

Website Evaluation Guide

We evaluate information every day – from evaluating what we read in newspapers to what we see on TV. The Internet is no different. Anyone can publish material on the Internet.

There are millions of websites on the Internet. There is no system of control; therefore, you cannot trust everything you read.

How do we evaluate information on the Internet?

- Anyone can put something on the Internet - amateur or expert
- They can be from anywhere in the world
- They can say anything they like - true or false
- They can leave it there as long as they like - even if it goes out of date
- They can change it without warning – maybe even remove it completely

The ‘WWW’ of evaluating websites:

- **Who?** Question the **source** of the information
- **What?** Question the **content** of the information
- **Where?** Question the **location** of the information.

Everything is NOT available online. It may be better or easier to look for some information in a book or leaflet.

When evaluating websites think about the following:

- When was the website last updated?
- Does the website contain spelling mistakes, poor use of grammar or contain dead links? This could imply that the quality of the content is also poor.
- Does the website have a site map, search facility or A - Z list to help you find your way around?
- Are you the website’s intended audience? Is this information suitable for your needs?
- Who (or which organisation) is the author of the website? Are they reputable?
- Is the information on the website objective or is it trying to sell a product, or put across a personal opinion?

Activity:

Have a look at this website: <http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus>

How can you tell it is a hoax website?