



Evaluating Web Resources

Criteria for Evaluating an Internet Site

- Title:
 - States briefly what the site is about.
 - The words in a title serve as a clue to subject matter.
- Author:
 - Who is the author and what are the qualifications, reputation, or status of that author in the field or subject area?
 - Can you contact the author?
 - Is the site affiliated with any institution or organization?
- Reliability: Can you trust the information?
 - Make sure the content of site is accurate, unbiased, and acceptable academically.
 - Determine the competence and reputation of author, editor, publisher, and contributors.
- Purpose:
 - Who is the intended audience of the site?
 - Is the site biased or intended to further a specific agenda or point of view?
- Currency:
 - The information should be current and up-to-date as opposed to older or out-of-date information that may not be accurate.

- Check the last update or revised date of the site.
- A reliable site will list when the page was last updated or revised.
- Accuracy:
 - Is the information correct?
 - Is the information fact or fiction?
 - Can it be proven?
 - Checking the information against another source often reveals the reliability of a site.
 - Is there a Reference or Work Cited bibliography that demonstrates the author has researched the topic?
- Relevance:
 - The information on the site should be precisely what is needed.
 - Is the information unique, or is it repetitive?

<http://www.sou.edu/library/searchtools/evaluate.html>