2-11-2015

Banner News

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Can we trust information that's at our fingertips?

Amanda Betz
Editor-in-Chief

Wikipedia has become the most well-known wikis on the web. It has become a popular resource for many research papers. But can you trust what information you find there? If not, what criteria must resources meet to be considered trusted or reputable?

First, start with the very basics. What exactly is a wiki? A wiki is simply a website that allows multiple people to work on one page. Anyone who visits the wiki can view and edit the text entered there. Some other popular ones besides Wikipedia are Wikibooks, WikiTravel, and Wiktionary.

Since anyone who visits a wiki can edit a page can edit the content on it, who would want to use a wiki, and what kinds of advantages does a website like this have? Wikis are common to see inside of large corporations and organizations. A website that allows hundreds of employees to access information, and update others with information over a subject. For example, a large corporation starts using a new type of software, but the training for the software is lackluster. The corporation creates a wiki for the employees to visit and update so they can learn tips and tricks from each other. Employees can visit the wiki to find help and troubleshooting and also add in their tips. A new training guide could then be formed from the wiki that is more complete and current to the employees' needs.

One large and obvious disadvantage of a wiki is that anyone can edit the page and put anything on it. As a website grows, it is also harder to keep information organized. It takes collaboration between the users and an administrator to keep information organized.

So what does that mean for the reliability of the information found on Wikipedia? If anyone can type anything onto a wiki, can you trust any of the information you find there? What happens if someone abuses their editing power and writes something vandalistic or wrong?

The online community, including the administrators, writers, and editors, keeps a lot of the vandals and wrong information off of the webpages. If you were to edit a page in Wikipedia, it would show up on the Recent Changes page, or it would show up on the watchlist. The watchlist is compiled of pages that you have added that you would like to keep track of. If someone changes anything on that page, it will be added to your watchlist and you will be notified. If someone adds anything to a page, the online community decides what they want to do with your edits. They can decide to keep them, change them, or even delete them all together. This helps keep wrong information and vandals in check.

If someone is caught habitually vandalizing a page(s), an administrator has the right to block or ban that users IP address, temporarily prevent a page from being edited for a short period, or delete abusive or inappropriate pages. There are also pages on Wikipedia that are protected from being edited. If you would like to add an edit to a page you are prompted to send an edit request and an editor with the ability to edit the page will contact you.

When asked, 9 out of 10 students on campus admitted to using information from Wikipedia as part of a research project. Erin Burk, a business administration student, admits to using Wikipedia as a source. "Sometimes I just run out of time, or I don't want to put the effort into finding a journal or something. It's easy to put a subject into Google, and usually the first thing that pops up is Wikipedia."

"If professors don't want us to use Wikipedia, they should make that clear when assigning the paper," said an anonymous source. "I don't think it's fair to be punished for using a source that is just as reliable as any other. If I'm going to write an 8 page paper, I'm going to make sure I can do it as quickly and (sic) easily as possible."

If Wikipedia is not considered a reliable resource, then what makes a resource reliable? How can we tell as students what resources we should or shouldn't use for research? According to the DMACC Library website, students should apply the CRAAP test when evaluating the reliability of a source. C stands for currency. Is the information on the website current and has it been recently updated and revised? R is for relevance. Is the information relevant to your topic, and does it answer your question? Is the information at the appropriate level for your needs, and would you be comfortable citing the source in your paper? A stands for authority. Does the information come from a source that has renowned credentials? Did the author have the qualifications to write about the topic? The second A is for accuracy. Is the information support by reliable evidence? Has the information been reviewed or revised by others or peers in the field? Is the information written and presented in an unbiased voice? And finally, P is for purpose. Why does the information exist? Is it propaganda or is it fact. Does the information appear to be impartial and objective, or is it an opinion?

An Iowa State sociology professor had this to say about the use of Wikipedia in his class. "If you're going to use Wikipedia, fine. But don't expect to get a passing grade from me." When questioned after class about his reasoning he said that "Wikipedia is fine for personal enlightenment on a subject, but I expect students to act like this is college. Not high school."

