

Evaluating Web Sites: The 3 C's

Credibility

- Is there an author or someone taking responsibility for the work?
- Is there a listing of the author's credentials available?
- Is the "publisher" or source evident?
- Is there an "About us" section to provide information about the "publisher?"

Currency

- Is the date provided for the particular piece of information you want to use?
- Is the date provided for the most recent update of the site itself?
- Is the site regularly maintained? Is there a "What's New" section that contains current information?

Content

- Is the purpose of the page to entertain or sell? What role do advertisements play on the page?
- Is the purpose of the page to present a particular slant or viewpoint?
- Is the purpose of the page to provide information, present facts and data?
- Is the information presented in a professional manner with appropriate language?

Web Site Evaluation

Examine your selected web site and determine if it is or is not credible.

1. What is the name of the web site?

2. Who authored/published the site? Was it created by a person or institution?

3. Is there information available about the author/publisher? If so, does their background, education, and experience make them an authority on the topic?

4. When was the web site last updated? Is it current enough for your research?

5. Overall, would you use this web site in your research paper? Why or why not?
