

Five Criteria for Evaluating Web Pages

Evaluation of Web documents	What does that mean?
<p>1. Accuracy of web documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who wrote the web page and can you contact him or her? What is the purpose of the document and why was it produced? Is this person qualified to write this document? 	<p>Accuracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the author provides email or a contact address/phone number Know the distinction between author and webmaster Personal pages aren't all bad, but carefully check the author's credentials before citing him/her.
<p>2. Authority of web documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who published the document and is it separate from the "Webmaster"? Check the domain of the document. What institution publishes the document? Is it a forum? Is it a wiki? If anyone can add comments and content, the site probably lacks authority. 	<p>Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What credentials are listed for the author? Anyone can post an opinion on the web. How can you be sure the author is someone worth citing? A general rule is to hold a web page author to the same standard that you expect from an someone published in a reputable book or magazine. Where is the document published? Check the URL domain. Is it and educational site (.edu)? A government site (.gov)? A non-profit organization (.org)? Or is the site associated with a commercial site for webpage hosting (aol.com, geocities.com, etc)?
<p>3. Objectivity of web documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What goals/objectives does this page meet? How detailed is the information? What opinions (if any) are expressed by the author? 	<p>Objectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine if page is a mask for advertising: if so, what information might be biased? View any webpage as an infomercial on television. Ask yourself why this article was written and for whom. Does the information represent the ideology of a known political group? How might they be biased ?
<p>4. Currency of web documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When was it produced? When was it last updated? How up-to-date are the links (if any)? 	<p>Currency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many dead links are on the page? Are the links current or updated regularly? Is the information on the page outdated?
<p>5. Coverage of the web documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the document's theme? Is it all images or a balance of text and images? Is the information presented cited corrected to the original source? 	<p>Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If page requires special software to view the information, how much are you missing if you don't have or can't download the software? Is the information free, or is there a fee to obtain the information? Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?