

# Evaluating Websites

Currency and Authority

# Evaluating Web Sites

Review: We determine the credibility of a website by looking at these:

- URL extension
- Purpose
- Content
- Currency
- Authority

# Review Anatomy of a URL

.com - commercial

.net - network

.org - nonprofit or for profit organization

.mil - military

.gov - government

.edu - education

# Review Purpose

Always consider the purpose of the page

- did the author create the page to
  - inform (facts, data)
  - explain
  - persuade
  - sell
  - entertain
  - undermine someone
  - another reason

# Review Content

- Do the links lead to relevant information?
- Are there the ads interfering?
- Are there spelling mistakes?
- Is it clear and organized

# Current

How current is the information? Updated sites tend to have more credible information.

- Look for a date at the top, bottom or side of the page to see when it was created or last updated
- Check the last date of a blog entry
- See if links still work. Outdated links will tell you a site is old.

# Authority

The word authority comes from the same root as author.

A source's authority usually depends on who the author or publisher is.

# Authority

It's best not to trust any information until you can determine the author.

# Authority

- The author or publishing organization is usually at the top bottom or side of the page
- Look for an “about” section, contact information, or copyright information
- You may need to trim the URL back for example:  
<http://time.com/3827425/zebras-brussels/>  
Trim back to <http://time.com>
- Legitimate sources of information do not hide the author and publisher

# Authority

Once you know who's responsible for the content on the website, you need to determine if they are credible.

You may need to Google the author or publisher. Remember to consider the source of your information.

# Test Yourself

Determine how reliable and timely the content is on these websites

<http://www.girleffect.org/>

<http://www.lipbalmanonymous.com/>

# Credibility Review

- you understand the domain of the **URL**
- you've determined the reliability of the **content** of the website
- you've determined the **purpose** of the website meets or does not meet your needs
- you've determined the information is either **current** or outdated
- you've determined the credibility of the **author**