

## **Evaluating Web Resources**

The following information presents questions necessary to determine whether or not a Web page is suitable for a research paper.

### **Author or Source**

The best sites are produced by those who have appropriate education, training, or experience to write on the topic. Check site documents or other sources to find more information about the author.

- Is there an author, and is the author clearly identified?
- Are the author's credentials clearly stated?
- Is the author affiliated with an organization?
- Does the site represent an organization, corporation, or government body?
- Is there a link to the organization's page or a way to contact the organization or author?

### **Accuracy**

- Can information be verified through footnotes, bibliographies, or other sources?
- Is there an editor or someone who verifies the information?
- Does the document include an explanation of research methods and data?
- Has the site been reviewed by others?

### **Objectivity**

- Does the Web page show bias or particular perspective, or is information presented factually?
- Does the page contain advertising, and are ads separated from content?
- If you are looking at a corporate Web site, assume that the information on the corporation will be presented positively.

### **Currency**

- Is there a date stating when the document was created?
- Is it clear when the site was last updated or revised?
- Are links to other Web pages current?

### **Purpose**

- What is the primary purpose of the page? Does it sell a product or make a political point?
- Is the page a comprehensive resource or is information too narrowly focused?
- Is the emphasis technical, scholarly, or popular?