

# 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 infomercial 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• Is the information on the page outdated?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 Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the documents' theme?</li> <li>• Is it all images or a balance of text and images?</li> <li>• Is the information presented cited correctly?</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 information?</li> <li>• Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?</li> </ul>

## Putting it all together

**Accuracy.** If your page lists the author and institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her and ...

**Authority.** If your page lists the author credentials and its domain is preferred (.edu, .gov, .org, or .net), and ...

**Objectivity.** If your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information, and ...

**Currency.** If your Page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links (if any) are also up-to-date, and ...

**Coverage.** If you can view the information properly—not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement, then ...

**You may have a Web page that could be of value to your research!**