

Evaluating Internet Information

Currency

When was this page created?
Is there a revision/creation date?
Do the links work?
Is the page maintained—new material added?

Objectivity

What is the purpose of this page?
Does the author state the goals for this site?
Does this page inform, educate, persuade or act as a soap box?
If the author is affiliated with an institution, does this affiliation bias the information presented?

Reliability

Who is the author of this page?
What are his/her credentials?
What institution (government, university, business, organization, etc.) is the author affiliated with?
Does the page conveniently display this information?

Accuracy

A sloppy page (bad grammar, misspelling) indicates hastiness.
It's always a good idea to cross-reference information no matter where you find it.
Do graphics add or subtract from the content?
Is the information complete or fragmented?

Remember to ask yourself: Is the web the best place for this type of information?
Would a print source or an electronic database be a better choice?

Double check with a librarian if you are unsure.