

Research pt 3: Evaluating Websites



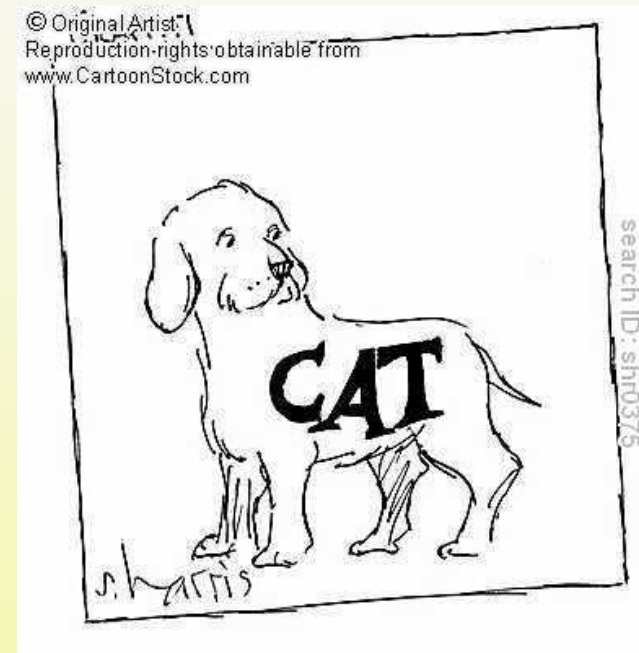
The web is like a car boot sale. There is a lot to choose from but not all of it is quality. Some websites are offered by reputable “dealers” but many are not.



Look for hidden treasure, but watch out for sites that waste your time.

Why do I need to evaluate websites

- Anyone can put anything on the Internet
- Nobody oversees what is put on the Internet
- Documents can easily be copied with errors, false information and information removed



A website and its URL

<http://chelmsford.ymca.org.uk/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Chelmsford YMCA website. At the top left is the logo for Chelmsford YMCA with the tagline "HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD A FUTURE". To the right of the logo are social media icons for YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, RSS, and LinkedIn, along with logos for NDNA and Investors in People. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the logo is a vertical navigation menu with links: home, about us, childcare, youth, volunteers, vacancies, news, useful info, meeting room hire, and contact us. A horizontal rainbow-colored wave graphic separates the navigation from the main content. The main content area features a large heading "Welcome to Chelmsford YMCA!" followed by a photograph of two smiling children. To the right of the photo is a paragraph of text: "Welcome to the Chelmsford YMCA. We are a Christian Family Centre serving the community, specialising in youth work and childcare. This is our Mission Statement and we live up to every part of it, week in and week out, throughout Chelmsford. In addition to the National Council for the YMCA, each individual YMCA across the country is autonomous and has its". To the right of the text is a green call-to-action button that says "WANT TO KEEP UP TO DATE? CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS!" with a small envelope icon. Below the button is a "Latest News" section with a date "06/04/2013" and a headline "Fundraising Curry Night!" followed by the text "Fundraising evening organised by Soc".

A URL is the address to a particular website

It provides information about a website

How can you tell if a website is worthwhile?

Sometimes a website's URL address can tell us the nature of the site

➤ Commercial businesses usually include:

.com or .co.uk (most common)

➤ Governmental websites end in:

.gov or .gov.uk

➤ College & Universities sites often include:

.ac.uk or if in the USA **.edu**

➤ Organisations & non-profit organisations end in:

.org or .org.uk



A site with a tilde (~) in the address/URL usually means that this is someone's personal page, rather than an organisation, a business, or a school

You try

Go to either

www.bhs.org.uk

OR

www.bhs.co.uk



Can you tell the difference?

