

EVALUATING INTERNET WEBSITES & WEBPAGES



Five criteria for evaluating Web pages	
Evaluation of Web documents	How to interpret the basics
1. Accuracy of Web Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who wrote the 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? Are they an expert in their field? 	Accuracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure author provides e-mail or a contact address/phone number. Know the distinction between author and Webmaster. Does the content “seem” to be accurate? Are there spelling or grammar errors?
2. Authority of Web Documents <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 this document? Does the publisher list his or her qualifications? 	Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What credentials are listed for the author(s)? Where is the document published? Check URL domain.
3. Objectivity of Web Documents <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? Are both sides represented? 	Objectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine if page is a mask for advertising; if so information might be biased. View any Web page as you would an infomercial on television. Ask yourself why was this written and for whom?
4. Currency of Web Documents	Currency

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was it produced? • When was it updated? • How up-to-date are the links (if any)? 	<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 • Is the information on the page outdated?
5. Coverage of the Web Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the documents theme? • Is it all images or a balance of text and images? • Is the information presented cited correctly? • Is the information in-depth or superficial? 	Coverage <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 the software? • Is it 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?
So putting this all together..... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy. If your page lists the author and institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her, and . . . • Authority. If your page lists the author credentials and its domain is preferred (.edu, .gov, .org, or .net), and . . . • Objectivity. If your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information, and . . . • Currency. If your page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links (if any) are also up-to-date, and . . . • Coverage. If you can view the information properly—not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement, then . . . 	