Evaluating Websites

What to look for in a RELIABLE website when researching (real and trusted info)

1. **Author**: Who created the site? (expertise/credentials?)

2. **Bias**: Does the site contain information that is objective? (not bias or one-sided, depending on topic)

3. **Accuracy**: Is the information on the site accurate? (compare information on the site with other sites and sources)

4. **Timeliness**: Is the site current enough for your topic? (check the date as certain topic areas change more than others e.g. health and medicine, business and technology)

5. Look for sites with the following extensions like .org, .gov, .edu, .mil, .net, .com

6. If you don’t want to evaluate a site use the Board’s subscription databases (see posted signs in the library or the link on the Learning Commons web page)

**Why bother?**

1. Anyone can publish info on the web

2. Many web resources are not verified by editors like print materials are

3. No standards exist to make sure that information on the web is accurate so it may include out-of-date or bias information, lies, distortions, myths, and stereotypes