

Checklist for Evaluating an Internet Site

_____ Name

Title: _____

URL: _____

Date Accessed: _____

AUTHORITY	YES	NO
Is the creator/author of the page clearly indicated? (If yes, identify)		
Are the author's qualifications and reputation in the subject provided? List them.		
Does the website contain contact information to verify the content?		
Has the site been rated by a reputable rating group? (If yes, identify)		

ACCURACY	YES	NO
Was the website well researched? Explain		
Can the information on the website be verified using another source?		
Is there documentation to indicate the sources of information?		
Did you reach this site from a reputable link?		

OBJECTIVITY/BIAS	YES	NO
What is the purpose of the site (to inform, to advertise, to persuade)? Comment.		
Does a particular organization sponsor the page? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are they? What does this tell you about the page's purpose? 		
Is the information free of advertising?		
Who is the intended audience of this site?		

Is there any indication of bias on the site? Explain.		
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What does the DOMAIN address tell you about the site?			
.edu	Educational site (university or college)	~	A personal web page
.gov	Government site	.uk	British site
.org	Organization or advocacy group	.ca	Canadian site
.com	Business or commercial organization	.au	Australia

CURRENCY	YES	NO
When was the web site written?		
When was the web site last revised?		
Is the information current or out-of-date? Explain.		

COVERAGE (CONTENT)	YES	NO
Is the information on the website useful for your research?		
Does the site have links to other reliable sites on the topic?		
Do the links work? (Or, are they out of date?)		

OVERALL EVALUATION

After looking at all the criteria above, circle a general rating for the site:

Excellent

Good

Acceptable

Unacceptable

Would you recommend this site for research? Explain.

Adapted from:

(2003) *Student Research Guide—Library and Learning Resources*.
Toronto: Toronto District School Board, 21.