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Is This a Reliable Site?

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Is This a Reliable Site?
By Linda Masselink, Senior Librarian, Steelcase Library and Liaison to Seidman

Websites are plentiful, but can you trust them? Assess website for their currency, relevance, authority, accuracy and purpose. Does the website have a bias? The three websites mentioned below are recommended for answering questions you may have in your research. Try them out!

This website comes from Stanford University’s Technology Ventures Program. The focus is entrepreneurship. The site provides a wealth of authoritative and free material that includes over 1,600 videos and podcasts related to all aspects of entrepreneurship. It is easy to search by format or topic. It is possible to subscribe to a topic of interest and receive material. Especially helpful for developing a business plan, E-Corner is a great place for researching innovation, product development, marketing, leadership or globalization.

From the U.S. Census Bureau’s Economic Census, this site makes business data more accessible to the user. The Economic Census is taken every 5 years in years ending in 2 and 7. It takes awhile for data to be released. Although the figures may not be current, the percentages are usually on target. The home page directs you to detailed 2007 industry data and to 2007 data for local areas in selected states (Michigan is included). Census data from this site is helpful when determining competitive intelligence and in finding business opportunities. Foreign trade statistics are not part of this site.

AccountingCoach.com - http://www.accountingcoach.com
Harold Averkamp is an accountant, consultant, a professor of Accounting and the creator of this website. The value in this site is the basic accounting information and quick reference support it provides. It is designed for people without an accounting background who are looking for clear explanations of a broad range of accounting topics. Within the site, there is access to a dictionary of accounting terms. An Accounting Career Center provides information on job opportunities; an explanation of accounting degrees; CPA requirements and exam; CMA and other credentials. The Accounting Resources section provides further information on accounting organizations, societies; general accounting and business magazines; and state boards of accountancy. For someone interested in what an accounting career entails, this is a good place to start.

For more information about evaluating websites, view the CRAAP Test Power Point presentation at: http://www.authorstream.com/Presentation/tecampa-375643-craap-test-websites-education-ppt-powerpoint

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