RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET

EVALUATING RESOURCES:

1. Purpose: Consider the intended audience.
   Consider the source. (memos to scholarly documents)

2. Authority: Author identifiable with credentials given/e-mail contact.
   Sponsor of page is appropriate to the material as shown in the URL.
   Ex.: .edu for educational or research material
   .gov for government resources
   .com for commercial sites

3. Content:
   Accuracy: Look for point of view and evidence of bias.
   Are sources for factual information listed so they can be verified?
   Web sites are rarely peer reviewed.
   Is site well written? (correct spelling & grammar)
   Comprehensiveness: Use additional print and electronic sources.
   Currency: When was the page written & when last revised?
   See if material on page is current.

4. Value: What other resources are available?
   Is the site really appropriate to the needs of your assignment?
   Too much information?
   Narrow your search by restricting the topic
   Use Boolean AND or NOT (some search engines combine terms for you) or + or - signs
   Limit by domain: .edu, .gov
   Not enough information?
   Check: Library of Congress Subject Headings
   Use synonyms using Boolean OR

CITING OF WWW (World Wide Web) SITES: Check with your instructor on citation requirements.

MLA Style: see following Sources
Web Source: http://www.mla.org/
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition - Ref. 808.02 M699-7
Professional and personal web site entries are composed of:
1. The author or creator's name (if given)
2. Title of the document (in quotation marks)
3. The title of the site (underlined) and author or editor if given or, if no title
4. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if none available use N.p.
5. Publication date or date of last revision, if none available, use n.d.
6. Medium of publication (Web)
7. The date of access
8. The URL in angle brackets (optional – MLA style no longer requires a URL)

Ex.: WWW Professional Site:


APA Style: see following sources
Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition - Ref. 808.02 P96 2010

Ref_Lib/Handouts/2-14