MIS0855: Data Science

In-Class Exercise on Mon, Jan 26 – Assessing Trustworthiness of Data Sources

Objective: Assess the reliability of a data source.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify potentially unreliable data and information within a data source.
- Differentiate between questionable data and questionable information.
- Differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources.

Step 1: Explore - individual (10 minutes)

1) Visit these three sites:
   http://www.yelp.com, http://www.amazon.com/, http://www.youtube.com/

2) Browse each site to get a feel for what kind of data is available from each one.

3) Try out a few searches on each site. For example, search for a restaurant you know at Yelp and look at what information is displayed. Make sure you read the reviews!

4) As you do your searches, make some notes regarding these questions:
   a. What are ways in which the data and information from each site might not be reliable?
   b. What data and information do you trust from each site? What data and information don't you trust?
   c. How do you differentiate? Are there "signs" of unreliable data or information?

Step 2: Prepare – group (15 minutes)

1) In groups of three or four, compare and discuss your notes.
2) Discuss these items:
   a. What are ways in which the data and information from each site might not be reliable?
   b. How can unreliable data from these sites lead to unreliable information?
   c. When you see data (or information) you doubt, how would you figure out if it was accurate?

Step 3: Class Discussion (10 minutes)

Each group will briefly report out with their answers to the questions in Step 2.

Send your group's note to minspang@temple.edu by 10:00 AM.