



# Evaluating information on the internet

5 quick things to do when evaluating the content of a website

## Identify the author and their authority on the subject

A person or a company

Name and profession of the author, or **identity** of the organigram (if it's a company)

Look at the legal info

Check the « **Who are we?** » or « **About us** » link, often at the bottom of the page

Check their notoriety

Do a search on **ARCHIPEL** (library catalogue) or **SUDOC** (catalogue of all French libraries) or use a search engine

Decide how competent they are

Does the person seem to be a **specialist** on the question, or **competent** enough?

## Check how up-to-date the site is

Latest update of copyright

You can usually see this at the bottom of the page, or in the **Legal information** (check the front page)

Activity on the page or site

Is the page regularly **updated** and if it's not, is the information still pertinent?

Other ways of checking

If you can't see a date, check if there's an **Agenda**, **press reviews** or **news** section.

## What kind of site is it and who is it for?

Public or private?  
Personal or institutional?

Is the site public (the state) or private (a company, association, etc.)? Also, is it run by a person, an institution, a newspaper, a club, a retail company?

Again, don't forget to check out the **front page of the site** where you can usually find the "Who are we?" or "About the site" sections along with the legal information at the bottom of the web page.

## How reliable is the content?

About the site

Identify what the site is about and check there are references to authors or other texts

Ads

Do they make things illegible?

Links to other sites

Are they pertinent to this site?

Legal informations?

Make sure it's there

## Is the site user-friendly?

On the front page, check the **presentation** and **organisation** of the site:

Are the sections clear?

Is there a map or plan of the site?

Is the graphic chart (presentation, colour scheme) well done?

Is there a search bar for the site?

If it's easy to find the information you want, then someone is concerned about how users move around the site.