or identify broken links, please send an e-mail to jsharka@ncusd203.org.

| [NCHS Home Page](#) | [Copyright Issues](#) | [Research Links](#) |

[Plagiarism Stoppers: A Teacher's Guide](#) was authored by Jane Sharka, though she doesn't take credit as she thanks librarians and educators for sharing content. She is a Library Media Specialist at the North Central Unified School District 203 in Illinois, USA. However this information isn't immediately obvious when viewing this page. Her email address indicates she works for a school district. I just happen to know it is an Illinois district. I followed the link at the bottom of the page to the NCHS Homepage. From there I used the site map to find a staff email list. That is where I found Ms. Sharka's job title and contact information. We have no idea how long Jane has been a Library Media Specialist or what her training/credentials are. We do know that she uses a reputable publication, The School Library Journal, as a source for some of the information on this page.

What should I try to find out about an author of a web page?

The qualifications a good web page author are the same as a good book or journal author. Keep these questions in mind as you investigate:

- Who is the author of the web page?
- How *much* experience does the author have in this area?
- What is the author's occupation?
- What is the author's educational background?

- What is the author's reputation among others in the field?

Example 2. Who is the author of the following web page? What can you find out about the author by looking at the pages and searching the website?

ALA American Library Association

Home Contact Us Site Map Support ALA Join/Renew ALA Login

Libraries & You Education & Careers Awards & Scholarships Our Association Issues & Advocacy

Professional Tools Events & Conferences Products & Publications News Search GO

ISSUES & ADVOCACY

Home → Issues & Advocacy

Issues and Advocacy

Through its advocacy efforts, the ALA strives to communicate the importance of libraries and librarians to our democratic society, to improve library funding and influence public policy about libraries and information-related issues, to increase public awareness about the role and importance of libraries and library workers in every community*, and ultimately, to turn passive support of libraries and librarians into educated action by stakeholders.

*Text originates from *ALA Advocacy, A Framework for Planning for Future Activities*. Prepared by Nancy Kranich.

Issues & Advocacy

- ▶ Take Action!
- ▶ @ your library
- ▶ Accreditation
- ▶ Advocacy for Libraries
- ▶ CIPA
- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Education and Continuing Learning
- ▶ Ethics

Nancy Kranich is the author of the paragraph (or is it just part of the paragraph) on the ALA web page. However, the byline says she prepared the text. Is that the same as authored? Who wrote the book *A Framework for Planning for Future Activities*? Is it a book? Is it maybe a pamphlet written by someone else for the American Library Association? This page tells us nothing about Nancy except that she might have written a book or pamphlet called *A Framework for Planning for Future Activities* that deals with library issues and advocacy.

Detective Work: Searching within a Site

Some websites provide a site-search engine. Additionally, some search engines have a feature that lets you to search within a site. Either way, you can use keywords like the author's name to quickly find information about what an individual author has contributed to a web site. To find out more about Nancy Kranich and her qualifications you'll have to dig a little deeper. See how we did it by viewing the Video Tutorial!



Detective Work: Truncating the URL

You can learn more about the site you are visiting by truncating the URL. Truncating the URL is a way to navigate through a website by backtracking through the web address. Search engines will sometimes drop you deep within the navigational structure of a website. If you want to find out more about the host site, you can systematically delete elements of the web address (URL). With each 'truncation' you arrive at a new page. By truncating the URL, you may find other resources created by the author you are investigating. You'll certainly learn a bit more about the website that has published the resource.

Who is the author of this Micro Module?

My name is Lora K. Kaisler. I have 24 years of experience in education as a teacher, professional developer, researcher, and administrator. I am the Coordinator of Online Learning and Research at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Aurora, Illinois. I hold a BA in elementary and music education, an MS in special education K-12, and an MA in instructional design and technology. My students tell me my classes are hard but worth it. My colleagues tell me my classes use "a combination of project-based learning and personal reflection to generate an appreciation of processes over content". Work colleagues tell me I am very helpful and always available when things come up.

If you'd like to know more the authors of this module, consider using truncation and site search tools on the [21st Century Information Fluency Portal!](#)

Authored by Lora K. Kaisler and Dennis O'Connor



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End of Micromodule - Author.

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