

## 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><b>Authority</b></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><b>Purpose</b></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 &amp; style.</p>

<p><b>Accuracy</b></p> <p>Is it fact, opinion or propaganda?</p> <p>Can the source of information be traced and verified?</p> <p>Is the information supported or substantiated by other sources?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Look for evidence of a particular perspective or bias.</li> <li>*Is the information presented in an objective manner or is it designed to provoke a certain response?</li> <li>*Is there an indication of the origin or source of the information being presented?</li> <li>*What assumptions are being made?</li> <li>*Compare this site to other sources of information on the same subject. Is there agreement or disagreement?</li> <li>*Locate reviews of the website</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nature of the Content</b></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"> <li>*Is the site reporting original research? Is the research clearly identified? Are the research methods identified?</li> <li>*Is the information a compilation or analysis of previously published information?</li> <li>*Is the information something original in its electronic form or a republication of a book or article?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coverage</b></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"> <li>*Is the subject covered in a general/superficial way or is it explored in-depth?</li> <li>*Is the coverage of the subject limited to a specific time period or area?</li> </ul>