Things to Consider

Beyond developing the skills to search, manage, and evaluate Internet resources, there are other digital and information literacy issues for teachers to consider. In the next section, we discuss some of these and offer suggestions for supporting students' understanding and growth as 21st-century digital citizens.

Copyright, Fair Use, and Plagiarism   The Web has evolved into an open, social, sharing environment where media is edited, mixed, and repurposed in mash-ups, and traditional copyright laws have become limiting. The standard "all rights reserved" presented a barrier to users who wanted their works shared by others. Creative Commons, a non-profit organization, was founded in 2001 to increase the amount of material that is legally available for others to freely use. It has worked closely with legal experts to define a range of rights and developed Creative Commons licenses that content creators may use, depending on the level of permission they wish to offer. Creators may opt out of copyright protection entirely, placing their material in the public domain (no rights reserved). For those wishing to preserve some rights, six sets of conditions are available with varying

levels of accommodation and restriction. Information about the six main licenses may be found at http://creativecommons.org/about/licenses/.

Still, most Web content is copyrighted and too often is misused without proper citation. Tools to detect plagiarized material are abundant (e.g., Turnitin or http://PlagiarismDetection.org). While they may be immediately useful to teachers, it is far more beneficial to teach students the 21st-century skills they will need when they leave the artificial context of school and enter a world in which self-monitoring is expected. The ease with which one can digitally cut and paste; the prevalance of mash-ups where bits of material are modified, combined, and repurposed; the layers of copyright available through Creative Commons—all make it imperative that students learn how to identify, paraphrase, and correctly cite another's work as they create original works of their own. Plagiarism.org is an excellent website to help students learn these skills, with examples and answers to questions such as "What is plagiarism?" "What is citation?" and "How do I cite sources?" Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/) is another resource students can consult as they use information from other sources in developing works of their own. Teaching students to check the origins of their work in free online tools such as Viper (www.scanmyessay.com) encourages them to demonstrate habits of responsible digital citizenship. You may wish to refer to Chapter 7 for other tools that support writing.