Finding Websites You Could Trust

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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 augment presented.

5. **Relevancy of Web Documents**
   - Know the difference or having to purchase a product or service are signs the site is not objective.
   - 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.

6. **Verify the Web Documents**
   - Does the site meet all of the previous criteria?
   - Do you think the claims made are plausible or are beyond reason?
   - Try reputable sites that can verify the data you found.

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**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: ~

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**The best websites to find information!**
- The web site does not meet the requirements. Find another web site.

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