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## Website Evaluation

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There are times you will need to use the Internet for information, for example if you require government reports, statistics or information from organisations such as CSIRO, WHO, OECD amongst others. While there is a great deal of useful information on the Internet, remember that the Internet is not authoritative, so there is no regulation of content. Anybody can create a website and post information, so it is essential to know how to search the Internet for accurate and authoritative resources.

Before you use information from the Internet, you need to evaluate it in terms of its quality and suitability for your topic. Critical evaluation is most important when you use Internet sources.

The following provides a list of criteria you should examine to decide about the quality of the resources found on the internet:

- **Author:** Is there an author? Is it a person or organisation? What are their credentials and qualifications in the topic area?
- **Date:** Does the page have a date? Is the date relevant to the type of information you are looking for i.e. recent/up to date breakthroughs or historical?
- **Type of information and scope:** Does the information tie in with other information you have found on the topic? Are conclusions well drawn? Is the level of the document suitable to your needs?
- **Purpose:** What is the intended audience? Is it self-published? Does it support an official group?
- **Writing style:** Is it well written? Is the format and length appropriate?
- **Language used:** Is the language elementary, serious, sensational?
- **Bibliography:** Have references been used?

 **ACTIVITY 1:** Take a look at the Library's [Internet Resource Evaluation Guide](#)

 **ACTIVITY 2:** Watch this brief '[Why can't I just Google?](#)' video (used with permission from LaTrobe University Library). It explains why you can't just rely on Google for information.