Whether you're writing an eight page in-depth research paper, or a one page subject overview, the reliability of the resources used matters. Wikipedia may be OK for your own personal use, but it is best left off of college level research bibliographies and works cited pages. "Resources should reflect the level of writing you are doing, and Wikipedia shouldn't even be an option in any college level literary work."
Help stock campus pantry
As the semester begins, please consider donating any food that you are no longer using to the campus food pantry. Current needs include:
- Canned chicken
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned fruit/Dried fruit/Applesauce
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Jam/ jelly
- Dried beans
- Oatmeal/Hot cereal mix
- Bread
- Cereal
- Bread/Muffin mix
- Oils (vegetable, olive, etc.)
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo and soap

Please drop off donations to Erin Neumann (Room 124), or call Julie Roosa, jkroosa@dmacc.edu, 515-433-5089.

Income Tax Help
Free income tax help will be given on Friday, Feb. 6 and continue through April 10 each Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DMACC Boone Campus. DMACC has been offering this service since 2008. DMACC accounting students who have been certified by the Internal Revenue Service will help prepare federal and Iowa individual income tax returns for qualified residents. Each year accounting students process and file approximately 150 federal and state income tax returns.

This service, called the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, offers free tax assistance to those with low-to-moderate incomes (less than $53,000 in annual personal income). VITA is particularly interested in identifying tax payers who are eligible for earned income credits (EITC), which is a refundable tax credit to those who are low wage earners.

All tax returns will be prepared on-site at the DMACC Boone Campus by trained and certified DMACC student volunteers using software provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Each return will be reviewed by the site coordinator and, after approval and signature of the taxpayer, will be filed electronically with the IRS and the Iowa Department of Revenue. There is no cost to eligible taxpayers for this service.

Free money for school
Have you done farm work in the last two years? If so, contact Carrie at Proteus Inc. 515-271-5306 ext. 129.

Writing Contest Winners
Here are the winners in the DMACC District-wide Creative Writing Contest:
First Place Overall
Sierra Holstad
"Pale Blue Eyes" (fiction)
Second Place Overall
Bekki Steers
"Grandma’s Closets"
Third Place
Mary Rowan
"Against Him"

Poetry
First: Jeffery Carter
"At Devil’s Tower with the Boys"
Second: Becky Sterns
"Grandma’s Closets"
Third: Hunt Hixson
"We Are All Turtles” (non-fiction)

Childcare and Transportation Help
A program called Iowa New Choices offers assistance with childcare and transportation for qualifying single parents and displaced homemakers (separated, divorced, widowed or spouse disabled). For information, contact Erin Neumann, Room 124, eaneumann@dmacc.edu. Or call 515-433-5037.

Legal Aid
An attorney from Iowa Legal Aid will be on the Boone campus on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for individual appointments with DMACC students. Legal Aid provides free legal help with civil law problems for eligible low-income Iowans. Legal Aid provides brief advice on several areas of law,

- Family Law
- Housing
- Consumer and Small Claims
- Public Benefits
- Elder Law
- Taxes

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The survey found that freshman party less, worry more about money.

**Survey finds freshman party less, worry about money more**

By Megan Olson

The survey, which was taken during last summer's orientations at 227 four-year colleges, bolstered concerns. Nearly 12 percent of the freshmen rated their mental health as worse than most others; that compared with roughly 7 percent a decade ago and 3.5 percent in 1985, when the question was first asked. In addition, 9.5 percent said they frequently felt depressed, up from 6 percent a year ago, compared with nearly 77 percent in 2008 before the recession hit.

Along the same lines, those who said they occasionally or frequently drank beer dropped to 33.5 percent, compared with 45.5 percent a decade ago and 69 percent in 1984. Just 39 percent of current freshmen said they drank wine or hard liquor in the last year, compared with about 52 percent 10 years ago and 68 percent in 1987, when the poll addressed the issue.

