



Evaluating Web Pages

Here are some questions to keep in mind when deciding whether or not to use a website for your research.

Who is the author of the site?

- Is there any information available on the website about the author or sponsoring organization? This is a good place to check for the credentials of the organization or author.
- What is the domain of the website? The final extension or domain of the website address can give you some clues about where the website originates.
- Is there a way to contact the individual or organization that created and maintains the site?

Is the site objective?

- Does the aim of the site seem to be to present a particular opinion?
- Do you detect any bias in how and what information is presented?
- Are there ads on the website?

How current is the site?

- Are there a lot of links on the website that don't work? This could mean that the site is no longer being maintained and updated.
- Can you find a date on the website listing when it was created, or the last time it was updated?

Does the website provide accurate information?

- Are there typos and errors?
- Are sources cited for facts given?
- Is the factual information on the website current or outdated?

How relevant is the site for your research?

- What is the purpose of the website? Sometimes websites will give a mission statement or a statement of purpose; these can help you decide whether it is worth your time to explore the site.
- What is the intended audience of the website?