



This guide is designed to show you how you can recognize high quality information on the Internet by developing critical evaluation skills when viewing web sites.

Consider that:

- Anyone can publish on a web site
- Web pages can become unavailable at any time

In order to help you evaluate material found on web sites, remember this acronym:

ACT

Authority Content Timeliness

Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is the author(s) of the webpage or website?• What are the authors credentials?• With which institution (an academic institution, a company etc) is the author(s) affiliated?• Which organization created the website?
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the source? Is it a brief commentary, book review, letter, news item, or research article, etc?• For whom is the page/site intended? Academics/scholars? General public? People in the profession/industry/trade?• What indication is there that all aspects of the topic are covered?• What indication is there that the topic is covered in depth?• Is there a bibliography of references that the author/organization has used? How thorough is it?• Is there a list of suggested further reading or links? How thorough is it?• What biases, if any, do you detect?• What information is missing?• How does the webpage verify or dispute information from other sources?• Is the information consistent with information from other sources?• How does the webpage add new or unique information about your topic?• How do the visual aids enhance the text?
Timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is the information sufficiently current for your purpose?• When was the site last updated?• How many dead links are on the page? (that may indicate the page is not being updated regularly)

Lastly, ask yourself if you would be comfortable citing this page in a research paper. If you have any questions, ask a Librarian or your Instructor!