Evaluating Resources Worksheet

The □ indicates questions that apply specifically to Internet sources found in the research process. The other questions should be applied to any type of resource regardless of format.

Purpose:
- What is the purpose of the material?
- Who is the intended audience based on content, tone and style?
- Does this correspond to your needs?
- Do the issues addressed meet your research need? In what way:

Authority
- What is the authority or expertise of the individual or group that created this work?
- Is the author the original creator of the information (primary source)?
- Does s/he provide authoritative credentials indicating his/her occupation, years of experience, position, or education? [Google the author, group, organization].
- Is it a personal page (~ or % or “users”, “members”, “people”)? Examine the URL; Domain name is owned by:
- Is the domain appropriate for the content? (edu, com, gov/mil/us, org/net, non-US, other)
- Who mounted the information (author/producer)?
- What institution (company, government, university, etc.) or Internet provider supports this information?
- Is contact information for the author or producer included in the document?
- Is there an “About”? If there are no such links on the page, truncate the URL backwards (delete everything after each /) to get to the source.

Content:
- Accuracy/Authenticity
  -- Does the material exhibit a bias or slant?
  ― This site is informative, provides facts, data, explains …. Or does it persuade, sell, entice …?
  -- Does it have a bibliography?
- Are sources clearly stated and given appropriate credit whether original or borrowed?

- This site is authentic (not forged, not altered) and contains these well documented references:

- This site is linked in these other sites and they have this to say about it: [Hint: in Google, AltaVista, search: link:all or part of the url]

- This site is also found in these subject directories [go to Identifying Scholarly Web Sites]:

- This information can be verified in this/these other non-Web source(s):

- After careful examination I discovered this site is a spoof, parody, satire, ironic [see: Dihydrogen Monoxide Research Division]

- **Comprehensiveness**

  - What is the depth of coverage? Does it cover a specific time period or aspect of the topic, or does it strive to be comprehensive?

  - This site gives a balanced perspective; is biased; provides links to other viewpoints; omits an important aspect …?

  - Are there additional print and electronic sources to complement the information?

- **Currency**

  - What is the publication date of the work?

  - What is the latest edition available?

  - When was the material last updated?

  - Is the material on the page current?

- **Links**

  - Are there links to other resources? Do they work?

  - Are the links relevant and appropriate?

  - Are the links given the best available?

- **Style and Functionality:**

  - Is the material laid out clearly and logically with well organized subsections?

  - Is the writing style appropriate for the intended audience?

  - Is there an index?
- Is the extent of the index appropriate to the size and depth of the resource?

- How detailed is the Table of Contents?

  - Is the site easy to navigate?

    - Does it have clearly labeled Back, Go to Top icons/links?

    - Are there internal indexing links on lengthy pages?

  - Do the links to remote sites all work?

  - Does it have searching capabilities if the site is extensive?

- What is the quality of graphics, illustrations or multimedia?

More help with evaluating Web resources

- **Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply & Questions to Ask**, UC Berkeley - Teaching Library Internet Workshops [http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html)


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