

**Joanna Conrad-Pacelli**  
**Lib 20201F**  
**Session 5 Exercise 1.**  
**Evaluating Web Resources**

[http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair\\_smith/evaln/evaln.htm](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair_smith/evaln/evaln.htm)

Smith, Alastair. "Evaluation of Information Sources." The World-Wide Web Virtual Library. 7 July 2010. Web. 17 Feb 2011 [http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair\\_smith/evaln.htm](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair_smith/evaln.htm).

This site was amazing. It's a directory of many, many more web pages that give further information on evaluating resources. While there was considerable duplication, each page that was included did contain some significant aspect of evaluating information that was not covered by the others. Some were tailored to specific audiences, by age or by user type, information professionals, teachers, or researchers.

<http://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/research-guides/evaluating-internet-content>

"Evaluating Internet Resources." Georgetown University Library 2011. Web. 17 Feb 2011 <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/research-guides/evaluating-internet-content>

I appreciated the checklist format of this site. There was a brief paragraph at the top of the page about why it's important to evaluate resources, followed by a list of questions to ask about the resource. I liked that the information provided was more practical than other sites that I evaluated.

<http://www.virtualchase.com/quality/index.html>

"Information Quality." The Virtual Chase 2010. Web. 17 Feb 2011  
<http://virtualchase.justia.com/other-resources/information-quality>

More than any other, this site goes beyond evaluating the legitimacy or intellectual authority of the author. This site focuses on the quality of the information itself. However, a few of the admittedly anecdotal examples of bad information are also examples of bad information. For instance, under the heading, "Urban myth reported as news" the page gives the example of a press release provided by Visa proclaiming that 52% of Americans believe it is illegal for employers to use credit scores for hiring criteria. The page goes on to say that this is bad information because "Legitimate pre-employment checking agencies do not provide credit scores in employment credit reports. They do often provide select credit history from which employers may make hiring decisions." However, the fact that legitimate pre-employment checking agencies do not

provide credit scores in employment credit reports in no way negates the fact that 52% of Americans believe it is illegal for employers to use credit scores for hiring criteria. The tenuous connection made between the two pieces of information is faulty, rather than either piece of information itself.

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/>

Kirk, Elizabeth. "Evaluating Information Found on the Internet." The Sheridan Libraries. 1996. Web. 17 Feb 2011 <http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/>

I found this site helpful because it included a section on how to distinguish information from propaganda, misinformation, and disinformation. Being able to make this determination is becoming more and more relevant as businesses and political parties take more of an interest in promoting agendas through the Internet. This page was also much more specific about how to find the information for use in citation.