Website Evaluation with CART

The Internet provides access to a lot of information but, unfortunately, not all of it is trustworthy. When we research online we must do our best to find accurate and reliable information. 6th Grade students at Diamond use the CART method to evaluate websites.

**Current**

If your topic is time-sensitive (for example, you need to find the most recent population of the U.S.) you'll need to make sure the information you use is current (up to date). Look at the bottom of the page for a copyright date or the date when the page was last “modified”. Also, be wary of web pages with broken links (links that go nowhere). That usually indicates that a web page hasn't been updated recently. You should look for a better source.

**Accessible**

Can you read and understand the information on the page? Are the graphics well organized and appropriate? If not, look for a source written at a level you can easily read and understand. Are there too many distracting ads or pop-ups? If so, look for another source.

**Relevant**

Does the page have enough information about your research topic? Is the information specific enough for your topic? If not, look for a better source.

**Trustworthy**

Is the name of the author or editor prominent on the page? If not, look for an “About Us” or “FAQs” link. Check the home page for information about the author, editor, or the organization responsible for publishing the website. If that information is missing you should look for another source. Trustworthy websites tell us who is responsible for the information they publish and where the information comes from.