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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the source identifiable?</td>
<td>*Look for a purpose statement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the author/source have expertise in the subject?</td>
<td>*Is there evidence of an implied purpose?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there a sponsoring entity affiliated with the site?</td>
<td>*Consider the intended audience based on content, tone &amp; style.</td>
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*Look for the name of the author or sponsoring entity.
*Is there contact information available?
*Are the credentials or expertise of the source verifiable?
| **Accuracy** | *Look for evidence of a particular perspective or bias.*  
Is it fact, opinion or propaganda?  
Can the source of information be traced and verified?  
Is the information supported or substantiated by other sources?  
*Is the information presented in an objective manner or is it designed to provoke a certain response?*  
*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* |
| **Nature of the Content** | *Is the site reporting original research? Is the research clearly identified? Are the research methods identified?*  
Is it a primary source or a secondary source?  
Is it a website, digital book, republication of an article, etc.?  
*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?* |
| **Coverage** | *Is the subject covered in a general/superficial way or is it explored in-depth?*  
How in depth is the subject covered?  
What is the scope (limits) of the coverage?  
Does the site present new/unique information?  
*Is the coverage of the subject limited to a specific time period or area?* |