

A B C s of Evaluating a Web Page or Site

Excerpts from a web page of Purdue University Libraries:

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/vetmed/inst/svmleader/evaluating.html>

Accuracy / Authority

- Is the information correct, factual, and comprehensive?
- If statistics are included, are their sources identified?
- Are the author's credentials identified? Is there a way to contact him/her?
- What sources (articles, books, other web sites, etc.) does the author cite?
- Is the publisher a well-known, reliable institution/organization?
- Does it list a preferred domain, e. g. -

.edu (educational),

.gov (governmental),

.org (organization , or

.com (commercial),

Balance / Bias

- Does the information present a balanced, reasonable viewpoint?
- Is the page trying to influence you? Does it appear to contradict itself or distort reality?
- Is there any product or service advertisement on the page? If so, check for bias.

Currency / Coverage / Content

- Was the page produced or revised recently?
- Are the links active & current?
- Is information updated regularly (as stated on the page), including links, statistics, and illustrations?
- Is the language of the page technical or written for a nonprofessional?
- Is the information free, or is there a fee to obtain the information?