It is important to evaluate the quality of information. Not all webpages are monitored by editors or reviewers, so the information can vary in quality and reliability. This list of criteria will help you evaluate information sources.

**CURRENCY:** The timeliness of the information.
- Has the information recently been revised or updated?
- Do you need current or historical information?

**RELEVANCE:** The suitability and appropriateness of the information.
- Is the level and depth of the information appropriate?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Did you compare a variety of sources to determine which one works best?

**AUTHORITY:** The source of the information.
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author’s qualifications to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information provided?
- What does the URL (web address) indicate about the author or source?
  For example:
  - .gc.ca Canadian government website
  - .ca Canadian country code
  - .gov American government website
  - .org organizational website
  - .edu American college/university website
  - .com commercial website

**ACCURACY:** The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the information.
- Is the information supported by evidence or sources that can be verified?
- Is there a references list?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Is the information free of spelling mistakes, poor grammar, and typos?

**PURPOSE:** The purpose and objectivity of the information should be clear.
- Is the information intended to teach, sell, entertain, inform, or persuade?
- Is it factual, propaganda, or an opinion?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?
- Do the authors or sponsors make their intentions clear?

Adapted from:

Visit the library website: [www.nait.ca/library](http://www.nait.ca/library)