



EVALUATING WEB SITES

The ABCD Method of Evaluating Internet Sites

Author/ Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Is the author's name provided? ◆ Can the author be contacted? Is an email address or street address or phone number listed? ◆ What are the author's qualifications and credentials? ◆ Is it possible to find biographical information on the author in other sources?
Bias/ Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What is the purpose of the page? Was it created to inform, entertain, defraud, persuade, educate, or sell a product or service? ◆ Is the site sponsored by an organization? Is the purpose of the organization provided? ◆ Is there an "about this site" link? ◆ Is there a bias to the information provided? Is only one side of controversial issues covered? ◆ Are there advertisements on the page? Is the page actually an ad disguised as information? ◆ Are misleading or deceptive arguments used? ◆ Is the page a satire, parody, or spoof?
Content/ Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Is the information provided a complete and in-depth coverage of the topic, or is it a superficial treatment? ◆ How does the page compare with others on the same subject? ◆ How does the page compare with print sources or other types of electronic sources on the subject? ◆ Are there links to other sources? ◆ How current is the information? ◆ Are citations provided, indicating the original sources of this information?
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Is the page easy to read and navigate? ◆ Is the organization logical? ◆ Does the page load quickly? ◆ Do the design elements add to or detract from the content?



WEB PAGES

The information found in the books and magazine, newspaper, and journal articles in the CFCC Library and LINCCWeb databases has been evaluated by editors, publishers, and academic reviewers.

Few web pages go through a similar process of editing, peer review, and library selection, so the quality of information available in Web resources varies greatly. No standards exist to ensure the information is reliable or accurate.



**Anyone can publish
anything on the
Internet.**



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TYPES OF SITES

TYPE OF SITE	DOMAIN	CHARACTERISTICS
Government	.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ May provide facts, statistics, information on current issues ◆ Some of the most useful and reliable Internet sites
Education	.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ May provide scholarly works from academic departments, as well as syllabi, class schedules, and information about faculty ◆ Individual student and faculty pages vary in authority and accuracy
Non-profit Organization	.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ May attempt to influence opinion ◆ May provide studies, statistics, and resources; check facts presented against other sources
Business or commercial	.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ May include annual reports, company history, product information and help ◆ May attempt to sell a product; may present advertising as information ◆ The vast majority of web sites
Personal	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ May be difficult to determine author's affiliation and credentials ◆ May not be an authority on the topic



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Urban Legends Reference Pages

www.snopes.com

Internet Fraud Watch

www.fraud.org

Protect Yourself from Internet Scams

www.scambusters.org

Quackwatch

www.quackwatch.org

The Internet Public Library

www.ipl.org

Librarians' Internet Index

lii.org