

# Website Evaluation

*You should always take the time to examine elements of a website source to determine its credibility. Consider the following factors.*

## Authority

- Who hosts the website (professional, government, commercial company)?
- Domain name (.gov, .com, .edu)?

## Author

- What are the author's credentials? Is s/he an expert in the field? Google the name.
- Is the author affiliated with any authoritative organization (such as an educational institution, medical organization, or government)?
- Does the author put his/her contact information on the website?

## Accuracy

- Is the material error-free?

## Audience

- For whom is the material written? General or scholarly?

## Content

- Are topics adequately covered? Appropriately covered?
- Are sources cited?

## Currency

- Is the information current?
- Does the website list when it was last updated?

## Links

- Are the links appropriate to the topic of the site?
- Do the links work?

## Bias

- Can you determine if there is a bias?
- Consider affiliations, agendas, choice of content or perspective on website.

## Responsibility

- Who is responsible for website's upkeep, maintenance?
- Is there an ABOUT section detailing who owns website and their purpose/affiliations?