WHOIS Source Analysis Assignment

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Every other week, I visit my paternal Grandparents. I take my daughter over to visit, help around the house and enjoy their company. With them both being well into their 80’s, time is not lost on me and I realize how very lucky I am to have them around, not only for myself, but for my daughter too. My Grandpa has Alzheimer’s Disease. I have never researched on the topic, I only know what I see firsthand. For that reason, I searched for Alzheimer’s Disease on Google, hoping that this assignment could benefit me twofold. I scrolled through some of the typical medical sites, looking for something a little more unfamiliar to make sure I was doing my job of properly vetting the source. I selected a link from healthline.com titled “Everything You Need to Know About Alzheimer’s Disease” (Cherney & Herndon, 2018).

The article was co-written by Jaime Herndon and Kristeen Cherney. In searching first for Jaime Herndon, she is listed on LinkedIn, which came in handy to research her current employment. She lists that she is a Medical Writer for Healthline Media and a Health Writer for Verywell, both seem to only be online publications. She also claims to have received her Master’s in Science (MS) from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine along with other education within the medical field (Herndon, n.d.).

In researching Kristeen Cherney, I was not as lucky to find much. She is listed on a site called Muck Rack and is verified as a Nutritionist and Freelance Health Writer (Cherney, n.d.). It was unclear what level of education she has completed or if she has any professional associations.

The article appears to be written as an educational piece, possibly for family members of those suffering all stages of Alzheimer’s Disease. However, the article speaks to the patient in areas, which I found interesting, as I wouldn’t think the patient would be the one seeking the information. It does a good job of presenting information that would be asked about within a doctor’s office and seemingly delivers adequate answers.

When looking deeper at the Healthline.com website, it is stated that the article has been “medically reviewed” by Timothy J. Legg, PhD, CRNP. His name is linked and you are taken to a biography section that states he is a mental health nurse practitioner in multiple areas of study (“Meet Our Team,” n.d.). According to the WHOIS record, the inception of the domain name is August of 2004, yet none of the other pertinent information is available, such as contacts for the domain (“ICANN WHOIS Results,” n.d.). Being that I design websites, I used a little advanced knowledge and looked at the source code of healthline.com. From this, I was able to identify that it uses a well-known, free blogging software and content management system known as WordPress. This is not necessarily a negative thing, but coupled with the missing WHOIS registration information, it makes me think they have not invested in their web presence much, if at all.

While I do believe a lot of this information is accurate and easily accessible for families needing a little more knowledge, I do not believe this would be an adequate source for an academic paper. The website touts medical reviews and even listed sources below the article from other reputable sources such as alz.org and cdc.gov. Yet, when digging deeper into the writers as well as the nurse practitioner that reviewed the article, I did not find anything concrete regarding the information outside of what they were claiming themselves. It seems to me that pulling information off of cdc.gov would be a much safer bet in this case.

**References:**

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