

## STUDENT DETECTIVES

Delivering a lesson as useful today as it was when it first appeared in print 50 years ago, Robin Winks offers the following suggestion in his *The Historian as Detective: Essays on Evidence* (pages 193-94):

Today we suggest to students that they not treat any story as true until they have seen it reported in roughly the same factual form by more than one wire service, in more than one newspaper, and in the latest edition of that newspaper. We also suggest that they read the “Letters to the Editor” column for several days after each event in order to pick up corrections suggested by participants. Most important, we suggest that they study the newspaper for general credibility before they attempt to use it as a source. The *Christian Science Monitor* is a remarkably accurate newspaper on national events, and often on international matters as well – its reporter was the first in Indonesia to write of Sukarno’s decline – but one might not wish to trust its reports on fluoridation any more than one would want to rely solely on the *Wall Street Journal*, also a highly reliable paper, when reading of the Dixon-Yates affair. The venerable *Times* of London has been known to distort the truth now and then (more now than then if one is of the Labour persuasion), and *Time* magazine has been suspected of viewing life Lucely on occasion (even to its weekly way of finding some means, however irrelevant, to mention a certain Ivy League university).

## BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED

In a recent tweet, James Grimmelmann identified an interesting problem:



We hope it will be dealt with in Wendy Everette’s “The Year in Law & Technology” in the 2020 edition of the *Green Bag Almanac & Reader*.