

Evaluate a website & write your bibliography

ALL AT ONCE

1. Find the author.

NOTE This is not always easy.

NOTE The author may be more than 1 person, an agency, business, institution, organization, etc.



Scan the edges of the webpage

If you can't find an author name, look for:

- “About” “Our Story”
- “Philosophy” “Biography”
- “Contact” —this must be more than an email

Answer the following:

- Who is the author affiliated or connected with? (Working for or supported by a publisher, university, agency, association?)
- What are the author's credentials? Profession? How is the author an authority or expert? (You can Google the author.)
- What is the author's goal or motive—provide information, opinion, product or service, news updates, humor or satire?
- Is the content backed up with documented research, data, facts, statistics, or is it opinion? (Check the sources listed.)

Name	Affiliation & Credentials	Goal/Motive
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WRITE

AUTHOR

INFO

ABOVE

2. Find the publisher.

NOTE Sometimes the author & publisher are one and the same.

The publisher is the agency, institution, business, or individual(s) who put out the website.

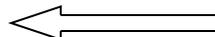
Where to find the publisher? Again, scan the edges of the webpage. No luck? Shorten the web address (URL) back to www._____.org to get to the home page.

- \$\$\$ Who funds this site or publisher? \$\$\$
- SALES + ADS? (com)
 - TAXPAYER DOLLARS? (gov)
TUTION, ENDOWMENTS, TAX DOLLARS?
 - MEMBERSHIPS, DONATIONS?
 - SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS?

- .net
- .gov
- .com
- .edu

FINDING AFFILIATIONS

Who links to them?
Who do they link to?
Does an advisory board, company, or larger agency oversee the publisher?



Publisher Name	Funding Source	Affiliations
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If name starts with A, AN, THE, leave it out.

WRITE

PUBLISHER

INFO

ABOVE

3. Find the date.

Is this a stale, crusty site? Has it been abandoned?
When was the page last updated or revised (usually at the bottom of the page)?

NOTE Content determines the need for currency.

Breaking news, scientific research, health info, technology, weather, events calendars, travel advisories...the date matters!

Day (on)	Month (Jan)	Year (2011)
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WRITE

DATE

ABOVE

4. Find the title of the webpage you used.

"Title of the Page in Quotes."

WRITE

WEB PAGE TITLE

ABOVE

5. Find the title of the website.

Shorten the web address (URL) back to www._____.org to get to the home page.

Title of the Site in Italics.

WRITE

WEB SITE TITLE

ABOVE

6. Write your bibliography!

At this point, you can outperform an online citation maker (like EasyBib), since you have all the information you need AND you know you have a valid resource, because you evaluated it.

Author's Last name, First Name. "Title of Webpage." *Title of Website*. Publisher of Website, date of latest update. Web. Date you used site. <URL>.

WRITE

BIBLIOGRAPHY CITATION

ABOVE

***** A NOTE ON ONLINE CITATION MAKERS: *****

They still need human editing (like spell check)!

Compare Easybib's citation...

"Cancer Center: Types, Symptoms, Causes, Tests, and Treatments, Including Chemo and Radiation." *WebMD - Better Information. Better Health*. Web. 23 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.webmd.com/cancer/default.htm>>.

...with a correct citation:

WebMD. "Cancer Overview." *WebMD*, 2011. Web. 23 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.webmd.com/cancer/default.htm>>.

Better yet—find authoritative information with an identifiable author and more complete content. If you look at this webpage, it has very little information.

Remember: photos, charts, video & any other information you use from the web should be cited in your bibliography.

Stuck? Ask a librarian for help with your bibliography or to evaluate a resource.