

Evaluating Websites  
[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

[www.scdiscus.org](http://www.scdiscus.org)

<http://www.thedogisland.com/company.html>

Website #1: Autismspeaks.org

**AUTHOR:** Who wrote the Web page? Is the person an authority on the topic? What credentials does the author/site have?

**PURPOSE:** What is the goal of the site? Is the information accurate? Does it fit the goal of your project? Why did the author publish this site?

**AUDIENCE:** Does the site clearly identify the audience? Are you part of the intended audience? Does the audience for the site match you as a researcher?

**PUBLICATION:** When was the site published or last updated? Is the information current? Are the links up-to-date?

**OVERALL:** Based on your answers to the previous questions, would you recommend this site to others in your class? Why or why not?

# CARS Checklist (from Evaluating Internet Research Sources by



Robert Harris

(CARS = Credibility, Accuracy, Reasonableness, Support)

<b>Credibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is an author listed? What are the author's credentials? Can the author be reached for questions or comments?</li><li>• Is there evidence of positive peer evaluation?</li><li>• Has the author taken care to check for misspelling, poor grammar, etc.?</li></ul>
<b>Accuracy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the date of the site current?</li><li>• Is the information complete and not too vague?</li><li>• Does the author acknowledge all views?</li></ul>
<b>Reasonableness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the author fair and objective?</li><li>• Is the author concerned with the truth?</li></ul>
<b>Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the author provide support for the information?</li><li>• Are the sources listed?</li><li>• Are there other resources with similar information?</li></ul>

What do these "dots" mean?

.gov =

.org=

.com=

.edu=

.biz=

.info=