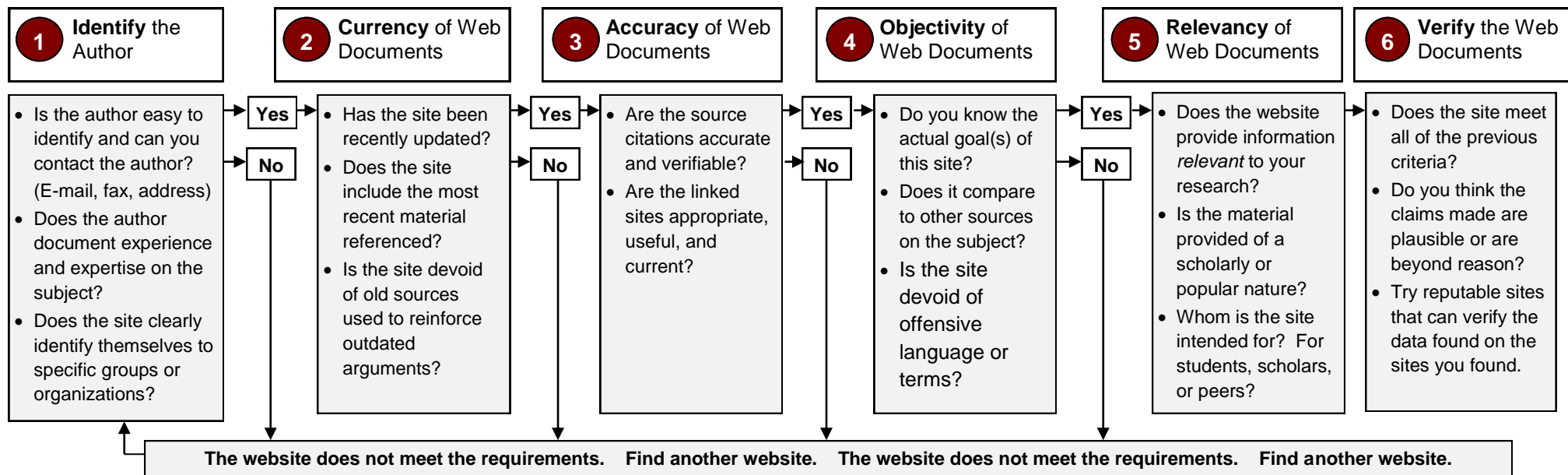


> Finding Websites You Could Trust



Identify the Author

Is it a personal Website?

- It is important to identify the organization or people that are sponsoring the site, and hidden agendas in the material presented.
- Be cautious of sites that have a tilde (~) in the URL because the information provided in these sites may not be sanctioned by the parent organization.

What is the Web site's domain?

Commercial	.com
Education	.edu
Government	.gov
Military	.mil
Non-profit agencies	.org
Business	.biz
Informational	.info
News and networks	.net
Personal pages	~

The best websites to find information!

- Run the author's name through a search engine to see what you get. If there is not author credited, check if the organization is reputable.

Currency of Web Documents

- The site should have a recent revision date. This is usually at the bottom of the homepage.
- Abandoned sites will not include the latest scholarly works.

Accuracy of Web Documents

- Know the difference between the author and webmaster.
- There may be a problem if the information is not readily available or easily accessible.
- The site should not have spelling errors.

Objectivity of Web Documents

- Flashy advertisements or having to purchase a product or service are signs the site is not objective.
- If certain information had been omitted from the author's list of sources, there may be an issue in how the arguments and conclusions are presented.
- If the language is bias, more than likely, so will the arguments presented.

Relevancy of Web Documents

- Know the difference between the author and webmaster.
- The site's appearance will reflect its seriousness on the material presented.
- A good indicator of a site *not* intended for scholarly use would often advertise products for sale.
- The appropriate style, content and language will also aid in your decision.

Verify the Web Documents

- Some sites may meet all of the criteria in Steps 1-5, but may need further verification of the facts.
- Try web sites like FactCheck.org, Snopes.com, or even a Google search may help.