Research has shown that students entering college with plans to eventually earn a master's degree increased to about 44 percent, also a record and up from 28 percent four decades ago.

**Editor's note:** This section will feature a student, staff member, or instructor from the Boone DMACC campus. Do you have a suggestion for someone we should feature? Send your ideas to ban-nergnews@dmacc.edu

**Meet Christine Whitney**

Christine Whitney joined the DMACC Boone Campus staff as a library specialist in August after working at the DMACC Ankeny Campus for two years prior. She joined the DMACC team in October 2012.

Whitney decided to apply for a job at DMACC after hearing about the opportunity from a friend of a friend.

"I have a lifelong passion for working with books. So, I decided to apply," says Whitney. Prior to working at DMACC, Whitney worked at Barnes and Noble. She also previously worked at Sticks Incorporated in college, and was a teaching assistant in the United Kingdom. Whitney lived in the United Kingdom for 4 years while working to earn her master's degree of Victorian Studies from The University of Exeter. Along with being a teaching assistant in the United Kingdom she also worked with an internship in publishing.

Before moving to the United Kingdom, Whitney received her bachelor's degree in English Lit-erature at Iowa State University, then moved on to earn her BFA in Drawing Painting and Print Making (DPP). Whitney is from Clive, a suburb of Des Moines. She graduated from Valley High School.

She is a practitioner of capoeira. Capoeira is Brazilian martial arts. "It is a great work out."

Whitney enjoys DMACC because "I love the people I work with. The students and staff are friendly and welcoming. It has been a great experience," says Whitney.

"Anyone is welcome to stop by the library. I am always available and happy to help."

**Photo by Megan Olson/Banner News**

**Christine Whitney**

DMACC Librarian Specialist

**In the Spotlight**

**By Megan Olson**

Staff Writer

In honor of Black History Month, the Student Activities Council is playing a movie called "Dear White People."

“A biting satire of racial poli-
tics,” says Jada Tuam.

There are two showings re-
mainong on February 12 at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

“I could have shown some-
thing like Purple Haze, but I thought this was a much more modern and interesting movie,” says Steve Krafcsin, SAC adviser.

There have been three show-
going so far. At the first showing at 9 a.m. on Monday, one student was present.

This movie is not only about racism, but also sexual differenc-
es. One of the characters, Lionel, is a black homosexual college stu-
dent who is working a story about the racial tension within a college.

Sam White is another character. She is fighting for what she believes in along with having the struggle of finding herself. She is caught between two men; a white man that she loves and a black man who looks good with the position she is in.

Coco is a black woman that wants the world to know her name. She creates a blog that is about the Internet.

Troy is another character fol-
lowed throughout the movie. He is the Dean of Students’ son and is expected to be the perfect girl, be a leader within the college, and do no wrong. Troy does not want the same future his father wants for him. He struggles to stand up to his father.

This movie talks about mod-
ern time and college students. There are many differences dis-
cussed that students can relate too.

“It is not what I was expecting when hearing the title, but I was pleasantly surprised,” says Krafcsin.
How dye choice can color our perceptions

EDITOR’S NOTE: This story originally appeared in the Iowa State Daily on Feb. 6. It is reprinted with permission. The reporter, Sarah Muller, is a student at ISU and DMACC. She works for the Daily and the Banner News.

By Sarah Muller
Staff Writer

Blondes have more fun, or so they say.

For years, people have dyed their hair different colors. But by changing their hair color, they may also be changing their societal stereotype as well.

"Any time you take a stereotype and apply it to a group of people, it's not going to be accurate at all. There is hardly going to be any truth to it," said Kevin Blankenship, associate professor in psychology and communications studies. "There is the idea of a kernel of truth that maybe there was something there initially." Stereotypes are summary beliefs or characteristics we have about people generally, Blankenship said.

