







Checklist for Evaluating Web Resources

Is the Internet a good research tool? Perhaps.









You should use critical analysis to determine the value of web information.

Here is a checklist for evaluating web resources to help in that determination.







Authority:

-  Is the information reliable?
-  Check the author's credentials and affiliation. Is the author an expert in the field?
-  Does the resource have a reputable organization or expert behind it?
-  Are the sources of information stated? Can you verify the information?
-  Can the author be contacted for clarification?
-  Check for organizational or author biases.



Scope:

-  Is the material at this site useful, unique, or accurate? Or is it derivative, repetitious, or doubtful?
-  Is the information available in other formats?
-  Is the purpose of the resource clearly stated? Does it fulfill its purpose?
-  What subject area, time period, formats or types of material are covered?
-  Is the information factual or opinion?
-  Does the site contain original information or simply links?
-  How frequently is the resource updated?
-  Does the site have clear and obvious pointers to new content?

Format and Presentation:

-  Is the information easy to locate? How many links does it take to get to something useful?
-  What is the quality of the graphics? Do images enhance the resource or distract from the content?
-  Is the target audience or intended user clearly indicated?
-  Is the arrangement of links uncluttered?
-  Does the site have its own search engine?
-  Is the site easily browsed or searchable?

Cost and Accessibility:

-  Is the site available on a consistent basis?
-  Is response time fast?

- ✓ How many links lead to a dead-end?
- ✓ Is this a fee-based site? Can non-members still have access to part of the site?
- ✓ Must you register a name and password before using the site?

Other Tips:

- ✓ Check the header and footer information to determine the author and source.
- ✓ In the URL, a tilde ~ usually indicates a personal web directory rather than part of the organization's official web site.
- ✓ In order to verify an author's credentials, you may need to consult some printed sources such as Who's Who in America or the Biography Index.
- ✓ Check and compare the web site to others which are both similar and different.

Citing Internet Resources:

Here is a web site you can use to help cite Internet resources:

<http://www.wtamu.edu/library/webguides/citingweb.shtml>

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