

There's a lot of information on the Internet.
Some of it is good. Some of it is not so good. Some of it is downright awful.
Consider these four qualities whenever you want to use a Web source.

Accuracy: How do I know the information is any good?



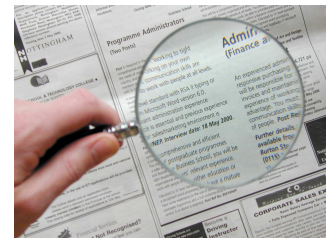
- Is there a list of sources, references, or a bibliography?
- Does the page give detailed information and explanations for that information, or is it more vague and general?
- What kind of information is offered? Is it unique to that website?
- Are there spelling or grammatical errors present?
- Has the webpage been edited or reviewed?

Authority: Does the author know what he or she is talking about?

- Who is the author? Does he or she have a master's degree or a Ph.D. in the field? Does he or she have experience in the field?
- What organization is publishing the website? What is its reputation? Is it commercial (.com), nonprofit (.org), governmental (.gov), or educational (.edu)?
- Does the author or organization list any contact information?

Currency: Is this information up-to-date with all the current research ?

- Is there a date for the webpage? How recent is it?
- When was the page last updated?
- If there are any links, do they all work, or are some broken or outdated?



Objectivity: Is the author attempting to inform or persuade me?

- Is there any noticeable bias? Most everything has some kind of bias, but in this case, is it obvious?
- Are there any advertisements or sponsors listed on the page?
- Are there any affiliated websites? Who are they associated with?

For more information:

- **SearchPath Tutorial at Jefferson College** (<http://vega.jeffco.edu/lwolfe/searchpathClassic/>) Yes, we have one at Jefferson College! A good general resource to get you started.
- **UC at Berkeley Library** (<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>) Includes some rules of thumb and good questions to keep in mind.
- **TILT: Texas Interactive Library Tutorial** (<http://tilt.lib.utsystem.edu/>) Has a lot of information, but allows you to go at your own pace and choose which tutorials you want.