Write a 3-5 pages essay for each of the following two questions. Each question will account for 15% of your final grade.
You can quote or translate texts from the literature (not necessarily from the assigned readings) to support your argument. Make proper reference to the source you cite.

1. In his speech on accepting the 2004 ASIST Award of Merit, Howard D. White stated that the central concern of information science is the “effective intermediation between people and literature.” According to White, what is the main cause behind such a concern? Use the examples we have covered so far in the class, consider how the Internet technologies might impact this intermediary process, i.e. what new opportunities and challenges the Internet might bring to the main concern of LIS.

2. Define “cognitive authority.” Discuss its origin and significance in the context of our increasing reliance on second-hand knowledge. When direct test of knowledge is unavailable, what indirect tests/criteria can we apply to assess an information source’s cognitive authority? Choose an online information resource (in English) and evaluate its quality using the “Web page evaluation checklist” put out by UC-Berkeley Library (link to the checklist is available on the class website).