

Web Page Evaluation Quick Checklist

Title of Website: _____

| | |
|--|--|
| Examine the URL | |
| Is it a personal page? (i.e., no official sanction) <i>Sometimes there is a personal name in the URL. This is often preceded by a tilde ~</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the page/site owned by an organization? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Which domain extension does the site have? <i>Consider whether this is appropriate to the content of the site</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> .com <input type="checkbox"/> .org <input type="checkbox"/> .ca <input type="checkbox"/> .edu <input type="checkbox"/> .gov <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| Authority | |
| Is there a named author(s)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are the authors' credentials indicated? <i>If not check them out! Try searching for the author on Google</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the author an expert in the field? <i>Check to see if he/she has published widely in the field. You could use an appropriate bibliographic database to help you investigate.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient details |
| Are the author/organization's contact details given? <i>This will be useful if any information needs to be verified.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Currency | |
| Is a publication date given? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If so, how recent is it? | |
| Is there an indication of when the information was last updated? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Quality / Reliability | |
| Are the sources of the information identified, referenced and cited? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| What is the character of the information? | <input type="checkbox"/> Factual <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion <input type="checkbox"/> Combination of both |

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Is the site well laid out and easily navigable? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the writing style informed /scholarly and appropriate for an academic audience? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are the provided links appropriate and active? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the information available in a different format? (e.g., as a published report, factsheet, etc.) <i>This may give some general indication of quality.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does it all add up? | | |
| What is the overall purpose of the page? <i>Does this purpose match your requirements for the information?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Inform, provide facts or data | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertain |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Explain | <input type="checkbox"/> Sell |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Persuade | |
| <p>The bottom line: <i>In your opinion is the information of comparable quality to the information that you will find in a journal article, book, or other conventionally published source?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If YES: you should be able to use the information with confidence.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If NO: LOOK ELSEWHERE!</i></p> | | |

Source:

Gaunt, Jessica, Nigel Morgan, Rowland Somers, Rosemary Soper, and Erica Swain. *Handbook for Information Literacy Teaching*. Cardiff, Wales: Cardiff University, 2007.

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/insrv/educationandtraining/infolit/hilt/index.html> (accessed January 14, 2009)

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Questions? Ask me!

Office hours: 14:00-16:00 Leacock 541