



Wichita State University Libraries

Evaluating Internet Sites

Use this checklist to help you evaluate the quality and reliability of Internet sites.

Author and Site Sponsor	Yes	No	Can't tell
Is there an identifiable author? Check the top or the bottom of the page.			
Can you determine if the author is an authority in the field? Are his/her qualifications clearly stated--professor? doctor? other professional?			
Does the author include his/her e-mail or other address to allow questions or comments about the site?			
Is the producer or sponsor of the site clearly identified? Check the top or bottom of the page for logos or links to pages that discuss the sponsor.			
Is the sponsor an individual? a company? a government agency? a university? a political organization? a religious group? Does this make a difference in how you look at the information provided?			
Can you tell if the sponsor has a particular political or philosophical stance?			

Content	Yes	No	Can't tell
Is the intended audience for the site clearly identified or defined?			
Is the scope or purpose of the site clearly stated?			
Is the text well-written? Is it free of grammatical and spelling errors?			
Is the provided information accurate?			
Is the subject matter covered adequately?			
Does the information seem to have any political or ideological biases?			
Is the content valuable to you as a researcher?			
Does the site make a unique contribution to knowledge on this topic?			
Are links to related sites provided?			
Are the links relevant to the subject?			
Can you tell whether links were evaluated before being included?			

Currency	Yes	No	Can't tell
Is the information provided up-to-date?			
Can you tell when the site was created? Check the bottom of the page.			
Has the site been updated recently?			
Are the links reliable, taking you to active sites?			

Design	Yes	No	Can't tell
Can you tell from the first page how the site is organized?			
Is it well-organized, with clear and descriptive headings and sub-headings?			
Are individual pages concise, with a minimum of scrolling required?			
Is it easy to move around and locate information on the site?			
Do all the parts work?			
Are graphics used effectively?			
Are instructions for use provided if they are needed?			
Are links clearly visible and explanatory?			
Are they grouped logically?			
Is there a link back to the home page on each supporting page?			
Would it have been easier to get this information from a book or periodical?			

Access	Yes	No	Can't tell
Is it usually possible to reach the site without experiencing frequent delays or unavailability?			
Is the site stable--is it still there each time you go back to use it?			
Does the page load quickly?			
Is access free, or is there a cost involved?			
Are passwords required?			

Other	Yes	No	Can't tell
Has the site received an award? An award is usually highlighted on the page.			
Do you think it compares favorably to other sites on the same topic?			