Web Literacy.
How to read a web address?

The domain name is found after the http:// and www. to the first forward slash /.

For example in the URL www.couriermail.com.au, couriermail.com is the domain name.

A domain name can sometimes provide clues about the quality of information of a site or tell you what a site is about.
What’s the extension in a domain name?

.com and .net are examples of extensions. Extensions are an important part of domain names. Extensions are intended to show the type of establishment that owns and publishes the domain.
What’s the extension in a domain name?

- .edu  Education Site
- .gov Government Site
- .com Commercial Site
- .net  Network Site
- .org Organization Site
- .mil Military Institution
What’s the extension in a domain name?

New extensions to look for are .biz, .name, .pro, .info. All are used for commercial purposes.

Extensions can also include country codes, such as .uk, .ca, .za, etc.

For a complete list of country codes go to:

http://goes.gsfc.nasa.gov/text/web_country_codes.html
What’s the extension in a domain name?

Some extensions may provide more reliable information than others.

Ones that may be more reliable are .edu, .gov.
What’s the extension in a domain name?

Ones to watch out for are .com, .org, .net.

These domains can be purchased by anybody. This is not to say that sites with these extensions can never be trusted, but it is good to know whether you are on a commercial or special interest-type site if you are trying to access academic-type information.
A personal page is a website created by an individual. The website may contain useful information, links to important resources and helpful facts, but sometimes these pages offer highly biased opinions.

The presence of a name in the URL such as jdoe and a tilde ~ or % or the word users or people or members frequently means you are on a personal website.
Are you on a personal page?

You may or may not recognize the domain name or extension of a URL.

Keep reading past the first forward slash / for more clues.

If you are on a personal page the information you are reading may or may not be trustworthy.
Are you on a personal page?

Check for:

- a **name** in the url or;
- a **tilde** symbol (~) or %

http://pubweb.northwestern.edu/~abutz/di/intro.html
Find the Publisher of a website.

You can often find the owner or publisher of a website by using Easy Who Is.

It is sometimes helpful to know who publishes the information you are reading.

Easy Who Is www.easywhois.com
What is the History of a website?

You can explore the history and changes of a website by using The Wayback Machine. The Wayback Machine (www.archive.org) allows you to browse through 30 billion web pages archived from 1996 to a few months ago.
What is the History of a website?

To use this site type in the URL of a site or page of which you would like to research, and click the Take Me Back button.

Once you have conducted your search, select from the archived dates available.

Looking for more on Web Literacy?

All information in this presentation came from
November Learning
http://novemberlearning.com

Additional resources can be found on this site.

Library Staff can also assist. Just ask for help.

Matteo Ricci Library
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