Some info, and a word of caution when using web sites: Extensions are an important part of domain names. You probably know quite a few already. Extensions are intended to show the type of establishment that owns and publishes the domain. Here is a list to look for:

**COMMON EXTENSIONS:**
- .edu Educational organization (most US universities)
- .k12 US school site (not all US schools use this)
- .ac Academic institution (outside of US)
- .sch School site (some schools outside of the US use this)
- .com Company (usually .co in the UK)
- .org Any organization
- .gov Government agency
- .net Network
- .mil Military institution
- New extensions to look for are .biz, .name, .pro, .info. All are used for commercial purposes. Extensions can also include country codes, such as .uk, .ca, .za, etc. Some extensions may provide more reliable information than others, but there are no guarantees. Ones that may be more reliable are .edu, .gov, .k12.

Ones to watch out for are .com, .org, .net. These domains can be purchased by anybody. This is not to say that sites with these extensions can never be trusted, but it is good to know whether you are on a commercial or special interest-type site if you are trying to access academic-type information. Source: http://novemberlearning.com/resources/information-literacy-resources/

The following exercise is designed to help you evaluate a web site for reliability and currency of information, author, and the site’s “agenda.” This is something students need to do for any web site when looking for information for a class assignment. Keep the “whois” web address handy and use it to check out web sites you might consider using.

**Instructions:** Go to [http://whois.domaintools.com/](http://whois.domaintools.com/). Look up [http://martinlutherking.org](http://martinlutherking.org) and answer the following nine questions (scroll down on the whois site and click other links):

1. When was this domain created?
2. When was it last updated?
3. What is its expiration date?
4. What is the registrant’s name?
5. In what state is it registered?
6. What is the admin. Organization?
7. Now, go to the martinlutherking.org and stormfront.com web sites. What “agenda” do you think is put forth?
8a. Then, Google stormfront.com. How many hits did you get?
8b. What sort of information do you see on two of the search results near the top that tell you what the agenda of this organization is?
9. If you were doing a research essay on Martin Luther King, Jr., would you use either of these web sites? Why? Why not?

**NOTE:** Historical Revisionism vs. denial – Historians Deborah Lipstadt (1993), Michael Shermer, and Alex Grobman (2000), authors of critical studies of Holocaust denial, make a distinction between revisionism and denial. Revisionism, in their view, entails a refinement of existing knowledge about a historical event, not a denial of the event itself, a refinement that comes through the examination of new empirical evidence or a reexamination or reinterpretation of existing evidence. Legitimate historical revisionism acknowledges a “certain body of irrefutable evidence” or a ‘convergence of evidence’ that suggest that an event — like the black plague, American slavery, or the Holocaust — did occur.[10] Denial, on the other hand, rejects the entire foundation of historical evidence....[11]

[10] Lipstadt 1993:21; Shermer & Grobman 200:34