

## Evaluating Internet Sources

(borrowed from the Colorado State Library)

How do we determine if information is good quality? These guidelines can help:

### 1. Authority

- Who is the author of the information?
- Do they have any credentials?
- Sometimes you can find this information in the 'About Us' area or in the footer (bottom) of a website.
- If you can't determine the creator of the content, can you rely on it?

### 2. Accuracy

- Is it clear that the information is based on facts?
- Is it verifiable?
- Is the writing high-quality, or is it filled with grammar, spelling and punctuation mistakes?
- It's typically a good idea to check the information in multiple sources, to see if there's consistency.

### 3. Objectivity

- Does the person who wrote the content have an agenda?
- Are they trying to sell something?
- Is the language inflammatory?
- Even if content has a bias, it's more objective if it presents additional points of view.

### 4. Currency

- Has the information been updated recently?
- Is there some indication of when the content was published, or when it was created?
- While older information is fine to use in some cases, in other cases, as in health information, currency is critical.