



EVALUATING INTERNET SOURCES

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In evaluating Internet resources, consider and answer the following:

1. Purpose - Is it clear from the title or introductory screens?
Does the site fulfill its purpose?
Are any biases evident?

2. Authority - What are the author's qualifications?
Is the site maintained by a well-known association/agency?
Does the site supply the source of the information?
How permanent does the site appear? Has it existed long?
How many other sites reference this page?

3. Scope - What is the breadth of coverage?
How current is the information?
Is the focus too narrow or too vague?

4. Audience - Who is the site meant for? A layperson or a specialist in the field?
Was it designed for in-house use and is now available to the public?
Does it answer your question?

"...trust no one.",

William A. Katz

Katz, W. A. (1978). Introduction to Reference Work, Volume 1: Basic Sources. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Starr, S. S. (1994). Evaluating Physical Science Sources on the Internet. The Reference Librarian 41/42(Spring), 261-273.