

Website Evaluation

WHO

- Is the author's name provided? OR is the publisher/organization identified?
- Is the author's background/expertise provided? (Look for About Us, Profiles, FAQ, or company information)
- Is there a way to contact the author or publisher? (email, mailing address, or phone number)

WHAT

- Is the topic or purpose of the site clearly stated OR is there a statement of the publisher's goals or mission?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Is this information consistent with other sources of information?
- Is the site professional looking and free of spelling and grammatical errors?
- Do the graphics make the site more user friendly?
- Does the site title appear in the URL?
- Does the site include advertising that may influence content?

WHERE

- Does the site have an .edu, .gov, or .org domain?
- Are sources for the text and/or graphics cited?
- Does this site link from/to other reliable sources?

WHEN

- Is an original posting date, copyright date, or revision date given?
- Is it current enough to be relevant to your topic?
- Are there any "broken" links?

WHY

- Does this site provide enough useful information for your research?
- Is the information on this site easy to read and understand?

Top Level Domain Extensions (800+)

.com	commercial sites
.net	commonly used by Internet service providers, web-hosting companies or businesses
.org	primarily used by, but not limited to, non-profit organizations
.gov	government sites
.mil	military sites
.edu	education sites
.biz	small business site
.info	used to identify a reliable sources

Popular Country Domains (196+ Country Codes)

.au	Australia	.ca	Canada	.ch	Switzerland	.fr	France
.be	Belgium	.nz	New Zealand	.cn	China	.uk	United Kingdom
.br	Brazil	.mx	Mexico	.in	India	.jp	Japan

Other Ways to Check Out if things are true...Fact-checking & bias-checking sites

[Politifact](#)

[Washington Post Fact-Checker](#)

[Urban Legends](#)

[FactCheck.org](#)

[Media Bias Fact Check](#)

[Snopes.com](#)

[All Sides](#)

Web and Database Searching Tips: How do you Google?

USE GOOGLE ADVANCED SEARCH

- Filter time, location, language, title, words, domain and more

Use of “Double Quotation Marks”

- Google expanded the capabilities of the quotation marks (“”) operator.
 - Use double quotation marks on:
 - Two or more terms to search for an exact phrase,
 - Single terms to force Google to match **a single term exactly without synonyms.**

Boolean Operators

- Using the Boolean operators **AND** or **OR**, add more search terms to further describe your topic.
 - Boolean operators are entered into the search bar in UPPER CASE.
 - If the OR operator is entered in lowercase, Google ignores it.
 - **AND**- Both of the search terms are present in the Web documents.
 - **OR**- At least one of the search terms is present in the web page document.
 - Google *does not recognise* NOT. Use - instead

“Library instruction” **AND** “lesson plan”

Title Field Search (Web Only)

- **Title Field Search (intitle:)** - Returns results with the keyword or phrase in the webpage title.

intitle:“library instruction” AND “lesson plan” AND “citing sources”

Top Level Domain-Limited Search (Web Only)

- **Top level domain-limited search**- Returns results from the top level domain specified in the query; for example, .edu, .gov, or .org.

“Graphic novel” AND **site:org**

Recommendation for Searching

1. Begin with a title field search- **intitle: “your topic”**
2. Add Boolean expressions- **AND** or **OR** descriptors (This is where you can subtract as well, -)
3. Limit the results to a top level domain or country with **site:**
 - a. Associations or Organizations- .org ie. **site:org**
 - b. Educational Institutions- .edu ie. **site:edu**
 - c. U.S. Government- .gov ie. **site:gov**

