Assignment 2: Information Literacy

(10 marks)

What is this assignment about?

The major objectives of this assignment are:

1. To have all SEB121 Engineering Practice project teams formed and productively performing by the beginning of Week 4, i.e., for students to develop and demonstrate competency in working with others to complete an assigned task and to demonstrate ethical and productive behaviour in a team-based environment.

2. For students to collaboratively demonstrate in teams a competency in critically analysing information considering appropriate contextual factors.

3. For students to collaboratively demonstrate in teams a competency in using digital methods to access, edit, and publish information.

This assignment part is worth 10 marks (10%) of the total 100 marks (100%) possible for this unit. It is a team-based assignment for all students and marks will be awarded based entirely on the team's submitted work. Each member of your team will receive the same mark for this assignment.

Everyone must work in the project teams that you joined or were assigned to early in the trimester. Be clear on this – you <u>must</u> work as part of a team for this assignment and you cannot undertake this assignment individually by yourself. If there is a problem with your team then contact the unit chair to get it resolved as soon as possible. The project report (and corresponding presentations) is to be from the combined efforts within teams and not solely from individuals.

Specifically within the broad field of information literacy the main focus of this assignment is on digital literacy. A background briefing document on digital literacy, prepared by Chris Rawson from Deakin Library, is provided in the Assignment 2 folder on Cloud Deakin.

What you are required to do

This assignment is to be undertaken by your project team in order to complete the following five tasks:

1. Access and read the specified information on the website https://www.wind-watch.org/

2. Analyse the information provided on the website and consider which information may be questionable.

3. Using the checklist of characteristics of trustworthy information and any other resources you find on the topic of assessing the credibility of information, your team will identify information that either is or is not trustworthy

4. Explain why this is the case

5. Create a new wiki entry using information researched from trusted and appropriate sources.

Make sure you read this entire document thoroughly, as well as the marking rubric attached to it, before your team begins work on this assignment!

Part One: Tasks 1 to 4

Your team is required to analyse information from a given website. As a team collaboratively identify instances in which the information is either demonstrably untrustworthy or is definitely trustworthy. Then provide a brief explanation as to why your team classified any information as untrustworthy

Instructions for Part One:

1. Go to the website located at https://www.wind-watch.org/faq-all.php

2. There you should find a list of nine links to 'fast facts' on various topics. You must choose 5 topics from the list to analyse its trustworthiness. You may also select https://www.wind-watch.org/ww-noise-health.php as one of your five topics. **NOTE:** You must NOT select 'About NWW.'

3. Copy and paste the information from the National Wind Watch website's pages that you selected for step two into your team's online wiki provided on CloudDeakin (follow the instruction steps given below to do this).

4. Identify any information that you could mount a strong, credible justification for asserting that it is either true or untrue.

5. Make the words that you have identified **bold** and place a number in square brackets [1] next to it, e.g.:
   "since the introduction of Wind farms to coastal regions of New South Wales**, there has been an extraordinary decline in the birth rate of marine mammals in affected areas**" [3]

6. Write a very short explanation of why you do or do not trust each particular instance that you have highlighted, listed below the text that you have copied and pasted. For example:

   [3] The claim that "there has been an extraordinary decline in the birth rate of marine mammals in affected areas" does not includes a source, and is contradicted by a report on marine mammal populations in 2011 (Roberts).

7. Ensure that you correctly reference all your explanations for step seven. You will not need to reference the National Wind Watch website for this part of the exercise.

8. There is no word count limit for Part One.

9. Make sure that a complete list of all your team members is provided on your wiki submission, i.e., a complete list of all members by first name and last name (in that order). Put this team listing at the top of your team's wiki entry.

Tips and Guidance for Part One:

- Ask yourself 'how can I judge whether this is true,' and check it against the characteristics of trustworthy information in the background information for this assessment task.

- Verify each statement or fact by checking the original source of the information. You might find that the original source is not very trustworthy, that it does not support the statements made, or that it has been misrepresented.

- Where a statement is unsourced and therefore you don't know how the author 'knows' what he or she is writing, you must make a final decision on whether or not it's trustworthy for yourself.

Part Two: Task 5

Your team is required to research and write new information answering specific questions given on a particular topic.

Instructions for Part Two:

1. Your team is required to answer at least one of the following four questions about wind farms. Your team can choose to answer more, or all, of the following questions but must answer at least one:

    a. What are the effects of living nearby to a wind turbine on human health, if any?

    b. What are the effects of wind farms on populations of wild life?

    c. What social or economic consequences are likely from the introduction of a wind farm into an area?

    d. Do the costs of producing electricity from wind farms outweigh the benefits?

2. Research the issues identified by the four questions listed immediately above in instruction step 1. Find and read some trustworthy information on these issues. You will need to find at least five sources of trustworthy information on the topic or topics you select to get the best marks for this assignment.

3. Each team must create a new wiki entry briefly addressing one, some or all of the questions posed below in a trustworthy manner. It must rely on the best available information.

4. Your wiki entry for Part Two must be at least 250 words but not exceed 500 words total. This word count range is considered reasonable – not trivial and yet not excessive. Your team may need to perform multiple editing rounds to condense the desired information within the 500 word maximum limit.

