Inspecting a Website

This checklist will guide you in reviewing different parts of a website to decide if the site is credible. You will take a thorough tour of the website, including the homepage, the About Us or Contact Us section, and the main content. If possible, you’ll also identify the type of site you are looking at. If you have questions or something is not clear, ask a librarian or your professor.

→ For each section, check all the boxes that apply to the website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homepage Web Address</th>
<th>________________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Homepage</td>
<td>________________________________</td>
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**About Us / Contact Us / Our Story (Mission)**

- [ ] The author or publisher has relevant experience or education.
- [ ] The author or publisher is someone I would trust on this topic.
- [ ] The purpose/point of view of the site are clearly stated.
- [ ] I can’t tell who the author or publisher is.
- [ ] I would not trust the author’s or publisher’s knowledge on this topic.
- [ ] The site is unclear or misleading about its purpose/point of view.

**The Overall Look**

- [ ] Ads are small, easily identified as ads, and not in the way.
- [ ] The site looks professional.
- [ ] Ads are big, flashy, confusing or in the way.
- [ ] The site looks unprofessional.

**The Content**

- [ ] I can tell when this was written.
- [ ] I can tell where they got their information.
- [ ] I can’t tell when this was written.
- [ ] I can’t tell where they got their information.

**The Type of Site**

- [ ] News Organization
- [ ] Magazine
- [ ] Government Site
- [ ] Professional Organization
- [ ] Expert or Educational Organization
- [ ] Blog
- [ ] Social Network
- [ ] Wiki
- [ ] Content Farm
- [ ] Not sure what type of site this is

If all of your check marks are in the left column, this site seems promising.

If you have at least one check mark in the right column, see if you can find the same or better information on a more credible website.