



Dr. John Micallef Memorial Library

Corpus Christi College / St. Mark's College

Evaluating web sites	How do we determine that a website can be trusted?		
Criteria	Tips	Yes	No
Authority:			
Who is the author of the site?	The Webmaster may not be the author.		
What are the author's credentials?	Look for an "About" link. Is there a way to contact the author? What institution or organization is the author associated with? Search library databases to see what else the author has written.		
Who sponsors the site?	Check the domain name. Look for "About" or "Home" link.		
Are sources stated and verifiable?	Sources should be properly cited and searchable.		
Does the author separate facts and opinions?			
Scope and Purpose			
Who is the intended audience?	Consider the vocabulary and the complexity of the information.		
What are the objectives of the site? And are they relevant to your topic?	Is the purpose to sell, persuade, educate, explain, promote or ridicule?		
How in-depth is the information?	Is it a repetition of other sources or is it unique? Check the Site Map to see the extent of the topics covered.		
Does the language or treatment of the subject have a bias?	Organization affiliation can often indicate bias. Is the language balanced? Neutral? Some language can be emotional, inflammatory or clearly intended to sway opinion.		
Does the site have advertising?	If it does, is the advertising separated from the content?		
Are there links to other relevant sources?	The objectives of linked sites can indicate bias. Check out some of the links to see where they lead.		
Currency			
When was the site created and last updated?	Usually found at the bottom of the page.		
Are all the links working?			
Accuracy			
Does the site provide sources for facts presented?			
Is there a bibliography	Are sources correctly cited?		
Can the information be verified from another source?	Is some of the information available from print sources?		
Usability			
Is site easy to navigate?	Does the page load easily?		
Is the writing style appropriate to the intended audience?			
Are grammar and spelling correct?			
Do graphics and images serve a function?			