




Chesapeake College

EVALUATING AND DOCUMENTING INTERNET SOURCES

To evaluate an Internet source, first appraise it as you would a book:

- A. What is the quality or professional level of the source?
Is the article from a magazine, journal, or newspaper? Is the publication information included?
If the source is not credited to any periodical or professional research, does the [age tell you where the information came from?
Where and how was the information gathered?
Is the source written for children or adults, the general population or professionals?
- B. What is the date of the source?
Is the publication date included with the information?
When was the Web Page last updated?
Is there a copyright date to show when the article was published professionally?
- C. Is the quantity of material acceptable?
Is the amount of information so small that you have already covered it elsewhere?
Is the amount of information so large that you could not possibly read it all, download it, or reasonably print it out?
- D. What is the background of the author?
Are the author's name and credentials given anywhere on the site (that page, the homepage, index, etc.)?
How did the author conduct the research?
What are his credentials and level of expertise?
Does a single person or an organization maintain the site?
 - Is the organization well known and reputable?
 - Are they in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*?

Other considerations*:

-  Be sure that the site is an informative one and not an advertisement.
-  Check for site sponsorships to be sure that site is not simply a company that is recommending its own product.
-  The date of site creation should be evident, and the information should be updated regularly.

*Giles, Mary. "How to Judge a Web Site." *Parenting*, March 1998: 34.

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MLA FORMAT
(Source: *MLA Handbook*, 5th ed.)

Magazine article in a database

Hurley, Kevin. "What are Gamma-Ray Bursters?" *Sky & Telescope* Aug. 1990: 143-147. SIRS
Researcher. SIRS Knowledge Source. Chesapeake College Learning Resource Center,
Wye Mills. 11 Dec. 2000 < <http://sirs.com>>.

Newspaper article in a database

Gershenson, Adam. "After Eviction, Family Struggles Back to Stability." *New York Times* 17
Dec. 1998: B4. Academic Search Elite. Maryland Digital Library. Chesapeake College
Learning Resource Center, Wye Mills. 11 Dec. 2000 < <http://md-diglib.org>>.

Entire website

Rickover, Robert. The Complete Guide to the Alexander Technique. 2001. Alexander Technique
Nebraska, Ontario Centre for the Alexander Technique. 2 Feb. 2000
<<http://www.alexandertechnique.com>>.

APA FORMAT
(Source: *APA Manual*, 5th ed.)

Magazine article in a database

Hurley, K. (1990, August). What are gamma-ray bursters? *Sky & Telescope*, 143-147. Retrieved
December 11, 2000, from SIRS Knowledge Source.

Newspaper article in a database

Gershenson, A. (1998, December 17). After eviction, family struggles back to stability. *New York
Times*, p. B4. Retrieved December 11, 2000, from Maryland Digital Library.

Website

Jacobson, J.W., Mulick, J.A., & Schwartz, A.A. (1995) A history of facilitated communication:
Science working group on facilitated communication. *American Psychologist*, 50, 750-
765. Retrieved January 25, 1996, from <http://www.apa.org/journals/jacobson.html>