



When?

It is important to know when the information or product was created and how up-to-date it is. Try to determine if the source is correct and current today. Look carefully at the following information:

- Does the information have a recent date?
- Does it contain current statistics?
- Has it been updated recently?

Why?

It is important to know the reason the author created it. Try to determine if the source is truthful, reasonable, and thoughtful. Look carefully at the following information:

- Does the information promote a biased point of view or is it objective and based on facts?
- Was the information paid for by a person or a group that wants to promote an idea or product?
- Does the information contain a political or moral slant?
- Is the information truthful? designed as a spoof? selling something?

Purposes of Information

Most information has one of the following purposes:

- Persuasive or advocacy (tries to convince)
- Informational (provides several points of views and references)
- Marketing (tries to sell something)
- Entertainment (wants to amuse)

Sources:

- <http://www.virtualsalt.com/evalu8it.htm>, CARS Checklist for Research Source Evaluation, *Evaluating Internet Research Sources* by Robert Harris
- http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/eval_websites.pdf, Meriam Library, California State University-Chico
- <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthywebsurfing.html>, MedlinePlus Guide to Healthy Web Surfing
- <http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/evaluating/>, Criteria for Evaluating Internet Resources, University of British Columbia



FINDING RELIABLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE ON THE INTERNET

Your task:

- Find sources of information or assistance with HIV or STIs.
 - one statewide or national source
 - one local source
- Record the name, web address, and contact information.
- Answer as many of the “who, what, when, and why” questions as you can.

Who?

- Who is the author?
- Who is the organization that supports the information or author?

What?

- What is the content?
- What is the quality and accuracy?

When?

- When was the information created?
- When was it last updated?

Why?

- Why was the information provided?
- Why is it useful to me? or isn't it?

- Decide if you think it is a reliable source.
- Describe one resource, such as an informational brochure or service, they offer.



Take notes below on what you discover about each source.