

You may have heard lots of wise advice from your elders including things like “Don’t believe everything you see in print.” That advice still holds true and the Library Ladies would like to add to that advice “Don’t believe everything you see on the internet.” There is no quality control on the internet and it can be hard to verify the information you find.

One classically fraudulent website is the infamous www.malepregnancy.com. You can see a video of a very pregnant man named Mr. Lee riding the bus, voraciously eating, and shopping for groceries. You can see MR Lee’s EKG, his ultrasound and other medical vital statistics. The website also includes a picture of Mr. Lee on the front cover of Newsweek as Man of the Year. Although you could get the impression that this website was recently created and all the news about Mr. Lee is current, this website has been around for at least 2 years. If the Library Ladies have done their math correctly, that means Mr. Lee has been pregnant for over 24 months!!! If you do a little research, you will find that the website is a hoax created by artists in Hong Kong. Alas, Mr. Lee is not the world’s first pregnant male. If he were, we would certainly be hearing and reading more about him than on just one internet site.

The good news is that you can find reliable information in the library’s databases. Articles in the databases are published in magazines and journals that have utilized skeptical editors and very careful fact-checkers who make sure the information they publish is accurate and reliable.

The web has lots of great information, but don’t forget that the Library Libraries provide databases with current, well organized, and credible (that means “honest”) information.

The answer is the library.