

Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning

**Responses to "Dr. NoNet and Dr. YesNet On the Internet," by Jill Ellern
and Betsy Whitley, 3/1/99**

Ellern and Whitley's "Dr. NoNet and Dr. YesNet On the Internet," with the accompanying teaching tip on "How to Help Students Use the Internet," accurately capture my attitude to the use of Internet sources in research. I am convinced that a blanket ban on the use of such sources amounts to short-circuiting knowledge. Moreover, for many students, surfing the Net is a fun way to learn! On the other hand, it is necessary to note that many of the sources on the Internet lack such scientifically necessary qualities as precision, detail, validity, and reliability. Therefore, I usually permit the use of Internet sources for research assignments except that I always offer the following three pieces of advice to my students. One, always make it a point to go beyond the conclusion contained on a site. Two, consider also the source of the conclusion and other relevant information. Three, evaluate the methods and procedures leading up to the information and conclusion presented.

Nonso Okereafoezeke, Criminal Justice

Don't forget "timeliness." The Internet often has the latest information available on a subject. Print media takes time to get into print and distributed.

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