

Useful Search Terms from Unreliable Sources

Often when doing internet research it can be difficult to wade through all of the unreliable information and find good information from reliable sources. A clever researcher can use unreliable sources to their advantage though by identifying key facts and pieces of information and using those in a more specific internet search.

Take a look at this article on surfing. The site design wasn't very professional, the author did not appear to be an expert on surfing, there were no resources cited in the article, and the site url indicated that the site was part of a class project. However, a tuned-in researcher can identify important pieces of information to use as search terms to find their way to other, reliable sources that verify the same information.

Read the history portion of the site and identify key words and phrases that you could use as search terms to find reliable sources on the history of surfing. We will then test out these search terms as a class.

(a not very reliable) **History of Surfing**¹

Surfing is one of the oldest practiced sports on the planet. The art of wave riding, is a blend of total athleticism and the comprehension of the beauty and power of nature. Surfing is also one of the few sports that creates its own culture and lifestyle. [...]

There is no exact record of when stand-up surfing became a sport. It is known that during the 15th century, kings, queens and people of the Sandwich Isles were big into the sport of "he'enalu" or wave-sliding, in old Hawaiian,. "He'e" means to change from a solid form to a liquid form and "nalu" refers to the surfing motion of a wave.

Early historical records of surfing appear in the late 1700s, when Europeans and Polynesians made first contact in Tahiti. Navigator Captain James Cook described how a Tahitian caught waves with his outrigger canoe just for the fun of it: "On walking one day about Matavai Point, where our tents were erected, I saw a man paddling in a small canoe so quickly and looking about him with such eagerness of each side. He then sat motionless and was carried along at the same swift rate as the wave, till it landed him upon the beach. Then he started out, emptied his canoe, and went in search of another swell. I could not help concluding that this man felt the most supreme pleasure while he was driven on so fast and so smoothly by the sea."

The first Polynesian settlers to land in Hawaii were most likely skilled in simple surfing, and after a few hundred years of riding the waves of Hawaii, the well-known Hawaiian form of the sport emerged.

Search Terms for Finding Reliable Sources		

Now, try out the search terms and star the three that give you the best results.
We'll talk about what the most effective search terms have in common.

¹ Britton, Veronica. "The Origins of Surfing." *The Sport of Kings*. University of Florida, n.d. Web. 10 March 2015.