



# Beginners: Precautions Using the Internet (3)

## Unauthenticated Nature of Websites

No one is in charge of the Internet and anyone can publish a website to express anything they wish. There is no regulatory body to ensure that the information published is accurate or up-to-date, or even that the author is who he claims to be. It is therefore important to try and assess the reliability of the source whenever you are looking at information on the Web:



- **Try starting with a source you know is reputable.** For example, if you are looking for information about 'living with cancer', you may find the UK leading cancer charity [www.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org) to be a more reliable source than a commercial site.
- The **author's** name and credentials should be apparent, and you should be able to verify them with other sources. Has the author provided any contact information?
- **Is the author affiliated to any organisation?** Is there any **bias** in his information? For what purpose was the information written?
- **When was the page created?** Is it being maintained?
- **Is the information on the page primary or secondary?** Whenever a claim is made by someone, it is reasonable to ask where that person got the information from. This can be repeated until you get to the original (primary) source.

## Parental Controls of Web Access

The Internet allows all users access to a wide variety of unrestricted information, some of which might be considered offensive or unsuitable even to the most open-minded individual. Also you might wish to prevent children from accessing Web sites that contain bad language, violent or sexual content.

**Content Filters** or **Content Advisors** provide a way to help you control the types of content that your PC can access on the Internet by only

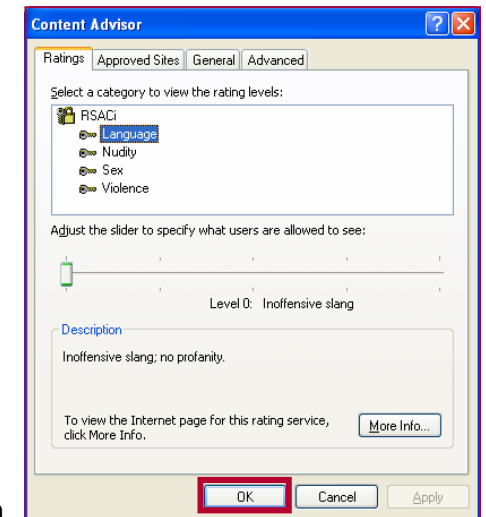
allowing access to rated content that meets or exceeds your criteria. They also allow you to set up a list of Web sites that can never be accessed regardless of their content rating.

Content advisors/filters are normally built into Web Browsers or can be purchased as separate software. All Hillingdon Libraries PCs are subject to **Websense Filtering Rules**, which differ for adult and children PCs; you can view these rules at

<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries/general/intpolicy.php>

## Enabling MS Internet Explorer's Built-In Content Advisor

1. Open the MS Internet Explorer.
2. Click on **Tools** on the Menu bar.
3. Click on **Internet Options...**
4. Click on the **Content** Tab.
5. Click on the **Enable ...** button. This will open the **Content Advisor** dialogue box. The Content Advisor will be set to the most conservative (least likely to offend) settings. To modify these settings, click on a category in the list, and move the slider to set your chosen limits.
6. Click on the **OK** button.
7. Enter your chosen password and then confirm it.
8. Enter a password hint and click on the OK button. Finally, close all open dialogue boxes.



**Note:** You can also access the **Internet Options** dialogue box from the Control Panel (Note: this function is disabled on all library PCs).