Criteria for Website Evaluation

Five questions to
ask about the
website

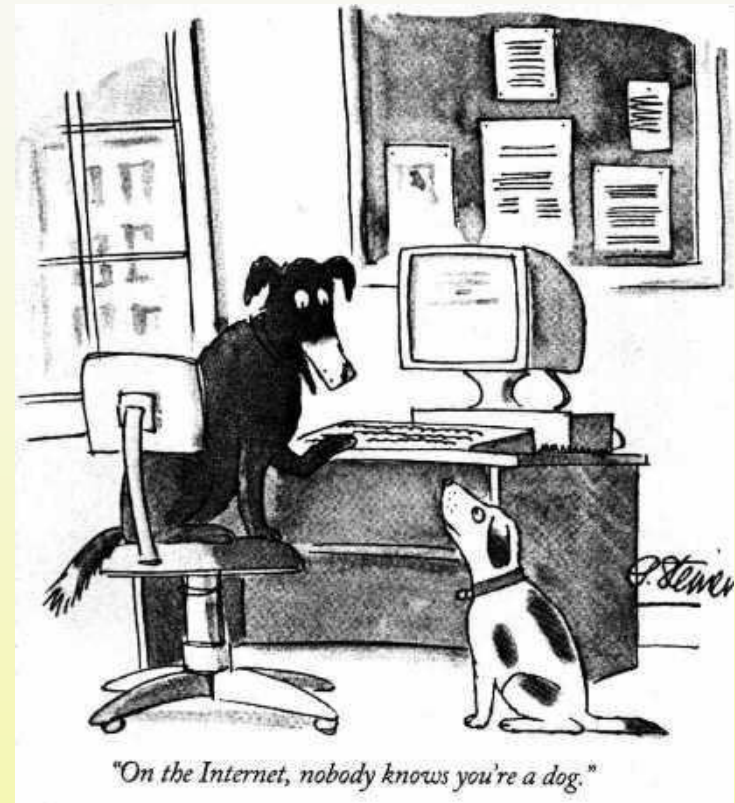


WHO?

- **Who wrote the page?**
 - Is there an “About”, “Biography”, or “Who am I” page that tells you about the author
- **Do they have any qualifications?**
 - What qualifications does the author have to write on this topic; is the author an expert?
- **Can you contact the author?**

REMEMBER

Click on the about us page, or scan the bottom of a website for a person or organisation's name.



WHAT?

➤ What is the website for?

- To teach you something
- To entertain you
- To change your opinion
- To sell you something



WHERE?

- Where does the information come from?
 - Check about us and contact information
- Where can I go for more information?
 - Any links or a list of useful resources

WHEN?

- When was the site created?
- When was it last updated?
- Is the information current?
- Do any links work



WHY?

- Why is this information useful to me?
 - Is it current?
 - Is it accurate?

- Why should I use this page?
 - It has good quality information
 - It provides other useful links
 - I trust the owner of the website



Plagiarism

Don't get yourself into trouble by misusing
Internet information

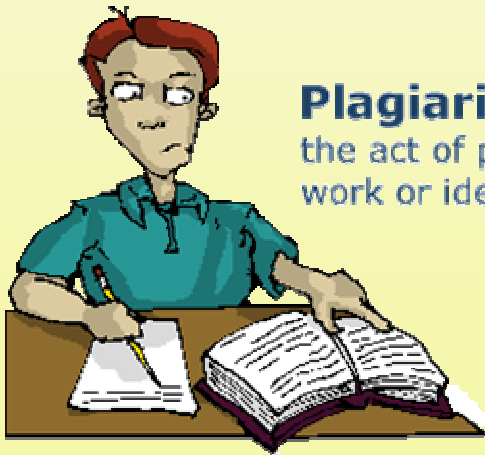
You need to be aware of:

- Plagiarism
- Copyright



Plagiarism & Copyright

If you don't acknowledge your sources (eg. via references) you may be accused of plagiarism (claiming someone else's work as your own) or you may be in breach of copyright law (remember - information is someone's property).



Plagiarism:

the act of presenting another's work or ideas as your own.

NOTE

Copyright law also applies to images

Avoid the crime of “copy / paste”



Plagiarism is considered a form of cheating and breaking copyright law is an offence!



You may be surprised how easily your teachers can spot plagiarism - and there may be serious penalties.

...but don't be put off

It is very important to use different sources of information to show that you are aware of the literature on that particular topic and to back up your own opinions.

A little bit like a jigsaw – putting all the pieces of information together.