Tips and Guidance for Part Two

- The Deakin University Library is an essential place to look for information. Go to the Engineering Library Resource Guide to start looking.

- The *National Wind Watch* website contains a number of links to information. Remember to read any information that you encounter critically.

- You may also find some trustworthy reports from reputable organisations online.

- You might choose to come at any of these questions from any number of 'angles.' For example, you might answer the question of the effects of wind farms on wildlife by looking on a local or global scale (or both). Question 'c' gives you scope to discuss a very wide range of topics. It's up to you – just make sure you base your answers on information that is relevant, up to date and trustworthy.

- Correctly cite all of your sources of information according to the Deakin-Harvard (author date) referencing style (see www.deakin.edu.au/referencing for more details). You need to reference the *National Wind Watch* website if you choose to use it for Part Two.

How is this assignment marked?

- We'll be using a table of review criteria (Marking Rubric) as provided at the end of this document to mark your team's wiki entry.

- All members of the team will receive the same (team) grade for this assignment.

Anything else?

- Remember this is a team-based assignment.

- You cannot undertake this assignment individually.

- You must work in your assigned project team and it should be obvious that if you are not yet in a project team then this is a priority issue for you to resolve by the end of Week 2 (Friday 22 March) at the very latest.

- Remember at all times to behave respectfully and ethically towards your fellow students in your team. Your team members need to be on good terms with each other throughout the trimester in order to productively focus on the best outcomes possible for your individual learning outcomes and for your collective assessment outcomes (Assignments 2, 3, and 4).

The important dates to remember

- Monday 18th March to Friday 22 March

  o During Week 2, Chris Rawson from Deakin Library will conduct digital literacy sessions during our regularly scheduled on campus tutorial sessions and for at least one eLive online tutorial session.

- Friday 22 March

  o This is the last week day of Week 2 in the Trimester. By the end of this day at the latest all students should be assigned to an SEB121 Engineering Practice project team. If you are not by this date then contact the Unit Chair (Simon C.) as soon as possible (to be placed into one).

- Monday 8 April

  o Your team's wiki needs to be completed and submitted online on CloudDeakin by 11:59pm (Geelong local time) on Monday 8 April.

  o Specific details of how to submit your wiki on CloudDeakin will be described in a separate document to be posted in the Assignment 2 folder.

And finally, the fine print

- Remember that all students are required to comply with Deakin University's regulations and policies on academic honesty and misconduct. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and understood these policies as described in the Academic Honesty and Misconduct section in the Unit Guide.

- You are expected to fully comply with this university's regulations and policies on academic honesty and misconduct at all times while studying for, and undertaking assessment tasks, for this unit. If you have any questions or queries about your obligations as a student with regard to academic honesty or misconduct then consult directly with your unit chair or student advisor.

SEB121 2013 Marking Rubric for Assignment 2: Information Literacy

Team #

(Rubric = Quantitative Method for Assessment of Tasks according to Defined Performance Criteria)

	Advanced	Proficient	Competent	Deficient	Unacceptable	Marks
	2	1.5	1	0.5	0	
Find	Uses 5 sources of relevant and credible information.	Uses 4 sources of relevant and credible information.	Uses 3 sources of relevant and credible information.	Uses 2 sources of relevant and credible information.	Uses less than 2 sources of relevant and credible information.	
Assess	More than 20 instances of information that are either trustworthy or untrustworthy have been identified in the original web site.	Most information (15-19 instances) of information that is either trustworthy or untrustworthy have been identified in the original web site.	Some information (10-15 instances) of information that is either trustworthy or untrustworthy have been identified in the original web site.	Few (between 5 and 10 instances) of information that are either trustworthy or untrustworthy have been identified in the original web site.	Most information that is either trustworthy or untrustworthy has not been identified in the original web site (less than 5 instances).	
Reason	Justification for identifying information in Part One is always strong, credible and persuasive.	Justification for identifying information in Part One is mostly strong, credible and persuasive, however it is not convincing on three or less occasions.	Justification for identifying information in Part One is not convincing on six or less occasions.	Justification for identifying information in Part One is not convincing on nine or less occasions.	Justification for identifying information in Part One is not convincing on more than nine occasions.	
Credible Use	The rewritten report uses relevant source material. No instances of untrustworthy information have been identified by the assessors.	The rewritten report uses relevant source material. One instance of untrustworthy information has been identified by the assessors.	The rewritten report uses relevant source material. Two instances of untrustworthy information have been identified by the assessors.	The rewritten report uses relevant source material. Three instances of untrustworthy information have been identified by the assessors.	The rewritten report uses relevant source material. Four instances of untrustworthy information have been identified by the assessors.	
Communicate	Rewritten article is written in a concise, coherent and clear manner.	Rewritten article makes 1 - 3 errors of language. It is otherwise concise, coherent and clear.	Rewritten article makes 3 - 6 errors of language. It is possible to make sense of the writing without difficulty.	Rewritten article makes 6-9 errors of language AND/OR it is difficult to understand.	Rewritten article makes 10 or more errors of language AND/OR it is very difficult to understand.	
					Total Mark	

Feedback: