How do you know if the information you find on the internet is any good?

Apply **What, Why, When, Who, Where** and **How** to review the information you find and ensure that it is relevant and of high academic quality. Ask questions such as...

- What is the purpose of the source?
- Why does it exist?
- Why was it published?
- Is it trying to convince you of a particular view?
- Is it written from a biased perspective or does it offer an objective viewpoint?
- Has it been written from a commercial, political or overtly emotional perspective?
- Is it sponsored by a company or political organization?
- Another quick way to check the value of a site is to look at the other websites that link to it. So is it linked to a variety of academic sources or a number of biased sources? - You can search for sites which link to a page using the Advanced option in most search engines.
- How was the data collected to inform this source? This should indicate its accuracy.
- If no sources of date are named then how do you know where the information comes from? It can't be verified.
- Are the conclusions backed up by verified data and references to academic sources?

**Types of websites**

*Controlled and only available to approved organisations*

- **edu** - an US educational website e.g. [www.hbs.edu](http://www.hbs.edu)
- **ac** - a UK educational website e.g. [www.library.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk)
- **gov** - a government website e.g. [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)
- **com** - a business or commercial site - [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)
- **net** - Internet Service Providers (ISPs) - [www.asp.net](http://www.asp.net)
- **org** - a non profit organization e.g. [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk)