

Website Evaluation Criteria

Authority: Who created the site?

- What is their authority?
 - Do they have expertise or experience with the topic?
 - What are their credentials, institutional affiliation?
- Is organizational information provided?
- Does the URL suggest a reputable affiliation with regard to the topic--personal or official site; type of Internet domain (i.e., .edu: educational institution; .org: non-profit organization; .com: commercial enterprise; .net: Internet Service Provider; .gov: governmental body; .mil: military body)?

Objectivity: Is the purpose and intention of the site clear, including any bias or particular viewpoint?

- Are the purpose and scope stated?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information clearly presented as being factual or opinion, primary or secondary in origin?
- What criteria are used for inclusion of the information?
- Is any sponsorship or underwriting fully disclosed?

Accuracy: Is the information presented accurate?

- Are the facts documented or well-researched?
- Are the facts similar to those reported in related print or other online sources?
- Are the Web resources for which links are provided quality sites?

Currency: Is the information current?

- Is the content current?
- Are the pages date-stamped with the last update?

Usability: Is the site well-designed and stable?

- Is the site organization logical and easy to maneuver?
- Is the content written at a level that is readable by the intended audience?
- Has attention been paid to presenting the information as error-free (e.g., spelling, punctuation) as possible?
- Is there a readily identifiable link back to the institutional or organizational home page?
- Is the site reliably accessible?