Online Resource Evaluation

When you navigate through an ocean of information, make sure you use the OAR!

Objectivity

What is the purpose of the webpage: to inform, to persuade, to entertain, to instruct, to sell?
Is the information current? How current are the sources or links?
Is the webpage well-organized? Is the information quick to access?

Authority

Who is the person or organization responsible for the webpage?
Does the author have a qualified background or education to write on this topic?
Is the domain appropriate for the content of the webpage (.gov, .org, .edu, .com)?

Reliability

Is a balance of perspectives represented? Is the information objective or subjective?
Are all facts accurate and cited? Does the webpage reflect opinion or bias?
Could the information be meant as a parody, humorous, or satirical?