

EVALUATING INTERNET RESOURCES:

**Before you select a search tool, always
think about your topic and what you are
trying to find**

Don't just Google everything!

PRE-EVALUATION (BEFORE SEARCHING)

- **Be clear on what you want**
- **Be selective, critical, use evaluation criteria**
- **Don't take anything as undisputed fact**
- **Shop around**
- **Use common sense when judging information**

INFORMATION QUALITY CRITERIA:

- **Credibility**

sources that supply some good evidence that allows you to trust it

- **Accuracy**

sources that give the whole truth

- **Reasonableness (Objectivity)**

sources that engage the subject thoughtfully and reasonably, concerned with the truth

- **Support**

sources that provide convincing evidence for the claims made and which one can triangulate (find at least 2 other sources that support it)

QUICK CHECKLIST:

1. AUTHORITY AND CREDIBILITY

What is the basis of the author's authority?

- expertise and affiliation
- content responsibility
- quality control exercised?
- acknowledgements and feedback
- source bibliographies included?

QUICK CHECKLIST:

2. PURPOSE

What appears to be the purpose for this information?

- inform, explain, persuade**

Audience

- who is it intended for?**
- does it mesh with your needs?**

Sources used

- useful for your research?**

QUICK CHECKLIST

3. COMPARABILITY

What does this site offer compared to others on the topic, also to non-internet works?

QUICK CHECKLIST:

4. CONTENT

- **Accuracy**

 - see slide: *Information Quality Criteria*

- **Comprehensiveness**

 - depth of information:** time period & aspects of topics covered, use of additional sources to complement information provided

- **Currency**

 - is content current, the site updated regularly?

- **Links**

 - relevant and appropriate?

 - linked sites – do not assume these are the best available

 - investigate additional sites on the topic

QUICK CHECKLIST

5. PRESENTATION

Style and Functionality of the Site

- layout clear and logically?
- writing style appropriate for intended audience?
- easy to navigate?
- internal indexing links on page?
- do links to other web sites work?
- graphics should serve a clear purpose
- unencumbered by advertisements?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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