

## How to Evaluate a Web Site

The internet can be confusing: there's lots of sites to choose from but not a lot of order. Sometimes it's hard to tell what's worth looking at, and what's a waste of time.

How can you tell if a site you find is worthwhile? Here are a few ways...

### 1. Web Site Addresses: What do they tell you about the site?

- Sites from commercial businesses include ".com" Government sites end in ".gov"
- Kindergarten-12th grade school sites include "k12" in their address
- College and university sites include ".edu"
- Sites from non-profit organizations include ".org"
- A site with a tilde (~) in the address indicates it's created by an individual, not an organization, business, or school

### 2. Authorship/Sponsorship: Who put up the site?

- The name of the individual or group creating the site should be clearly stated.
- The creator should give a source for information in the site.
- The site author should provide a way for users to make comments or ask questions.
- The site author should answer questions regarding copyright/ownership of material on the site.

### 3. Purpose: Every site has a reason for being there.

- A site's purpose should be clear and its content should reflect its purpose; to entertain, persuade, educate, or sell.
- Advertising shouldn't overshadow the content.
- A site should enrich the user's experience and expand the imagination. Sites promoting biases (gender, racial, religious, or other types) rather than enlarging the views of the user shouldn't be considered worthwhile.

Adapted for Skyview Library from: American Library Association. "Selection Criteria: 700 Great Sites."