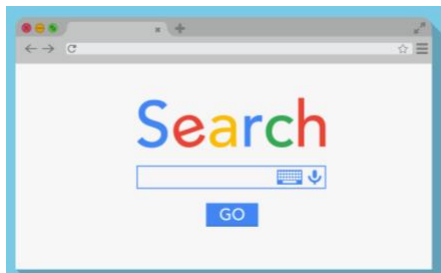## Technology V13/S3 - Research on the Internet

The internet provides an impressive amount of knowledge; all it takes is a few words typed into a **web browser**, like Google, but how do you know if the information you receive is right? Just because it is written on a webpage somewhere online, it does not mean you can always trust it.

There is also a big difference if you are finding information just for fun or if you will be using it for a school report. When you write a report for school, you cannot just take any information from the internet. Rather, you need to provide the **source,** or where you found it, so your teacher and others can check where it came from.

A source of information needs to be **reliable**, which means it is trustworthy and contains true and legitimate information. Here are some things to look for when checking if a website is reliable:

- **Timely**: When was this written? Could the information have changed?
- **Authority**: Who wrote it? Is the author an expert on this topic?
- **Accuracy**: Is the information supported by evidence? Can you find the same information somewhere else?
- **Purpose**: Is the information presented as fact or opinion? Is it trying to sell you something?

There are websites that can be very useful, like Wikipedia, but the information there is not necessarily written by experts and may be incorrect. Anyone can change articles in Wikipedia, so the information may be different each time you visit the site.

Another thing you can always check is the ending of the web address. The letters that come after the period (.) tells you the **web domain**, or where the website comes from. For example, government and university websites are usually reliable. Be wary of private company websites, or sites that end in ".com.co".

government	university	company website	special interest
(.gov)	(.edu)	(.com) (.net)	(.org)

There is so much information on the internet, it is important that you take the time to make sure you are finding accurate, reliable sources to help you learn.