"We tend to have stereotypes about people we have never met and probably never will encounter," said Kristi Costabile, assistant professor in psychology and communications studies. "It's probably not from interacting with people that we learn these stereotypes. [Instead], it's from getting information from others." Different things can contribute to stereotypes. Blankenship explains that one way is direct experiences, which means having an experience with someone with some type of characteristic and associating that with a quality that stands out in that person.

People can indirectly see rewards or punishments for particular behaviors or appearances. For example, Penny, a blonde character in the show "The Big Bang Theory," is depicted as ditzy or not as intelligent as the other females in the show, who are brunettes.

"It does make sense that there are certain stereotypes that hold to certain aspects of people," Costabile said. "Hair color could be the sort of thing that men and women are treated differently. You might notice that hair color might have an interaction with race." Blankenship said he thinks there are conscious cues that men may pick up on in a social atmosphere with women, making them more or less approachable.

He added that men may use those stereotypes to determine who they are attracted to or likely interested in. He said he believes people who have a preference in one hair color could be seen as bias or prejudice, however, it's a personal choice.

"They could be straining the potential dating pool or friend-ship pool by doing something like that. I'm not sure if it explicitly harms those who are excluded," Blankenship said.

Costabile said she believes that age might contribute to the way women and men are treated with different hair colors.

"It's possible that as a woman ages, she starts getting treated differently," Costabile said. "Maybe when she's younger, people are more interested in her potential as a romantic partner, but as she gets older, people think she is someone to hang out with."

As for joking matters, Blankenship addressed the use of humor where there are two perspectives. Any time someone makes light of a stereotype — such as hair color by saying, "blondes have more fun" — it justifies or validates the stereotype.

"It's sneaking a way to make fun of or discriminates against a group," Blankenship said.

The other perspective is quite the opposite. Some believe to make light of or draw attention to these differences that may or may not exist is a positive step. People who use this method may believe that this is a healthy way to make a dialogue of stereotypes.

"I'm sure people do take [stereotypes] seriously, I guess. I've never meant them seriously if I've said them," said Marcie Stevenson, a graduate student in sustainable agriculture. "If people say them to me, I usually take them jokingly, but I'm a little more lighthearted about things like that."

However, people's intentions can affect how the jokes are perceived.

"Stereotypes are often really insidious, which means you don't know when they are affecting your judgments," Costabile said. "Even people who think they can make these jokes in good fun, it's definitely possible they could treat people differently."

In order to remove some of these predetermined ideas, Blankenship said he believes people should consider others on a more individual level, thinking about the qualities they possess and moving on from superficial aspects.

There are two effective ways to dissolve stereotypes in society, Costabile said.

One is presenting counter-stereotypical people in the media. Once society is exposed to more and more people who don't fit the stereotype, the people are typically willing to see there are exceptions.

The second way is the contact hypothesis, which is making people interact more so they can realize how similar everyone is.

When asked if hair stereotypes mattered, freshman Todd Price said that it shouldn't. However, he said he believes that hair stereotypes were gender-bias.

"When it's redheads, it's more men [being stereotyped], but when it's blondes, it's more women," Price said. "I think anyone that seriously, they are an ignorant person. I feel like people would know better than to judge people on [hair color]."

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"We tend to have stereotypes about people we have never met and probably never will encounter."

Kristi Costabile, ISU assistant professor in psychology and communications studies.

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Feature

Hair it is

How dye choice can color our perceptions

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Kristi Costabile, ISU assistant professor in psychology and communications studies.
DMACC Sports Calendar

Feb. 11: Women’s Basketball vs. NIACC, Mason City 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 11: Men’s Basketball vs. NIACC, Mason City 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13: Baseball vs. #15 Murray State, Tishomingo OK 5 p.m.
Feb. 14: Basketball vs. Allen County, Tishomingo OK 1 p.m.
Feb. 14: Women’s Basketball vs. Southwestern, Creston, 1 p.m.
Feb. 14: Men’s Basketball vs. Southwestern, Creston 3 p.m.
Feb. 18: Women’s Basketball vs. Southeastern* 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 21: Women’s Basketball vs. Iowa Central, Fort Dodge 1 p.m.
Feb. 21: Men’s Basketball vs. Iowa Central 3 p.m.
Feb. 25: Women’s Basketball vs. Kirkwood* 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 28: Men’s Basketball vs. Kirkwood (Soph Night) * 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 28: Women’s Basketball vs. Elsworth, Iowa Falls 1 p.m.
Feb. 28: Men’s Basketball vs. Ellsworth, Iowa Falls 3 p.m.

