

# Evaluating Internet websites and Webpages



## Five criteria for evaluating web pages

| Evaluation of Web documents   | How to interpret the basics  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1. Accuracy of Web Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who wrote the page and can you contact him or her?</li> <li>• What is the purpose of the document and why was it produced?</li> <li>• Is this person qualified to write this document?</li> <li>• Are they an expert in their field?</li> </ul> | <p><b>Accuracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure author provides e-mail or a contact address/phone number.</li> <li>• Know the distinction between author and Webmaster.</li> <li>• Does the content “seem” to be accurate?</li> <li>• Are there spelling or grammar errors?</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>2. Authority of Web Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who published the document and is it separate from the "Webmaster?"</li> <li>• Check the domain of the document, what institution publishes this document?</li> <li>• Does the publisher list his or her qualifications?</li> </ul>            | <p><b>Authority</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What credentials are listed for the author(s)?</li> <li>• Where is the document published?</li> <li>• Check URL domain.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>3. Objectivity of Web Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What goals/objectives does this page meet?</li> <li>• How detailed is the information?</li> <li>• What opinions (if any) are expressed by the author?</li> <li>• Are both sides represented?</li> </ul>                                      | <p><b>Objectivity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine if page is a mask for advertising; if so, information might be biased.</li> <li>• View any Web page as you would an infomercial on television. Ask yourself why was this written and for whom?</li> </ul>                           |
| <p><b>4. Currency of Web Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When was it produced?</li> <li>• When was it updated?</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Currency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many dead links are on the page?</li> </ul>  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How up-to-date are the links (if any)?</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the links current or updated regularly?</li> <li>• Is the information on the page outdated?</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>5. Coverage of the Web Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the documents theme?</b></li> <li>• <b>Is it all images or a balance of text and images?</b></li> <li>• <b>Is the information presented cited correctly?</b></li> <li>• <b>Is the information in-depth or superficial?</b></li> </ul> | <p><b>Coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If page requires special software to view the information, how much are you missing if you don't have the software?</li> <li>• Is it free, or is there a fee, to obtain the information?</li> <li>• Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?</li> </ul> |

**So, putting this all together.....**

- **Accuracy.** If your page lists the author and institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her, and . . .
- **Authority.** If your page lists the author credentials and its domain is preferred (.edu, .gov, .org, or .net), and . . .
- **Objectivity.** If your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information, and . . .
- **Currency.** If your page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links (if any) are also up-to-date, and . . .
- **Coverage.** If you can view the information properly—not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement, then . . .

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