Evaluating Web Sites

Authority
- ✓ Who is the author of the website? Is a person or organization readily identifiable?
- ✓ Is contact information for the author or organization given?
- ✓ Are credentials for the author given? Is this person knowledgeable on the subject?
- ✓ Look at the URL, what domain is the website coming from:
  - ▪ .com - commercial entity
  - ▪ .edu - educational institution
  - ▪ .net - network provider
  - ▪ .gov - government agency
  - ▪ .org - miscellaneous, typically a not-for-profit agency or professional organization

Currency
- ✓ Is there a date on the website when it was last updated and/or created?
- ✓ Does the information seem to be current or out of date?

Content
- ✓ Does the information seem to be accurate? Are references given to reputable sources to back up the information?
- ✓ Can the information be validated by other known sources?
- ✓ Do the links on the website lead to other current, accurate and authoritative websites? Or do the links lead to dead-ends?
- ✓ What is the purpose of the website: to inform, entertain, or sell a product?
- ✓ Are any biases the author might have apparent in the content?