

Evaluation of Websites as Sources

Why evaluate?

- Anyone can publish anything on the Internet. It doesn't have to be accurate, true or reliable.
- You need the best resources for your project/paper. You want to be backed up by accurate, true and reliable information.

Evaluation Criteria:

<p>Authority</p> <p>Is the source identifiable?</p> <p>Does the author/source have expertise in the subject?</p> <p>Is there a sponsoring entity affiliated with the site?</p>	<p>*Look for the name of the author or sponsoring entity.</p> <p>*Is there contact information available?</p> <p>*Are the credentials or expertise of the source verifiable?</p>
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The information is being published for a purpose. What is it?</p> <p>For what audience is the information intended?</p>	<p>*Look for a purpose statement.</p> <p>*Is there evidence of an implied purpose?</p> <p>*Consider the intended audience based on content, tone & style.</p>
<p>Accuracy</p> <p>Is it fact, opinion or propaganda?</p>	<p>*Look for evidence of a particular perspective or bias.</p> <p>*Is the information presented in an objective manner or is it designed to provoke a</p>

<p>Can the source of information be traced and verified?</p> <p>Is the information supported or substantiated by other sources?</p>	<p>certain response?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Is there an indication of the origin or source of the information being presented? *What assumptions are being made? *Compare this site to other sources of information on the same subject. Is there agreement or disagreement? *Locate reviews of the website
<p>Nature of the Content</p> <p>Is it a primary source or a secondary source?</p> <p>Is it a website, digital book, republication of an article, etc.?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Is the site reporting original research? Is the research clearly identified? Are the research methods identified? *Is the information a compilation or analysis of previously published information? *Is the information something original in its electronic form or a republication of a book or article?
<p>Coverage</p> <p>How in depth is the subject covered?</p> <p>What is the scope (limits) of the coverage?</p> <p>Does the site present new/unique information?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Is the subject covered in a general/superficial way or is it explored in-depth? *Is the coverage of the subject limited to a specific time period or area?