

Checklist for Evaluating Web Sites

<p>What? <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>WHAT is the site about? Does it have the kind of information you need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the browser title bar, document title, content, and links
<p>Who? <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>WHO created the page/site? Can you find and verify the author's qualifications, whether an individual or an organization?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for "About the author/About us" links for the author's name and contact information • Verify author's qualifications in another source, e.g. journal, encyclopedia, directory, etc. • Look for a link to the homepage of the Web site where the document lives • Look at the parts of the URL or address to find organizational affiliation
<p>Where? <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>WHERE is the information coming from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the address or URL between http:// and / (e.g., .edu = educational, .com=commercial, .org=organization, .gov=government, two letter country codes) • The URL should match the organization responsible for the page
<p>Why? <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>WHY is this site on the web and how does it affect the information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at "About/Mission/Purpose" links, content, and advertising • Determine purpose of the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocacy or "soapbox" (tries to persuade) ○ Informational (often multiple viewpoints and references) ○ Business or marketing (tries to sell) ○ Entertainment • Choose sites whose purposes are compatible with your information needs
<p>How? <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>HOW accurate or credible is the page?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine references and bibliographies • Verify information in another reputable source (e.g. encyclopedia, journal, book, other Web site) • If you notice errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc., question accuracy of other information
<p>When? <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>WHEN was the page or information created? Is the date important for the timelines of the content?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for dates. Can you tell what they mean? Publication or copyright date? Last modified or updated? Date statistics gathered or published? • Note date you accessed this page. You need this to cite the Web site!