



Evaluating Web Results

The Internet is a computer network, in fact, a network of computer networks. Anyone who has access to a host computer can publish their own documents. The Internet provides access to news outlets, business-related information, clubs and associations, governmental agencies and, of course, sales and advertising. The host site provides a domain name. A domain name has a suffix that indicates which top level domain it belongs to. Often, this can be your first step in evaluating search results. Some examples of top level domains:

- .gov** - Government agencies
- .edu** - Educational institutions
- .org** - Organizations(nonprofit)
- .mil** - Military
- .com** - Commercial business
- .net** - Network organizations
- .ca** - Canada

<p>Authority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A conclusive statement or decision that may be taken as a guide or precedent. 2. Power to influence or persuade resulting from knowledge or experience. <p><small>"authority." <u>Antonyms</u>. Answers Corporation, 2008. <i>Answers.com</i> 22 Feb. 2008. http://www.answers.com/topic/authority</small></p>	<p>Get to know the publisher of the website.</p> <p>Look for a link to “home,” or “about us,” to review what the author of the site has to say about their background.</p> <p>Search Google or Amazon for other publications or sites created by the author.</p>
<p>Purpose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The object toward which one strives or for which something exists; an aim or a goal. 2. A result or effect that is intended or desired; an intention. <p><small>"purpose." <u>The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition</u>. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. <i>Answers.com</i> 22 Feb. 2008. http://www.answers.com/topic/purpose</small></p>	<p>Determine why the site was created and is that reason still valid</p> <p>Was it to inform - If so, who is the audience?</p> <p>Was it to entertain</p> <p>Was it to advertise/sell a product</p> <p>Was it to promote a point of view or belief</p>
<p>Currency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The state of being current; up-to-dateness. <p><small>"currency." <u>The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition</u>. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. <i>Answers.com</i> 22 Feb. 2008. http://www.answers.com/topic/currency</small></p>	<p>Consider the website’s currency (or timeliness) of publication</p> <p>Check the frequency of updates</p> <p>Look for dates, updates and indications of revisions</p> <p>Information sources with no clear dates should be avoided</p>