

# i-skills Guide



## Evaluating websites

**Beware!** Anyone can put information on the Internet. Before you use information given on a website ask yourself the following questions:

### Who is the author?

The author might, for example, be a government, an individual, a company or an organisation.

Look at the web address for clues.

For example:

**.ac or .edu** represents an academic or educational organisation

(eg. Brooklands College [www.brooklands.ac.uk](http://www.brooklands.ac.uk))

**.co or .com** represents a company (eg. Amazon [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk))

**.gov** represents a government site (eg. The Home Office [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk))

**.org** represents an organisation (eg. Oxfam [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk))

Ask yourself whether you can trust the author. Some sites will have an 'About us' page which clearly states the purpose of the site's author.

### Is the author fair and objective?

If the author is putting across one point of view you may need to go to another site to get a balanced view.

### Still not sure if you trust the site? Ask yourself – Is the site accurate, reliable and up-to-date?

- Is the Grammar and spelling correct?
- Has the site been updated recently and is the information on it up-to-date and accurate?
- Is the site well constructed? Do the links work? You will probably feel less inclined to trust a badly constructed site.

### **Is the site at the right level?**

If the site was produced as a primary school project the information might be accurate, but not detailed enough.

A university research project on a subject might be too detailed. Look for a site that contains information at the right level for you.

### **Want to know more?**

The BBC webwise course covers everything from getting connected, to blogging and sharing information online:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/>

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