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History 268
Website Evaluation
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Evaluation of the Official Klan Website

When researching a subject matter as sensitive as the Ku Klux Klan, one must be very cautious of the research materials used, as well as the sources of information. The internet, probably the most widely used source is a great way to find an abundance of information. However, it is also a great way to find mis-information as well. With a subject such as the KKK, there is an advantage in the fact that they are a distinctive and organized group to form research around. In addition, the KKK has a website that is specifically for representing their group and claims to have information about what they stand for and what their group is about. Going to a specific website such as this one is one of the worst sources of information. Here you will not find facts from an impartial third party, but rather, one group's side of the story.

This is a website that was developed, designed and maintained by the KKK themselves. Although we would expect to find a great source of information here, it serves more as a propaganda tool used to spread the message of the KKK. When looking at the homepage of the KKK website, it is difficult to find links that will lead to any educational materials about the actual group. Instead, there are distractive animated characters, links to KKK merchandise and KKK slogans that clutter the homepage.

When searching through the links that claim to be educational about the Klan itself, there is an evident distortion of the facts and the truth that takes place. There is no citation of any sources anywhere and the site itself is maintained by those directly linked to the Klan and wish to spread its message as well. Their message is then distorted and

strays from the actual truth of what is known about this group to give them a positive look.

The information that we do find on this site does not come from any scholarly sources or impartial people who would have an objective point of view on the subject matter of what is a very controversial issue. Instead, the sources for this website are in fact the history as told from the KKK perspective throughout time. When looking further into these links, there is obvious manipulation and blatant falsification of facts. The links that are on this website and lead elsewhere are ones that are supportive of the same message that the Klan site itself attempts to send and they, in addition to the advertisements on the site, add to the overall attitude of the site.

When looking at the official KKK website, I did not find a source of information at all. It was difficult to find actual background or history about the Klan or factual information about what it is they stand for and represent. Instead, I found a propaganda tool that tries to spread the Klan message by disguising it as something positive. They attempt to promote political agenda by clustering manipulated bible verses and invoking fear within people. It is easy for me, someone who is aware of the KKK and what their message and goals are to notice these manipulations and falsifications on their website. However, someone that does not know what it is they stand for would be easily manipulated and perhaps influenced by the message that would be found here. The true message of what the Klan stands for is in fact on the homepage. After a little digging and decoding on the Klan website, it is possible to discover the message. It is up to the reader, however, to decode, interpret and translate.