

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.
- ✓ Therefore, you should always question sources found online. Here are some considerations to help evaluate potential web sources.
 - **AUTHOR/SPONSOR**
 - Who wrote or created the page/site?
 - Are any credentials given for the author(s)?
 - Is contact information provided?
 - 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?
 - **CURRENCY**
 - What is the original creation date for the page or document?
 - When was the page last updated, and what was updated?
 - **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?

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.

Beware of information posted on individual users' webpages or blogs. Be sure that facts and data are reliable.