

Critical Evaluation of a Web Site

Content	Yes	No
As you evaluate the site, put an x in the <i>yes</i> or <i>no</i> column for each.		
Is the purpose of the page explained on the home page?		
When was the site created?		
When was the site last updated? Is the information current?		
Does up-to-date information matter for your purpose?		
Is the information useful for your purpose?		
Would the facts found elsewhere be the same in other sources?		
Does the content appear to be opinion based?		
Is a bibliography of print sources included?		
Are links to other web sites included?		
Do most of the pictures support the information on the site?		
Are Users asked any personal information?		
Are you required to register a name and password before using the site?		
Is this a fee-based site? Can non-members still have access to part of the site?		

Authority		
As you evaluate the site, put in x in the <i>yes</i> or <i>no</i> column for each question.		
Who created the web site? Read the author bio and "about us" pages on the site.		
What organization is the person associated with?		
Does the domain of the page (K12, edu, com, org, gov) influence your evaluation?		
If you do a search in newsgroups on the creator of the site, do you find additional information that shows the author is an expert in the field?		
Look for other publications by the author. Check amazon.com, the U.S. Copyright Search, or The Library of Congress.		
Check domain ownership. Do a "whois" look-up using sites such as Domain Tools. (www.domaintools.com)		
Are you able to contact the author of the site (email, phone, address)?		