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## why evaluate web sources?

Why do we need to evaluate Web sources? Both the Internet and the Web have a lot to offer when doing research, but you must remember that **not all sources are equally valuable or reliable!** The following are some points to consider when looking at a web site to determine its usefulness to your research.

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## evaluation criteria

### ➤ Accuracy

- ◆ Is the information reliable?
- ◆ Are sources of information clearly identified?
- ◆ Does an editor check the accuracy of information on the page?

### ➤ Authority

- ◆ Who publishes this web page?
- ◆ What makes them an authority on this subject?
- ◆ Are the author's qualifications or credentials listed on the document?
- ◆ Is the author accredited or endorsed by a reputable organization?
- ◆ Does the article contain references?

### ➤ Currency

- ◆ What is the date on the web page?
- ◆ How frequently is the web page updated?
- ◆ Is the content up to date?

### ➤ Objectivity

- ◆ Does the information show any bias or is it intended to sway?
- ◆ Is the information neutral, does it give both sides?
- ◆ Is there any advertising on the page?

### ➤ Scope

- ◆ Who is the intended audience?
- ◆ What time period is covered?
- ◆ How detailed is the material?
- ◆ What topics are covered?

TIP: Try and answer the "Evaluation Criteria" questions about the web page you are thinking of using in your research. If you are unable to answer the questions, you may want to think twice about using the information as research!

REMEMBER! It is up to you, the user, to think about web pages and information critically!