FIVE W’s OF WEB SITE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

WHO is the author? ________________________________________________________________

Do they have an expertise? If so, what is it? __________________________________________

WHAT is the author saying? _______________________________________________________

WHAT is the purpose of the site? Information Selling Persuasion Other

WHAT makes this site easy to use? __________________________________________________

WHEN was the site created? _______________________________________________________

WHEN was it last updated? _______________________________________________________

WHERE does the information come from? _____________________________________________

WHERE is the URL domain? .com .org .net .gov .us .edu .edu

WHERE can I find more about the website creator? _________________________________

WHY is this information good for me? ______________________________________________

WHY should I use this information? ______________________________________________

WHY is this site better than another? ______________________________________________

Based on Kathy Schrock’s Five W’s of Web Site Evaluation at http://kathyschrock.net/abceval/5ws.pdf
**HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS**

**CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.

**READ BEYOND**
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What’s the whole story?

**CHECK THE AUTHOR**
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

**SUPPORTING SOURCES?**
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

**CHECK THE DATE**
Reposting old news stories doesn’t mean they’re relevant to current events.

**IS IT A JOKE?**
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

**CHECK YOUR BIASES**
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

**ASK THE EXPERTS**
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Hazy Library COM 122, 2016-2019