Research on the Internet: Is it REAL???

R – Read the URL   E – Examine the Content   A – Ask about the author   L – Look at the links

Answer the following questions to help you understand how well you should trust a website.

R – Read the URL

1. What is the domain?
2. What is the extension?
3. Is it a personal site? (Yes?   No?   )

E – Examine the Content

1. Is the information on the site helpful? (Yes?   No?   )
2. Does the site have more resources and links? (Yes?   No?   )
3. Is the site up to date? Can you tell when it was last updated? (Yes?   No?   ) Date?
4. Is the information correct? (Yes?   No?   )
5. Are the facts different from information I have found elsewhere? (Yes?   No?   )

A – Ask about the author

1. Is the author's name provided? (Yes?   No?   )
2. Is there a contact person or an address provided? (Yes?   No?   )
3. Is there biographical information provided about the author? (Yes?   No?   )
4. Does the author seem knowledgeable? Is he or she an expert in the field? (Yes?   No?
5. What kind of results do you see when you do a search on the author's name?

6. Who owns it? Go to: www.easywhois.com and look for registrant name: _____
7. What is its history? Use the Wayback Machine to see how the site has changed: http://archive.org/web/

L – Look at the Links

1. For forward links:
    a. What are the URLs of the links? Are they all the same domain?
    b. Do the domain names change? Is the same person writing all of the references?
       (Yes?   No?   )
2. For back links:
    a. Who is linked to the site? Why are they linked?
    b. To check this, search "link:website URL" (no spaces) or try "info:website URL"