

Empowering Students to Find and Evaluate Digital Resources with Confidence

Comparing Microsoft Search Coach and Google Search to help students develop better information literacy skills

Objective

The goal of this paper is to assess how students develop information literacy skills using Microsoft Search Coach and Google Search.

Key Findings

1. Microsoft Search Coach helps students find the resources they need by providing real-time feedback during authentic searches.
2. Search Coach runs in the student's Teams for Education* channel and offers fewer distractions by eliminating ads so students can concentrate on their task.
3. Search Coach features NewsGuard*, a built-in reliability and trust rating system that displays a rating and a detailed analysis of the results.
4. Search Coach data is shared with educators in Education Insights* so that they can help guide students based on real-time, actionable trends.
5. Search Coach includes a Fact Check filter that automatically filters results from reputable fact checking sites like Snopes.com and FactCheck.org.
6. Both the Microsoft and Google approaches to information literacy involve a curriculum-based strategy.
7. The Google approach lacks personalized coaching during authentic practice opportunities, leaving students to navigate Google Search research tasks on their own.

Conclusion

Information literacy is an essential life skill in academic, personal, and professional settings. With the rise of misinformation, disinformation, and biased information, students must navigate resources with a critical eye to ensure that the results are credible, factual, and relevant. When faced with teaching information literacy skills to their students, educators often find it challenging to prioritize information literacy in their lessons due to time constraints and not knowing where to start. Educators can reduce these challenges and meet students' needs by introducing students to on-demand support built into commonly used tools where their learning is already taking place. Ideally, information literacy solutions should be simple to use and provide valuable feedback for students and actionable data for educators.

Microsoft and Google both supply educators with instructional resources to introduce search and information literacy skills to students. Search Coach provides learners with an unmatched level of coaching and real-time feedback support, which is essential for developing vital skills and sets it apart from Google Search.



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