Evaluating Websites For Beginning Researchers
Criteria For a Good Website

• Accuracy
• Authority
• Objectivity
• Currency
• Coverage
Accuracy of Web Document

- Who wrote the page?
  - Know the difference between webmaster and author

- Can the author be contacted?
  - Make sure the author provides a contact email address, phone number, or address

- Is the author qualified to write this information?
  - Is the author known for the subject matter?
Authority of Web Documents

- Who published the document?
- Is author separate from the “Webmaster”?
- Does the author list any credentials?
  - The author should list some credentials on the web page to have some credibility.
  - Remember in research you must obtain information that is reliable.
Objectivity of Web Document

- For whom was the information written?

- Is the information detailed?

- Does the author express any opinions?

- The web page should not contain only one-sided information.
Currency of Website

- When was the site constructed?
  - If the information is outdated it should be a clue that the web page is not current.

- When was the last update?
  - Dead links should be a sign that the web page has not been updated regularly.
Coverage of Website

- Do the links go with the subject matter?
- Is the information free?
- Does the web page contain more images than text?
  - You should be able to obtain text only
- Are citations provided accurately?