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

Authority:

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.

"authority." Antonyms. Answers Corporation, 2008. *Answers.com* 22 Feb. 2008.
http://www.answers.com/topic/authority

Get to know the publisher of the website.

Look for a link to "home," or "about us," to review what the author of the site has to say about their background.

Search Google or Amazon for other publications or sites created by the author.

Purpose:

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.

"purpose." The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition.
Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. *Answers.com* 22 Feb. 2008.
http://www.answers.com/topic/purpose

Determine why the site was created and is that reason still valid

Was it to inform - If so, who is the audience?

Was it to entertain

Was it to advertise/sell a product

Was it to promote a point of view or belief

Currency:

1. The state of being current; up-to-dateness.

"currency." The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition.
Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. *Answers.com* 22 Feb. 2008.
http://www.answers.com/topic/currency

Consider the website's currency (or timeliness) of publication

Check the frequency of updates

Look for dates, updates and indications of revisions

Information sources with no clear dates should be avoided