

# Checklist for a News Web Page

## How to Recognize a News Web Page

A **News Web Page** is one whose primary purpose is to provide extremely current information. The URL address of the page usually ends in **.com** (commercial) but may also have a variety of other endings (e.g., **.edu**, **.gov**).

## Questions to Ask about the Web Page

**Note:** The greater the number of questions listed below answered "yes," the more likely it is you can determine whether the source is of high information quality.

### Criterion #1: AUTHORITY

- Is it clear what company or organization is responsible for the contents of the page?
- Is there a link to a page describing the goals of the company or organization providing the information?
- Is there a way of verifying the legitimacy of the company or organization? That is, is there a phone number or postal address to contact for more information? (Simply an email address is not enough).
- Is there a non-Web equivalent version of the material which would provide a way of verifying its legitimacy?
- If a page contains individual articles, do you know who wrote the articles and his/her qualifications for writing on the topic?
- Is there a statement giving the company's name as copyright holder?

### Criterion #2: ACCURACY

- Are the sources for factual information clearly listed so they can be verified in another source?
- Are there editors and fact checkers monitoring the accuracy of the information being published?
- Is the information free of spelling, grammatical, and typographical errors? These kinds of errors not only indicate a lack of quality control, but can actually produce inaccuracies in information.

### **Criterion #3: OBJECTIVITY**

- Is the informational content clearly separated from the advertising and opinion content?
- Are editorials and opinion pieces clearly labeled?

### **Criterion #4: CURRENCY**

- Is there a link to an informational page which describes how frequently the material is updated?
- Is there an indication of when the page was last updated?
- Is there a date on the page to indicate when the page was placed on the Web?
  - If a newspaper, does it indicate what edition of the paper the page belongs to?
  - If a broadcast, does it indicate the date and time the information on the page was originally broadcast?

### **Criterion #5: COVERAGE**

- Is there a link to an informational page which describes the coverage of the source?
- If you are evaluating a newspaper page and there is a print equivalent, is there an indication of whether the Web coverage is more or less extensive than the print version?