Checklist for Evaluating Websites

Credibility
- Check to see if the information on the site is credible and trustworthy.
- Check the author’s credentials. Do you know who created the website? Are they an authority on the subject?
- Check for the owner of the website. Is it a well-known organization or group that oversees the site?
- Check for spelling errors, grammatical errors, and dead links.

Accuracy
- Check to see if the source is accurate, factual, and comprehensive.
- Check to see when the site was last updated. Has the information been updated recently? Can you find a date on the site at all?
- Check to see if this information is found elsewhere. Double check that the information on the website is available in another article or website.

Reasonableness
- Check to see if the source is reasonable. Is the site balanced, objective or is it biased towards the subject?
- Check the tone of the language. Do they use offensive language?
- Check the purpose of the site. Does it want to sell you something or want to make you believe a specific viewpoint?

Support
- Check to see if you can contact the source of the site. Does the site provide contact information?
- Check for references or a bibliography that provides information on where the information came from.

For additional assistance:
- Stop by the Library Services Main Desk on the 3rd floor
- Call 301-687-4395
- E-mail libref@frostburg.edu