**Evaluating Internet Resources**

**Currency**
- When was the information published on the web site or elsewhere? Could it be outdated? Check!
- When was the web site last updated?
- Are there signs of neglect like dead links?

**Author**
*Who says so…*
- What are his/her credentials?
- Is there a biographical statement that includes information like, positions held, education, or projects/research?
- Is he/she affiliated with an institution like a medical center or university?

**Approach**
*Never let a salesman prescribe your medication…*
- What is the purpose of both the web site and/or the article?
- Does the site/author seek to inform, explain, persuade, or sell?

*Don’t be fooled by a slick appearance!*

**Audience**
*Who are they talking to…*
- Who is the intended audience of the article? Professionals, patients, customers, the general public?
- Who is the intended audience of the web site?

**Sponsors and Supporters**
*Your friends say so much about who you are…*
- Do sponsoring organizations /institutions represent a specific perspective or bias?
- Who is the publisher or webmaster? This is of particular importance if no author is listed. Ask the same questions you would of an author.
- Is an article referenced by other professionals in the field and/or are other works cited? In other words, do others support the reliability of the information?

**What’s in a Domain**
Restricted domains are those used by governments, countries, counties, divisions of the military and educational institutions like mil, edu, and gov. Other domains like, net, org, com, are selected by the individual, business, institution, or organization that is publishing the web site.

*Hint: Government web sites are an excellent source of health information. Go to Google Advanced and put ".gov” in the designated text box.*