

EVALUATING INTERNET RESOURCES

WHY EVALUATE?

- Anyone can put up anything on the internet
- Quality varies tremendously as no one has to approve the content before it is made public
- Many “junk science” and biased web sites exist

CHECK DOMAIN EXTENSIONS FIRST

- .org - Organization
- .edu - College or University
- .gov, .us or .mil - Governmental Entity
- .com - Business
- .net - Networks or ISPs

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF WEB SITES

AUTHORITY

- Is author clearly identified? Are his/her qualifications given?
- Is background information listed?
- Is author affiliated with a reputable organization?

ACCURACY

- Are there spelling errors?
- Is the source of factual information clearly documented?
- There are no web standards to ensure accuracy.

OBJECTIVITY

- Is information presented with a minimum of bias? Is bias stated?
- Is the author trying to sway your opinion, is this a “soapbox”?

COVERAGE

- Is the topic covered in depth?
- What is the purpose of the web site – marketing, opinion, research report, entertainment, education, etc?
- Do you need special software to view the information?
- Are entire articles or reports available or just summaries of larger works?
- Does the site point you to other sites?

CURRENCY

- When was the page written or last updated?
- How many dead links are on the page?