Choosing Websites: ask yourself these questions!

**Purpose**
- Why was this website created? To inform? To teach? To sell? To persuade?
- What is the domain (for example, .edu, .org, .com, .gov)? What might that tell you about the purpose?

**Relevance**
- Does the information cover your topic or answer your question?
- Is the information at the right level (not too basic or advanced for your needs)?

**Authority**
- Look for an "About Us" button or link. Who is the publisher or sponsor of the site (for example: a business; a college; a government agency; a nonprofit organization)? What can you find out about the publisher? How are they connected to the purpose of the website?
- Is an author named? Is there evidence that the author is an expert on this topic (for example: her or his biography; organizations she or he belongs to; awards and recognitions she or he has won)?
- Is there contact information with an address, phone, or email?

**Currency**
- Can you find a date when the pages were created or updated?
- Based on your topic, is it recent enough?

**Accuracy**
- What kind of information is included in the website (for example: maps; scientific data; news reports; opinions; analysis)?
- Where does the information come from? Are the sources cited?
- Does the information agree with what you have found in other sources?
- Do the links work? Where do they go?
- Are there spelling, grammatical or typographical errors?