

Evaluating Web Resources

- Information found on the Internet should be carefully evaluated so that the most accurate, up-to-date, and reliable information is selected for your research.
- After critically reviewing the site, make an informed decision about how useful it will be for your project.
- Keep in mind that your instructor may have certain requirements regarding the use of web resources—such as using only scholarly sources or not using Wikipedia.
- Beware of information posted on individual users' webpages or blogs.
- Be sure that facts and data are reliable.

Here are some considerations to help evaluate potential web sources:

- **AUTHOR/SPONSOR**

- What type of resource is this?
- Who wrote or created it?
- Are any credentials given for the author(s)?
- Is contact information provided?
 - Note: Check the “About” or “Contact” pages
- Can you find other materials written by the author?
- Is there a company sponsoring the page?
- Under what type of domain is the source listed?
 - Note: if the ending of the URL is .gov or .edu, the source is usually reliable.

- **BIAS**

- Is the site selling, promoting, or ranting?
- Is the information given, balanced and thoughtful?
- Are links to other viewpoints provided?
- Does the page rely on opinions or cited facts?

- **CONTENT**

- Is the information relevant to your topic and assignment?
- Is the information aimed at a general audience or specialists?
- Is the information organized in a clear and logical fashion?
- Has the author referred to other professionals and publications?

- **CURRENCY**

- What is the original creation date for the page or document?
- When was the page last updated, and what was updated?