**Internet Sources Tips**

**From Ursula C. Schwerin Library, New York City Institute of Technology**

Here are 8 great tips for searching the internet for information for your coursework:

1. The internet does not have an editor. Anyone can post anything on the internet, both true and false information. You must EVALUATE everything you find online!

When evaluating information, ask yourself these questions:

2. **Accuracy**: Is the information correct? How do you know? Are the sources of the information(references) cited? Can you verify the information somewhere else?

3. **Expertise**: Who is the author or organization that is the source of the information? Is the author/organization an expert in the field? Can you verify his or her credentials? Look for .edu sources or .gov sources. Also look for authors with titles. (Dr., Ph.D. etc.)

4. **Currency**: Can you find a publication date for this source? When was the website last updated? Does the information seem relevant or is it out of date?

5. **Objectivity**: Is the author or source writing objectively, or is his or her perspective biased? Is the author trying to convince you of something or sell you something?

6. Google’s top search results are based on popularity (how many “hits” a website gets) and relevance (how often your search terms are used on the website). Google cannot evaluate the accuracy of websites!

7. Try Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com/) to search for scholarly information on the internet.

8. If you are on a biased website that references sources, follow the trail to those reference sources. Those referenced sources are often the better thing to be looking at!

9. If using news sources, choose ones with more rigorous journalistic review practices like *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post.*