

Criteria for Evaluating Websites

Main Criteria	Descriptions/Details	Possible Answers
Author	Who is providing the information? What do you know about them and their credentials; are they an expert? Can you find out more and contact them? Search for the author in a search engine. Has the author written several publications on the topic?	Scholars and academics; User generated; journalist; varies greatly; none given; NA
Publisher/ Affiliation	Is the publisher credible? Do they take responsibility for the content? Is there a sponsor or affiliation? What other sources link to that website?	Publisher is credible and takes responsibility; credible but doesn't take responsibility; questionable publisher and does not take responsibility; takes responsibility but is not credible.
Bias/ Balance/ Purpose	Is the language free of emotion? Does the organization or author indicate there will be bias? Is the purpose of the website to inform or spread an agenda? Are there ads? Are they trying to make money? Why did they write the article?	Sometimes, sometimes - rightist, sometimes - leftist; corporate sponsorship; is balanced; generates content to sell ad space; NA
Citations & Links	Are there links to related sites and are they well organized? Citations/Bibliography provided?	Citations; citations and links; links; no.
Accuracy	Is the data verifiable and accurate?	Yes; unknown; varies; no
Complete	Is the source comprehensive?	Yes; unknown; varies; no
Currency	When was the source last updated? Does the source have a date?	Yes - up to date; yes - varies; not recent; date unknown
Design & Quality	Is the overall web design easy to use? Is it presented in a professional manner? Does it seem like current design?	Good design; unprofessional design; old site; average
Reproduced	Was it reproduced? If so, where? Type a sentence in Google to verify If it was reproduced, was it done so with permission? Was Copyright information or a disclaimer included?	Yes with permission; yes without permission; sometimes with permission; no
Credible	Based on previous criteria, is the source credible?	Yes; maybe; no