

**ACRL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES
MARVIN E. MCKEE LIBRARY**

Evaluation of Web documents	How to interpret the basics
1. Accuracy of Web Documents	Accuracy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who wrote the page and can you contact him or her? • What is the purpose of the document and why was it produced? • Is this person qualified to write this document? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure author provides e-mail or a contact address/phone number. • Know the distinction between author and Webmaster.
2. Authority of Web Documents	Authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who published the document and is it separate from the "Webmaster?" • Check the domain of the document, what Institution publishes this document? • Does the publisher list his or her qualifications? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What credentials are listed for the author(s)? • Where is the document published? Check URL domain.
3. Objectivity of Information Provided	Objectivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate Information? • Limited advertising? • Sponsored by a company? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the page designed to promote business? • What is the purpose of the information? • Are users required to purchase information?
4. Currency of Web Documents	Currency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was it produced? • When was it updated? • How up-to-date are the links (if any)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many dead links are on the page? • Are the links current or updated regularly? • Is the information on the page outdated?
5. Coverage of the Web Documents	Coverage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the documents theme? • Is it all images or a balance of text and images? • Is the information presented cited correctly? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If page requires special software to view the information, how much are you missing if you don't have the software? • Is it free, or is there a fee, to obtain the information? • Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?
<p>Putting it all together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy. If your page lists the author and institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her, and . . . • Authority. If your page lists the author credentials and its domain is preferred (.edu, .gov, .org, or .net), and . . . • Objectivity. If your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information, and . . . • Currency. If your page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links (if any) are also up-to-date, and . . . • Coverage. If you can view the information properly—not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement, then . . . <p style="text-align: center;">You may have a higher quality Web page that could be of value to your research!</p>	