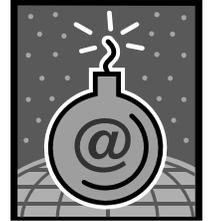# Five Criteria for Evaluating Websites

There are no "rules" for publishing something on the Web. Many websites are not good sources of scholarly information and may not be accurate or objective. There is also no guarantee that the information you looked at last week will be there next week!

You must carefully evaluate websites before using information from them.

Some things to look for:

Accuracy

The sources for factual information presented on the site should be listed so that they can be verified. Ideally, you should "reality check" this information in the primary sources, by finding where the information originated and looking it up there. This is especially important for openly-edited sources like blogs and wikis.

Authority

Can you tell who is responsible for the information and what credentials they have that would indicate they can write with authority on the subject? At the very least, the site should provide full contact information so that the site's legitimacy can be established.

Bias / Objectivity

Can you tell what information on the page is advertising and what is content? What is the bias of the page's author or organization? Is information on all sides of a subject provided?

Coverage

It should be clearly stated exactly what information the site intends to provide. Think about whether it actually provides all the information it promises, or whether it leaves something out.

Currency

The date of last revision should be clearly stated.

Learn more at Mookini Library's Web Evaluation Tutorial:
http://library.uhh.hawaii.edu/instruction/web_eval/contents.html

Getting Help

Thora	974-7343	tconner@hawaii.edu
Lari-Anne	933-8614	larianne@hawaii.edu
Amy	974-7733	saxton@hawaii.edu

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Website Evaluation Checklist

	Website 1	Website 2
Page Title		
URL		
Domain		
Accuracy		
Sources documented?		
Authority		
Page Author		
Author Credentials (Google name search, etc.)		
Site Publisher (if different)		
Contact information?		
Bias/Objectivity		
Purpose of the website		
Any bias?		
Other viewpoints?		
Coverage		
Information delivered as promised?		
Do the links work?		
Currency		
Date (current enough?)		