

BROWSER BEWARE: EVALUATING INTERNET RESOURCES

Authority

Who is the author of this web page? Is it someone other than a “webmaster”?
Is information provided on the author’s background, experience, and credentials?
Is the site maintained by a well-known or reputable organization?
Does it provide accurate contact information?

Objectivity and Reliability

Does the site present facts or opinions?
Is the coverage objective, or is there a bias? Are both sides of an issue or topic provided?
Is the site sponsored by a commercial organization? Is it trying to sell you something?
Can the information be verified using a second (preferably print) source?
Are there errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation?
Are sources for quotations and facts properly cited?

Scope/Coverage

Who is the intended audience of the website? Is the site for scholarly purposes? Is it just for fun?
Does the site give enough information? Does it cover a topic in some depth, or does it just give an overview or look at a few facets?

Currency and Accuracy

Does the website give a date when it was created and/or last updated?
Is the information current, or is it out of date (or is no date indicated)?
Are there many broken links?
Does the site give sources for any factual or statistical information?