*denotes home game at Boone
Tell us what you think!
Submit a letter to the editor or your own opinion column to bannernews@dmacc.edu
Submissions must be:
-DMACC student or locally related
-Well informed (source cited)
-Approximately 500-700 words

Are electric cars greener? That depends on where you live

(TNS)

Long thought a thing of the future, electric cars are becoming mainstream. Sales in the United States of plug-in, electric vehicles nearly doubled last year. Credible forecasts see the number rising within a decade to half a million vehicles per year, which would easily exceed sales of the Toyota Camry today. Although the technology for electric cars is improving quickly, the industry still depends heavily on public policy such as the $7,500 subsidy that the federal government gives everyone who buys one. The rationale for such aggressive policy support is, in part, rooted in the idea that these cars cause less pollution. Indeed, conspicuously "green" consumers dominate sales of electric vehicles, just as they did initially for hybrid vehicles such as the Toyota Prius.

But whether electric cars are actually greener depends on where the electricity comes from. Our research, along with other studies, finds that electric cars are not necessarily the environment-friendly choice when it comes to the emissions of carbon dioxide the pollutant of greatest concern for climate change. It is true that electric cars have no tailpipe emissions (they don’t even have tailpipes!), which means they can help clear local air. But the electricity used to charge these vehicles comes mainly from power plants that burn coal or natural gas, with coal being the biggest emitter. Other sources of electricity wind, solar, hydro and nuclear generate zero emissions.

Figure out whether the electricity is more environmentally friendly than burning gasoline directly in cars depends on statistical sleuthing to estimate changes in emissions within the overall electricity grid in response to the additional electricity needed to charge an electric car. We’ve done this using data on every hour of every day for recent years across the nation, and where and when electric cars are charging affects how their emissions compare with the alternatives of a conventional or hybrid car. In some places and at some times, electric cars generate more emissions. We find, for example, that charging an electric car at night in the upper Midwest will generate more carbon dioxide per mile driven than the average conventional car that burns gasoline. In contrast, electric cars in the western United States and Texas always generate lower emissions than even a hybrid, and this arises because natural gas rather than coal tends to be used for generating the additional electricity in these regions.

Our findings are based on how electricity is actually generated and current technologies that determine the efficiency of vehicles. But how might things change in the future to affect whether electric cars will reduce emissions and therefore help address climate change? We know the fuel economy of non-electric cars will increase in the coming years. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has nearly doubled the average fuel efficiency goal for cars by 2025. Meanwhile, the manufacturers of electric cars are seeking to significantly increase the distance that one can drive on a charge.

But the critical driver of electric-car emissions is how the electricity is generated. And this is where the future of electric cars as a means for addressing climate change is related to the future of power plant regulations. The EPA is in the process of developing its "Clean Power Plan" to reduce emissions from power plants. This, along with other rules, will make the electricity sector cleaner and help ensure that electric vehicles are the green choice down the road. More than a few years ago electric vehicles were the dominant and most promising technology for personal automobiles. But oil won that battle and reigned over the 20th century. Now electricity is poised to compete, and might yet power the transportation sector this century. The push is due in large part to concern about climate change, so it is important to have policies that ensure electric cars are part of the solution rather than the problem.
**DMACC’s Top Tweets of the Week**

"These Iowa basketball players are ugly as sin by god are they playing like all stars right now" – @Nick Noah 4/28/15 4:09 PM

"Just watched someone stop pick up snow and eat it DMACC" – @Matt Hislop 2/9/15 12:16 PM

"Forgot to do my hour asignment. So I did it before 2/9/15 12:16 PM @MattHislop"

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**StyleIt app takes the guess work out of your wardrobe**

**Do:**

Wear his favorite color. Remember that time your significant other complimented you in the blue button up blouse? Just because it isn’t the sanctioned colors of Valentine’s day doesn’t mean they will hate it. Pair it with a nice skirt before you hit dinner and a movie.

