
The Innovative Library Classroom (TILC)
Conference

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Moving from CRAAP to ACT UP!

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TILC 2023

Moving from CRAAP to ACT UP!

M. Teresa Doherty, MLIS (she/her)
Student Success Librarian
VCU Libraries

Credit to Dawn Stahura

Research & Instruction Librarian for Science & Healthcare
(and Zine Librarian), Salem State University

- *ACT UP for evaluating sources:
Pushing against privilege (2018)*
- *ACT UP evaluation method libguide*

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<https://crln.acrl.org/index.php/crlnews/article/view/17434/19242>

<https://libguides.salemstate.edu/c.php?g=1236214&p=9046150>

— CRAAP test

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose

Additional 'P's

- *Process*
- *Point of View*
- *Prestige*
- *Publisher*

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ACT UP evaluation method

- Author
- Currency
- Truth
- Unbiased
- Privilege

New concept:

- *Privilege*

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Quote from Dawn Stahura: "I thought about how social justice movements evolve over time, often fading from the public eye but not from the cause. What if I could create a method that not only effectively evaluated sources, but also brought to the forefront a social movement from the past, reinforcing that change takes time?"

It was at this intersection that I thought of ACT UP. By definition, ACT UP means to act in a way that is different from "normal"; the normal established by patriarchy and the systemic oppression of marginalized groups. To ACT UP is to actively engage in dismantling oppression of people of color and acting upwards to create a more socially just system. But ACT UP is not just an easy to remember acronym. The AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP) is an advocacy group that formed in 1987 during the AIDS crisis. While most young students are unaware of the work this group is still doing, using the acronym ACT UP provides an opportunity to tie evaluating sources with grassroots activism."

Author:

Who is the author?

What is their expertise?

Is there a conflict of interest?

Currency:

When was the work originally created?

Is the creation date different from the upload date?

Is there no date listed?

Truth

Is the information accurate?

Can you find other sources with the same claim

“While spelling and grammatical mistakes could be a red flag, consider the creator(s) of the content and ask yourself if it the spelling/grammar mistakes really impact the information delivery. The need for perfect grammar and spelling could be our Western Colonizer mindset at work”

Unbiased

What are your own biases?

Who is funding the research?

Are there any conflicts of interest by the author?

Let's talk about privilege



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Privilege:

What are your own viewpoints about the subject?

Who has the privilege to participate in research? Who are the subjects being studied?

Are they only men? How does that impact health studies for women?

Who did not participate in the study? Does this exclusion impact the results?

Whose voice is missing?

How can you find under-represented researchers?

Ask yourself who has had the privilege to attend university, seminary, college? Usually restricted to rich men, not women, those without independent wealth, Black or brown students, etc. A wealth of academic writing has been created by rich white men, even though the landscape has changed and more voices are able to participate in the academic conversation. Database searching relies on relevancy ranking, which privileges those who have already been read and cited; you have to do much more work to locate researchers that may bring a new voice to the subject.

Consider your own positionality and privilege as well

Diversify your reading list

[Women Also Know Stuff](#)

(political science)

[Women Also Know History](#)

(history)

[Cite Black Authors](#)

(multidisciplinary)

[AcademiaNet](#)

(multidisciplinary)

[Women, Nonbinary, and POC Media Experts](#)

(media)

[People of Color Also Know Stuff](#)

(political science)

[500 Queer Scientists](#)

(science)

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Researchers can be tempted to identify underrepresented voices by their name; please do not make assumptions about their identity (gender, race, ethnic background, etc.). Instead, use tools created by self-identified researchers, such as women, Black authors, LGBTQIA+ researchers, etc.

Let's talk about serendipity

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Many thanks to this TILC attendee who allowed me to take a photo of the back of their very cool denim jacket, with this 'new to me' additional resource:

<https://www.citeblackwomenscollective.org/>

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Questions?

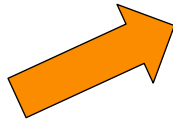
mtdohert@vcu.edu

Links to this slide deck
and more resources
are on the next slide,
don't worry :)

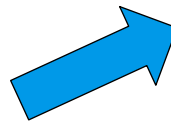
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Link to evaluation survey: <https://forms.gle/v3QKTXHgtYwqs8Gc9>

Link to these
slides and many
other resources



A short survey of
your impressions of
this lightning talk



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Link to evaluation survey: <https://forms.gle/v3QKTXHgtYwqs8Gc9>