



Criteria for Evaluating Web Documents



Criteria	Questions to Ask:	Tips to Help You:
1. Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How reliable and free from error is this web page? • Who wrote this page? • Are there editors and fact checkers? • Are the research results valid? • Are these numbers and facts accurate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the spelling • Make sure the author provides an address/phone number or e-mail. • Know the distinction between an author and a Webmaster • Look for a bibliography or a list of resources used.
2. Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who published or sponsored this web document? • Is it an organization, an institution, an individual? • What are their qualifications? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check in the header or footer of a web page for name of an author or institution who published document. • Check the web address domain (.edu, .gov, .org,) for type of web page. • Find a list of credentials of author • Expertise in field • Is it part of an official document with link to a main page. • Check About Us or click on logo to find this info.
3. Objectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose, goal, or mission of the site? • Is there a bias? Are they trying to persuade the audience? • Is it a mask for advertising? • Why was this written and for whom? • Did they leave some of the information out or focus on only the positive or negative? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for the mission statement, or listed objectives for this web site • Check About Us link or our goals link on main page. • .org domain usually have a reason for presenting material. • .com are commercial sites • .edu indicates an educational institution • .gov identifies government sites

4. Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was this written? • When was it updated? • Are the links up-to-date? • How recent are the facts and figures? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date produced, copyrighted or revised listed at header or footer. • Check currency of material(census data, reports, research) • Click on links to see if they are dead links.
5. Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they tell you enough? • Do they provide sufficient data or evidence? • Do they go into enough detail and depth? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the links evaluated and do they closely relate to the topic of the web site? • Is the page only a list to other links to other web sites? • Is it free or is there a fee for information? • Does it require special software to view the information?