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# Five criteria for evaluating Web pages

Evaluation of Web documents	How to interpret the basics
<p>1. Accuracy of Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who wrote the page and can you contact him or her?</li> <li>What is the purpose of the document and why was it produced?</li> <li>Is this person qualified to write this document?</li> </ul>	<p>Accuracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure author provides e-mail or a contact address/phone number.</li> <li>Know the distinction between author and Webmaster.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Authority of Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who published the document and is it separate from the "Webmaster?"</li> <li>Check the domain of the document, what institution publishes this document?</li> <li>Does the publisher list his or her qualifications?</li> </ul>	<p>Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What credentials are listed for the authors)?</li> <li>Where is the document published? Check URL domain.</li> </ul>
<p>3. Objectivity of Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What goals/objectives does this page meet?</li> <li>How detailed is the information?</li> <li>What opinions (if any) are expressed by the author?</li> </ul>	<p>Objectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine if page is a mask for advertising; if so information might be biased.</li> <li>View any Web page as you would an infommercial on television. Ask yourself: why was this written and for whom?</li> </ul>
<p>4. Currency of Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When was it produced?</li> <li>When was it updated?</li> <li>How up-to-date are the links (if any)?</li> </ul>	<p>Currency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many dead links are on the page?</li> <li>Are the links current or updated regularly?</li> <li>Is the information on the page outdated?</li> </ul>
<p>5. Coverage of the Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the documents' themes?</li> <li>Is it all images or a balance of text</li> </ul>	<p>Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If page requires special software to view the information, how much are you missing if you don't have the software?</li> <li>Is it free or is there a fee to obtain the</li> </ul>

<p>and images?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the information presented cited correctly?</li></ul>	<p>information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?</li></ul>
<p><b>Putting it all together</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Accuracy.</b> If your page lists the author and institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her and . . .</li><li>• <b>Authority.</b> If your page lists the author credentials and its domain is preferred (.edu, .gov, .org, or .net), and, . . .</li><li>• <b>Objectivity.</b> If your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information, and . . .</li><li>• <b>Currency.</b> If your page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links (if any) are also up-to-date, and . . .</li><li>• <b>Coverage.</b> If you can view the information properly--not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement, then . . .</li></ul> <p>You may have a Web page that could be of value to your research!</p>	

FROM: Kapoun, Jim. "Teaching undergrads WEB evaluation: A guide for library instruction." C&RL News (July/August 1998): 522-523.

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