Rating the News on the Net

New Book Reveals Strengths, Weaknesses, Biases of 100 Top News and Information Web Sites

June 1, 2007, New York, NY—At the Book Expo America (BEA) convention taking place at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City, Information Today, Inc. (ITI) announced the publication of Consider the Source: A Critical Guide to 100 Prominent News and Information Sites on the Web by James F. Broderick and Darren W. Miller.

The famous slogan of one major TV news network, “More people get their news from ... than from any other source,” now applies to the Internet. But where can you find the news you need, how can you gauge its veracity, and how can anyone keep up? The answers are in this unique book by a professor of journalism and a working reporter. Consider the Source is an A-to-Z guide to the best and worst news and information sites, featuring 100 in-depth, critical reviews and a 5-star rating system.

The number of Web sites purporting to provide news and information is growing daily, but even trained journalists have become victims of bias and misinformation. Consider the Source offers a lifeline, reviewing not only the obvious features of 100 prominent Web-based news and information services, but 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,” according to Sree Sreenivasan, Professor and Head of New Media at Columbia University School of Journalism.

—more—
With thousands of news sites 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 are:

- Al Jazeera
- Associated Press (AP)
- British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News
- Cable News Network (CNN)
- Chicago Tribune
- Columbia Broadcasting Service (CBS) News
- Fox News
- The Nation
- National Public Radio
- New York Times
- Salon
- San Francisco Chronicle
- Time
- USA Today
- Village Voice
- Washington Post

Although the evaluations 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); and “Keep This In Mind,” which highlights lesser-known aspects of the site’s history or ideological leanings.

As a reader bonus, the authors’ Web site provides links to all 100 sites covered, reviews of new sites and sources, Darren Miller’s blog on the media, a writer’s bookshelf, and more.

James F. Broderick teaches journalism at New Jersey City University in Jersey City, NJ. He is the author of two 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. They can be reached through their Web site, TheReportersWell.com.

BOOK SIGNING AT BEA
James F. Broderick and Darren W. Miller will sign copies of Consider the Source at the Book Expo America (BEA) Author Autographing Area on Saturday, June 2 from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Consider the Source: A Critical Guide to 100 Prominent News and Information Sites on the Web (472 pp/softbound/$24.95/ISBN 978-0-910965-77-4) is a CyberAge Book from Information Today, Inc. It is available in bookstores through Independent Publishers Group (IPG) or by calling (800) 300-9868 [outside U.S. call (609) 654-6266]; faxing (609) 654-4309; e-mailing custserv@infotoday.com; or on the Web at www.infotoday.com.