



**Asnuntuck Community College  
Learning Resource  
Center**

**EVALUATING  
WEB SITES**

**DOING RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET**

Learn to think critically. Evaluate web sites using the following criteria:

- ❑ **ACCURACY** *Anyone can publish information on the Internet.* This information may or may not be accurate. Many sites are not verified by editors and/or fact checkers. Look for e-mail, contact addresses and phone numbers. You want to find out if the author is qualified to write the web site. (HINT: *Look for an icon/link like “About Us”*)
- ❑ **AUTHORITY** Web sites should enable the researcher to find out about the author. Look for names, where they work, credentials, addresses, e-mail addresses. Look for the URL domain: is the author affiliated with an educational institution (**edu**), a government agency (**gov**), an organization (**org**), or a commercial site (**com**)? Does the author or publisher list his/her qualifications? (CAUTION: *some “edu” sites may be published by students, and may, for example, just contain their essays and their own biases or opinions*)
- ❑ **OBJECTIVITY** Are the goals and aims of the person(s) or group(s) responsible for the web site clearly stated? Is the group/person/organization legitimate? Some sites are thinly disguised commercials or opinion pages. Does the author express his/her opinions? Ask yourself why the page was written, and for whom. (AGAIN: *Look for a link like “About Us”*)
- ❑ **CURRENCY** Dates are not always included on web sites. Check for dead links and outdated information. If you see a date listed, it may be the date of posting or, preferably, the date of revision. (*Copyright dates are often found at the bottom of the home page*)
- ❑ **COVERAGE** Are you getting all the information this site has to offer? Do you need specialized software to access the information? Are you required to pay a fee to access the information? Is the content of the web site balanced with text and graphics? Does that matter? Are links relevant to the document’s content? Good web sites should contain a statement explaining or summarizing topics covered on the site.
- ❑ **REMEMBER** Sites like Google may lead to great information, but can also lead to misinformation

*Using LRC databases is a safe and free way to go!*

[www.acc.commnet.edu/LRC](http://www.acc.commnet.edu/LRC)

[Adapted from Manchester Community College, edited by Asnuntuck Community College]

- ❑ **HAVE A QUESTION? Ask an Asnuntuck Reference Librarian**  
[as-lrcref@acc.commnet.edu](mailto:as-lrcref@acc.commnet.edu)