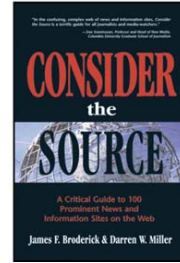


NEWS RELEASE



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THE INTERNET: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

*New, Unique A-to-Z Guide Offers Candid, Informed Critique
of 100 News and Information Sites on the Web*

With an incalculable number of online information sources, navigating the Web for news of any kind can be an unenviable task. But thanks to a new book titled *Consider the Source: A Critical Guide to 100 Prominent News and Information sites on the Web*, savvy Internet surfers and Web novices alike now, for the first time, have a clear roadmap to the congested information superhighway. And according to its authors, there are several must-visit destinations.

Of the 100 news and information sites reviewed, only five online sources—BBC News, CBS News, the *Christian Science Monitor*, Guardian Unlimited, and National Public Radio—received a five-newspaper rating, which is the highest possible ranking awarded in the book. Eleven other sources ranked high with a grade of four-and-a-half newspapers.

Written by two journalists, James Broderick and Darren Miller, this first-of-its-kind book—an A-to-Z guide featuring 100 in-depth, critical reviews and a clear, useful rating system—offers a candid, comprehensive analysis of the good, the bad, and the unusual of online news.

“Even if you had unlimited time to spend on the Web (when, in fact, the opposite is increasingly true for most people), it would be difficult to assess which Web sites offer the ‘best’ information,” write Broderick and Miller in the book’s introduction. “*Consider the Source* takes you to 100 prominent news and information Web sites on the Internet and offers a candid, comprehensive analysis of the good, the bad, and the unusual. We help you get to those places that give you what you need most—whatever your information needs.”

While the number of news and information sources has never been greater, the American public is no better informed than they were before the Internet arrived, according to a recent study by the Pew Research Center. And with countless news and information sites on the World Wide Web, it would seem almost impossible to figure out which sites are the best written, best reported, and most reliable. *Consider the Source*, however, makes using the Web easier, faster, and more rewarding.

“We’ve done the research that our readers don’t have time to do,” said Broderick. “With the 24-hour news cycle and a seemingly infinite amount of sources, people are now confronted with an overwhelming number of places to get their news—some credible, some not.”

Miller agreed, “We felt it necessary to take a new approach to evaluating news in the digital age. This is a book that can be read front to back or dipped into anytime for quick and easy reference.”

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Consider the Source offers a lifeline, reviewing not only the obvious features of 100 prominent Web-based news and information services, but also considering the motivations and mind-sets of the people and organizations behind them. From the well-known sites of global news monoliths to those of up-and-coming pundits and commentators, authors Broderick and Miller provide a concise and thoughtful discussion of each site's strengths and weaknesses.

"In the confusing, complex web of news and information sites, *Consider the Source* is a terrific guide for all journalists and media-watchers," said Sree Sreenivasan, professor and head of New Media at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Anyone who uses the Internet, from professional researcher to casual Web surfer, can save a great deal of time by using this book, which also serves as a handy introduction for those with little or no knowledge of what awaits them once they log on.

"Broderick and Miller offer hard, honest appraisals of these sites, celebrating the successes and exposing the failures," said Robert Niles, editor of *Online Journalism Review*. "Whether you are a journalism student, a news junkie looking for another fix, or just a concerned reader wondering if you're getting the most accurate information, [*Consider the Source*] will help you improve the quality of your bookmark list and RSS feeds."

With thousands of news and information sites to choose from, the authors focused on those sites that have achieved a certain amount of prominence or reputation, and that are mostly free to users. Some of the sites critiqued in *Consider the Source*—which include newspapers, magazines, broadcast outlets, national and international organizations, and Web-only publications covering a diverse range of topics—are: Al Jazeera, AARP, ABC News, Consumer Reports, CNN, C-SPAN, Drudge Report, *Entertainment Weekly*, ESPN, Fox News, *Jerusalem Post*, *The Nation*, *National Geographic*, *New York Times*, OhmyNews, Rush Limbaugh, Slate, The Smoking Gun, *Time*, WebMD, the White House, and many more.

Although the ratings of the sites presented by the authors are intended to help readers gain quick insight into each site, they are far from the whole story. Each review includes an "Overview," focusing on a site's origins and development; "What You'll Find There," which assesses a site's main features; "Why You Should Visit," offering reasons to check in with the site (or not to); "Keep This In Mind," which highlights lesser-known aspects of the site's history or ideological leanings; and "Off the Record," featuring factoids off the beaten path of the information superhighway. Each of the 100 sites gets its own chapter (or review), which ends with an overall rating from zero to five newspapers (rather than usual star-rating system).

Consider the Source is "a valuable, no-nonsense resource for newshounds and headline scanners alike," said Michael Calia of *The Press of Atlantic City*. "If Internet news is a jungle, then *Consider the Source* is the perfect machete: light, extremely sharp, and it never gets dull."

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

James F. Broderick teaches journalism at New Jersey City University in Jersey City, NJ, and lives in Glen Ridge, NJ. He is the author of two previous books. **Darren W. Miller** has worked as a reporter and editor for newspapers in New Jersey and North Carolina and is the recipient of several journalism awards. He lives in Asheville, NC. For more information about *Consider the Source*, including downloadable cover art, author photos, and brief bios, log on to the authors' Web site: TheReportersWell.com.

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