

## The Internet

### I. Criteria used to validate information found on the Internet

#### A. Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

1. **Protocol** – how the file will be transferred. Two methods of transfer will be discussed.
  - a. **Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)**
    - i. Used to transfer files from a Web server onto a browser in order to view a Web page that is on the Internet
    - ii. HTTP only transfers the contents of a web page into a browser for viewing.
    - iii. When *http* appears in a URL it means that the user is connecting to a Web server and not a file server.
    - iv. The files are transferred but not downloaded, therefore not copied into the memory of the receiving device.
  - b. **File Transfer Protocol (FTP)**
    - i. Entire files are transferred from one device to another and copied into memory.
    - ii. FTP is a two-way system as files are transferred back and forth between server and workstation.
2. **Domain name** – used to identify the details of the information's source
  - a. **Server/host name** – the origin of the information
  - b. **Suffix/Extension** – used to indicate the type of server
    - i. .com Commercial business
    - ii. .edu Educational institutions
    - iii. .gov Government agencies
    - iv. .org Organizations (nonprofit)
  - c. .net Network organization
  - d. .mil Military
  - e. .uk United Kingdom
  - f. .au Australia
  - g. .ca Canada
  - h. .de Germany
3. **Directory/folder**
  - a. Where to specifically search for the information
  - b. Instructs the URL to drill down into specific directories or folders for the requested information
4. **Page/document/filename**

- a. Used to indicate a specific document or program
  - b. Instructs the URL to drill down into specific files for the requested information
5. **Other**
- a. Tilde (~) indicates a personal web page
  - b. .exe indicates an executable program
  - c. Equals (=) indicates a specific document or program
  - d. Question mark (?) indicates a query for a specific document

**II. Criteria used to authenticate information found on the Internet** – Once the site has been located and verified through analysis of the URL, the next step is to determine if the information is true according to the purpose indicated on the site. Information used to analyze the site is as follows:

**A. Creator**

- 1. What is the author's name and organization?
- 2. Visit <http://www.easywhois.com/> to find information on the person or organization who has registered the domain name.

**B. Date of creation**

- 1. When was the page first created?
- 2. How recently was it updated?

**C. Is the page copyrighted?**

**D. Relevance**

- 1. Does the page title match the content?
- 2. Do the images relate to the content and the title?

**E. Grammar and spelling**

- 1. Are there obvious spelling errors?
- 2. Are there obvious grammatical errors?

**F. Consistency**

1. Are the images consistent with the content?
2. Are the color schemes constant?
3. Are the font schemes constant?

**G. Believability and authenticity**

1. Can you believe the information?
2. Is the information fact or fiction?
3. Do you have research from other sources to back it up?

**H. Usefulness/purpose**

1. Is the usefulness/purpose of the site clearly presented?
2. Is the URL consistent with the web page content?  
For example, a URL [www.babycare.com](http://www.babycare.com) could link to an actual site about babies, or it could link to a pornography site.

**I. Links to other sites**

1. Are updated links to other sites provided?
2. Are the linked sites relevant to the site in question?

**III. Legal use of information obtained from the Internet – Fair Use Factors**

A. Once information obtained from the Internet is validated, what right does the user have to use it in accordance with the Fair Use Section 107 of the United States Copyright Law?

B. Conditions of Fair Use Act:

1. What is the purpose of using the information?
  - a. Is the use for commercial or nonprofit educational purposes?
  - b. Is the use for criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching scholarship, or research?
2. What is the nature of its use?
  - a. Is it intended for educational use?
  - b. Is the work creative or factual?
  - c. It is easier to claim a fair use exemption for nonfiction works than creative works?
3. How much will be used?
  - a. The amount of the copyrighted work used. Less is better than all when claiming fair use.
  - b. The amount allowed by fair use guidelines varies with original's format.
4. What impact will use of the information have on the owner's ability to make a profit or the market value of the work?