

Web Page Evaluation Checklist

The column on the left lists questions to ask to investigate web pages.

Evaluating Web pages requires two actions:

- be suspicious
- think critically about every page you find

	Title of page you are evaluating:	Title of page you are evaluating:
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1. Look at the URL:

Personal page or site?	<input type="checkbox"/> ~ or %, or <i>users, members, or people</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> ~ or %, or <i>users, members, or people</i>
What type of domain is it? Appropriate for the content?	<input type="checkbox"/> com <input type="checkbox"/> org/net <input type="checkbox"/> edu <input type="checkbox"/> gov/mil/us <input type="checkbox"/> non-US _____ <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> com <input type="checkbox"/> org/net <input type="checkbox"/> edu <input type="checkbox"/> gov/mil/us <input type="checkbox"/> non-US _____ <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
Published by entity that makes sense? Does it correspond to the name of the site?	Publisher or Domain Name entity:	Publisher or Domain Name entity:

2. Scan the perimeter of page, looking for answers to these questions:

Who wrote the page?	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Name: _____
Dated?	Date _____ Current enough?	Date _____ Current enough?
Credentials on this subject? <small>(Truncate back the URL if no useful links.)</small>	Evidence?	Evidence?

3. Look for these indicators of quality

Sources well documented?		
Complete? If 2nd-hand information, is it not altered or forged?		
Links to more resources? Do they work?		
Other viewpoints? Bias?		

4. What do others say?

Who links to it? <small>Hint: In Google search: <i>link:all.or.part.of.url</i></small>	Many or few? Opinions of it?	Many or few? Opinions of it?
Is the page rated well in a directory? <small>http://lii.org or http://infomine.ucr.edu or http://about.com</small>		
Look up the author in Google		

Does it all add up?

Why was the page put on the Web?	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform, facts, data <input type="checkbox"/> Explain <input type="checkbox"/> Persuade <input type="checkbox"/> Sell <input type="checkbox"/> Entice <input type="checkbox"/> Share/disclose Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform, facts, data <input type="checkbox"/> Explain <input type="checkbox"/> Persuade <input type="checkbox"/> Sell/entice <input type="checkbox"/> Share/disclose Other: _____
Possibly ironic? Satire or parody?		

BOTTOM LINE: Is the web page as good as (or better than) what you could find in journal articles or other published literature that is not on the free, general web?