

Using the World Wide Web

Evaluating What You Find

Remember these five points as you review a web site:



1. Accuracy

Does the information presented seem accurate and free of grammatical mistakes? Are the facts cited so they can be verified? Is it possible to contact someone responsible for the website?



2. Currency

On what date was the page created? Has the site been updated recently? Do links on the site still connect to their destination?



3. Authority

Who is the author? What expertise does s/he have on this topic? Who sponsors the site? Check the domain name to see if it is a university, business, organization, or an individual.



4. Objectivity

What is the stated purpose of the site? Check the "About..." link if there is one. What position or opinion is presented and does it seem biased? What kind of sites does this one link to?



5. Coverage

How well is the information covered? Does the content have unique value? Are there credible supporting links or sources cited?

Domain Names



.edu educational institution

Page comes from an educational institution, it does not mean the institution endorses the views published by students or faculty members.



.com commercial entity

Companies advertise, sell products, and publish annual reports and other company information on the Web. Many online newspapers or journals also have .com names.



.gov government

Federal and state government agencies use the Web to publish legislation, census information, weather data, tax forms, and many other documents.



.org non-profit organization

Nonprofit organizations such as charities use the Web to promote their causes. These pages are good sources to use when comparing different sides of an issue.