Slide 1

evaluating Web sites

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Slide 2

evaluating Web sites

Why is it important?

- Anyone can publish on the Internet

- As students, how can you determine whether a source is reliable or not?

Slide 3

evaluating Web sites

Using the Web as a resource

I was told "NEVER to use Internet sources" for my research.

You can, if you know what to look for!

There are a lot of excellent resources available on the Web – statistics, primary documents, digital collections.

Slide 4

evaluating Web sites

Five criteria to consider

1. Accuracy
2. Authority
3. Objectivity
4. Currency
5. Coverage

1: ACCURACY

- Determine the purpose
  - Informational
  - Advertisement
  - Advocacy/Interest Group
  - News
  - Personal
  - Entertainment

1: ACCURACY

- Determine author

- Check for contact information

- Facts documented for verification

- Free from careless errors

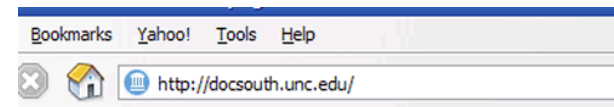## 2: AUTHORITY

- Determine publisher
  - Library
  - College
  - Personal
  - Organization/Agency

- Author qualifications listed

2: AUTHORITY

- Check the domain (.edu, .org, .com, .gov) and url for clues as to publisher, purpose.

| Bookmarks | Yahoo! | Tools | Help |

http://docsouth.unc.edu/

3: OBJECTIVITY

- Minimal bias presented

- Goals of the Web site

- Intended audience

- Attempt to sway your opinion

3: OBJECTIVITY

- Goals or purpose of the Web site (can be found in About section)

PRIMARY RESOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN HISTORY, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

Documenting the American South (DocSouth) is a digital publishing initiative that provides Internet access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture. Currently DocSouth includes ten thematic collections of books, diaries, posters, artifacts, letters, oral history interviews, and songs.

The University Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sponsors *Documenting the American South*, and the texts and materials come primarily from its southern holdings. The UNC University Library is committed to the long-term availability of these collections and their online records. An editorial board guides development of this digital library.

4: CURRENCY

- Check for published or last updated date

- Ensure the content is not out-of-date

- Broken/dead Web site links

5: COVERAGE

- Relevant links

- Access to information
  - No additional software required
  - No password/payment needed

- Depth of material and topics

- Free of advertisements

It is possible to use Web sites for research purpose.

Remember to evaluate these five criteria to make that determination.

Additional Resources

Library of Congress Research Center
http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/beonline/selectbib.html

UC Berkeley Finding Information on the Internet
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html

Internet Detective: Wise up to the Web
http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/detective/index.html

Screenshots taken from Documenting the American South
http://docsouth.unc.edu/