# Hartness Library
*Serving Vermont Tech and the Community College of Vermont*

**Evaluating Web Resources Exercise**

Find a website on your topic and then evaluate it using the following questions.

Website URL:

| Criteria | Questions | Your answers |
|---|---|---|
| **WHAT?** Relevance<br>Look at the browser title bar, document title, content & links. | 1. WHAT is the page/site about?<br>2. Does it have the kind of information you need? | |
| **WHO?** Authority<br>Look for a link to the home page of the Web site where the document lives. | 1. WHO created the page/site about? Is it an individual or organization?<br>2. What are their credentials? Who do the authors work for? | |
| **WHERE?** Coverage<br>Look at the address or URL:<br> .edu=educational<br> .com=commercial<br>.org=organization<br>.gov=government | 1. WHERE is the information coming from?<br>2. How well documented is the site? Can you find a bibliography? Do the sources seem scholarly?<br>3. If it is a .edu URL, is it from a student page, department, or faculty page? | |
| **WHY?** Objectivity<br>Look at "About us/Mission/Purpose," links, content, and advertising. | 1. WHY is this site on the Web and how does it affect the information?<br>2. Determine the purpose of the site:<br> ☐ Advocacy or "soapbox" (tries to persuade).<br> ☐ Informational (often has multiple viewpoints and references).<br> ☐ Business or marketing (tries to sell).<br> ☐ Entertainment. | |

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| **WHEN?** Currency<br>How up-to-date is the website? | 1. Can you tell when the page was posted to the web?<br>2. Is the content of the work up-to-date? Does it matter to your informational needs?<br>3. Is the date of creation or most recent revision date clearly shown? What is it? | |
| **HOW?** Accuracy<br>Examine references and bibliographies. Verify information in another reputable source (e.g. encyclopedia, journal, book, other website). | 1. How accurate or credible is the page?<br>2. Does the website have many errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.? | |

According to these criteria, would you use this web site as a good source of information on this topic?  Why or why not?