# Evaluating Information Obtained from Internet Searches

[Adapted from http://www.lib.umd.edu/guides/webcheck.html](http://www.lib.umd.edu/guides/webcheck.html)

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) should critically evaluate information available on the internet related to assessment and treatment of communication disorders. The questions below are intended to guide SLPs as they review internet search results and when determining the value of information obtained through internet searches.

## Authority:

* Who is the author of the Web site and what are the author's *qualifications* or *expertise?* Is the author a credible and reliable source of information?
* What are the qualifications of the author or group that created the site?

Part Of The URL (Web Address) May Provide Clues About Authorship

* academic institution (.edu)
* U.S. Government agency (.gov)
* U.S. military site (.mil)
* a company or personal page (.com or .net)
* non-profit organization (.org)
* country sponsored site (.uk)

## Purpose and Content:

* What is the purpose of the Web site?
* Does the Web site provide objective, factual information or subjective and opinionated statements? Is there sufficient support for arguments or statements made?
* Does the Web site provide any contact information or means of communicating with the author or Webmaster?

Examples of Web Page Purposes

* a personal Web page
* a company or organization Web site
* a forum for scholarly/research information
* a forum for educational/public service information
* an advertisement or electronic commerce
* a forum for ideas, opinions or points of view
* other:

## **Current or Dated Information:**

When was the Web site last revised, modified or updated?

Is it important for this type of information to be current and reflect recent research in the field?

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