




Evaluating Websites For Beginning Researchers





Criteria For a Good Website

- Accuracy
 - Authority
 - Objectivity
 - Currency
 - Coverage
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Accuracy of Web Document

- n Who wrote the page?
 - Know the difference between webmaster and author
- n Can the author be contacted?
 - Make sure the author provides a contact email address, phone number, or address
- n Is the author qualified to write this information?
 - Is the author known for the subject matter?

Authority of Web Documents

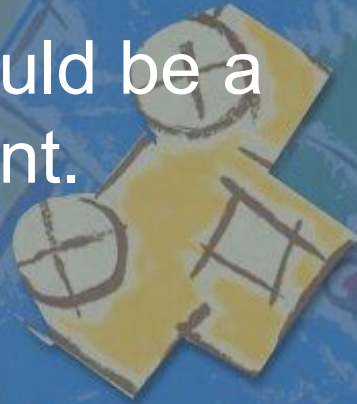
- n Who published the document?
- n Is author separate from the “Webmaster”?
- n Does the author list any credentials?
 - The author should list some credentials on the web page to have some credibility.
 - Remember in research you must obtain information that is reliable.

Objectivity of Web Document

- n For whom was the information written?
- n Is the information detailed?
- n Does the author express any opinions?
 - The web page should not contain only one-sided information.

Currency of Website

- n When was the it constructed?
 - If the information is outdated it should be a clue that the web page is not current.
- n When was the last update?
 - dead links should be a sign that the web page has not been updated regularly



Coverage of Website

- n Do the links go with the subject matter?
- n Is the information free?
- n Does the web page contain more images than text?
 - You should be able to obtain text only
- n Are citations provided accurately?