General Guidelines for References:

Electronic Sources

When preparing the References Cited list with electronic sources, each entry must include the similar parts as when referencing print sources:

1. **Author(s)**
   Who wrote the ideas and information? This can be one person or more than one person. For some general information, sometimes you can use ideas from an organization. In rare cases, you might use material written by an anonymous source. Credible web sites post the author, sometimes at the top of the article and sometimes at the bottom of the first page of a web site. If you cannot find an author for the ideas and information you use for your paper, is the information credible and convincing?

2. **Year of internet publication or last revision of web page** (and month and day, if appropriate)
   Credible web sites post the date of publication or last revision, usually at the bottom of the first page of a web site. If there is no date of publication or revision, the information is probably not credible or reliable. Why use it?

3. **Title of the author's document or particular page**
   What did the author write?

4. **Title of entire web site and the person or organization responsible for maintaining the site (if relevant)**
   Where is does this work appear? An organization's web site? A personal web site or home page? A professor's web site? A particular page might appear as part of a larger web site, so include information about the location of the entire site to help the reader understand the credibility of your source.

5. **<URL > in angle brackets**
   A reader should be able to use the same URL to get to the same site. Double check each URL. If you cannot access it, a reader will not be able to either.

6. Date accessed the site. (Very important!)

What day did you access the web site and gather the information? Readers of your work might access the web site at a later date. If the web site contains different information, it may be because the site was revised after you accessed it.

Note: Turning in a paper with a list of URLs for web sites does not provide credible or convincing evidence to support your arguments. Asking the reader to look up the URLs is like giving a reader a paper with a list of book titles without the authors or dates. Learning to use electronic sources in a credible fashion will make your papers much more convincing and credible.

Also, consult the section on "Electronic Sources" in the *Skidmore Guide to Writing* (pp. 67-68).