**![C:\Users\Bronwen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9AWV5YUW\MC900366112[1].wmf]()Website Evaluation**

You should evaluate **every website** you use for *research* or for *personal use*. There is so much information on the web that you want to make sure that you have *the best source possible*. When evaluating a website use the **CARS Checklist** below to evaluate the source.

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**The CARS Checklist for Research Source Evaluation**

**Website:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| --- | --- |
| **Credibility** | **Your Goal**: To find a site that is created by a person or organization who *knows the subject* and who *cares about its quality.* |
| □ Is there a publishing or sponsoring organization? YES NO□ Is the organization an authority on the subject? YES NO□ Is the author listed? Is the author an authority on the subject? How do you know? YES NO□ Are there spelling errors, grammar errors, dead links, or other problems that indicate a lack of quality control? YES NO |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Accuracy** | **Your Goal**: To find a source with information that is *current*, *complete* and *correct*. |
| □ Does the information on the site agree with other sources? YES NO□ Does the site contradict itself? YES NO□ What is the date of publication or copyright? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_□ How recently has the site been updated? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

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| **Reasonableness** | **Your Goal**: To find a source that is *truthful* and *unbiased*.  |
| □ Does the author, host, publisher or sponsor have a bias? YES NO□ What is the motivation or purpose for creating the site? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(To sell a product? To advance a viewpoint or belief? To educate?) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Support** | **Your Goal**: To find a source with *verifiable sources* of information. |
| □ Are the sources listed? YES NO□ Can they be checked? YES NO□ Is there a way to contact the author or organization? YES NO |

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**Hint:**

Many items that you need to create a bibliography (author, date, title, etc.) are the *same ones* you need to assess the quality of a website. If more than a few of these things are *missing*, the website is probably not a good one!