Pull out former Christmas wear. As long as it doesn’t declare anything Christmas related, the sweater you purchased for family photos can be reused for a special date with your special someone.

Heart: There is no shame in pulling out the clothes, such as a heart covered dress. However, this is the only time it is acceptable.

**Don’t:**

Use costumes: The cheap sexy nurse costume is a little inappropriate. Save the money and pull out a nice dress that has been waiting to be recognized. It’s time to keep it classy.

Wear flats: Unless you are Madonna out of the 80’s, you have no excuse to pull out these. Don’t do drag: Just because it’s the most romantic day of the year doesn’t mean it requires the most make up. Your significant other likes you for you, not how much make up you called on.

**Exercise now! The 5 immediate benefits of regular exercise**

**1. Boost your mood**

You don’t need an hour-long, high-intensity workout to trigger a gin. Just 20 minutes of jogging has been found to elevate mood and surprisingly the intensity doesn’t matter. In fact, there’s reason to believe that pushing yourself harder or reducing the lift in your mood. So even the slightest bit of exercise may have the same positive effect.

**2. Increase your self-esteem**

We all want to feel like we’re on top of the world, and working out can be just the thing to boost your confidence. Researchers in Norway found that children who exercised regularly showed signs of improved self-esteem in the short term after working out.

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**4. Think more clearly**

Moderate aerobic exercise (like running or cycling for 30 minutes) can make us nitro-like with our reaction speed and improve our problem solving abilities just the things you need for a productive day at the office! But try not to push too hard too fast. High intensity interval training has been found to cause physical fatigue that also makes your reactions slower.

**5. Have fun! (And forget whatever’s looming on your to-do list)**

The days of aching, sore muscles that inevitably follow a return to the gym can make it hard to remember one of the best parts of working out. It can be a lot of fun. Research has found that minimizing pain (or perceived pain) from working out can be as simple as thinking about the activity as something you enjoy doing. If you find yourself doing a few push-ups or learning to do a handstand and have a positive benefit on the way we view ourselves. And we don’t even have to be aware that we have that goal in the first place. Meeting unconscious goals like that vague intention to work out that you’re feeling right now also gives a self-esteem boost.
Your horoscope this week

(Aries March 21-April 19)

Costs may be higher than expected. Hunt for a bargain. Recent mental gyrations give way to direct communication, now that Mercury’s direct. Values shift. De-liver a message of love. Reconnect with a distant friend or relative.

(Taurus April 20-May 20)


(Gemini May 21-June 20)

It’s easier to learn, with Mercury direct. Creative efforts take a leap forward. A legal or partner-ship agreement comes together. Re-affirm a commitment. Optimism returns. Plans can advance quickly. Serve up love, beauty and deliciousness.

(Cancer June 21-July 22)

Launch new projects now that Mercury’s direct. You can see clearly the future you want to create. Study. Solidify the steps to take to meet your goals. Work faster for higher income. Words flow like water.

(Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 22)


(Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Rest and think things over. Glass ceiling dissolves. A glass ceiling dissolves. All is well. A new style or discovery.

(Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Travel plans advance, despite an obstacle. A test requires your full attention. Proceed with caution. A raise in status is possible. It’s easier to ask for money. Activity is more beneficial.

(Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18)


(Pisces Feb. 19-March 20)

A barrier to your objective is dissolving. Pack your bags, and get moving! Courtship encouragement. Words and traffic flow better with Mercury direct. A potential dis-agreement could disrupt things. Express love. A change in scenery delights.