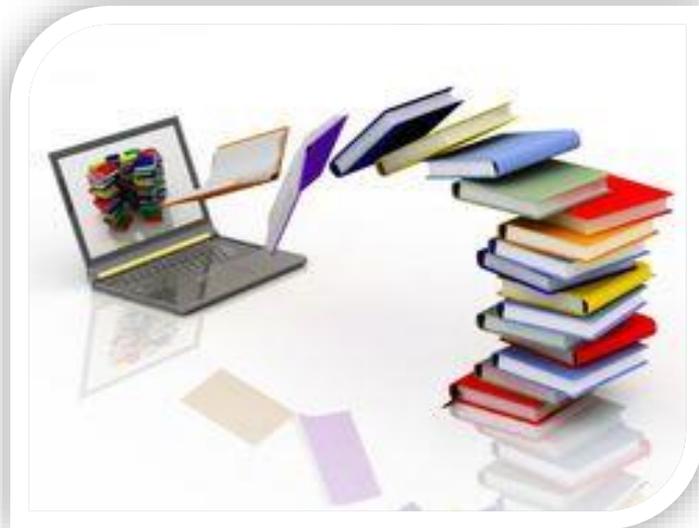# Assignment Survival Kit
Evaluating Internet Sources

Library

Contact us on: all_library_staff@hughbaird.ac.uk

Before relying on any website, check whether the site you have found is a genuine, reliable source of information.	

Is the website:	• An **authoritative** academic source of information
	    How true or accurate is the information presented
	• Based on **verifiable** research
	    Has it been cited in a trustworthy and reliable source
	
	• Published by an **unbiased** & **neutral** institution

Look for and check:	• The author, producer or publishers, name and title of the work, including contact details.
	
	• Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
	
	• The host or publishing organisation – do you recognise the organisation?
	
	• Date of publication or update – is it current, is it updated regularly?
	
	• Information about the publishing website:
	
	    Look at their 'about us' page.
	    Is there a phone number or address?
	
	• Is their intended audience academic or general?
	
	    If not stated is the purpose to explain, sell inform
	
	• Is the site sponsored? If so by whom?
	
	    See the URL (http://www.sefton.gov.uk) or
	    Domain e.g. edu, .ac.uk, .co.uk .org, or .net.
	
	• The country code is often placed after these destinations e.g.
	
	    an educational institution in Australia will show as '- - - edu.au'.
	    US websites do not include a '- - - .us' designation.
	
	• Has the information been published for a specific reason e.g.
	
	    advertising, political influence or propaganda?
	
	• Does the site contain advertising?
	
	    Is there a relationship between the advertising and the content

	• Does the site back up any claims with evidence which can be independently verified? Are the sources for factual information clearly listed so they can be verified in another source? Is there an editor or someone who checks the information?
Useful tutorials on evaluating web sites:	'*Internet Detective: Wise up to the Web' Intute* (2006) http://www.vtstutorials.ac.uk/detective/index.html *Virtual Training Suite: Developing internet research skills Tutorpro* (2011) http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/ *Library research Guides: 6 Evaluating web sources. Oxford Brooks University (2014)* http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/guideintro.html *Guide for evaluating Internet resources* (2009) http://www.uwe.ac.uk/library/resources/general/internet/eval.htm
Useful References	Cotterell, S (2008) *The Study Skills Handbook*, 3rd Edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pages 147-152 Price, G & Mailer, P (2007) *Effective Study Skills: Unlock Your Potential*. London, Pearson Educational. Pages 258-259 Burns, T & Sinfield, S (2008) *Essential Study Skills*, 2nd Edition. London. Sage Publications. Pages 80-97 Stern, L (2009) *What every student should know about…Avoiding Plagiarism*. London. Pearson Educational. Pages 56-57