



LIBRARY

Evaluating Web Sites

Remember that anyone can publish anything on the Web, so you are responsible for evaluating the quality of the Web pages you use for your papers and assignments. Here are some questions to use to evaluate Web pages.

1. AUTHORITY

- What does the domain in the URL tell you? (.edu, .com, .gov, .org or personal page ~NAME)
- Is the domain extension appropriate for the content?
- Is it clear who is responsible for creating or developing the content of the page?
- Can you determine the qualifications of the author or sponsoring organization?

2. ACCURACY

- Are the sources for factual information listed at the bottom, in parenthesis or with active links?
- Is the information free of grammatical, spelling, and other typographical errors?
- Are statistical charts and/or graphs clearly labeled with the source and date of the data listed?

3. OBJECTIVITY

- Can you determine the purpose of the page? Is there an evident slant or bias?
- Does the page try to sell a product? Is there advertising on the page?
- Are there links to other viewpoints?

4. CURRENCY

- Are there dates on the page to indicate when the page was written or modified?
- Are there any other indications that the information is kept current?

5. COVERAGE

- Does the page appear to be complete or still under construction?
- Is the information clearly presented and well supported?
- Can you tell what topic(s) the page intends to cover and does it succeed?

BOTTOM LINE: Would you be comfortable citing this page for a research paper?

More detailed discussions on evaluating web sites at:

UC Berkeley <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

Purdue University (OWL)

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/evaluating_sources_of_information/evaluating_digital_sources.html