

## Website Evaluation Components

**Write a critique of the website, to include:**

- Strengths
- Weaknesses/Limitations
- Best use/Why (what does it do, well)
- Overall effectiveness of the site as a learning tool
- Why would you recommend, or not recommend, the website?
- How would you rate/evaluate the text of the website?
  - Holding your attention:
  - Meaning/message:
  - Pictures/drawings:
- Overall rating of the website (what/why)

(Summary should be informative and noteworthy for presenting a clear opinion. With your permission, excerpts of your website evaluation may be included in a future TAH newsletter.)

### Elements of a Comprehensive evaluation

Use the following comprehensive questions to review and critique a website.

Site Name and URL:

#### **Accuracy:**

1. Does the author cite sources used to develop the site?
2. Is it possible to verify the legitimacy of these sources?
3. Does the background of the author point to knowledge of the subject covered?
4. If the site is research-based, does the author clearly identify the method of research and the data gathered?
5. What information in this site leads you to believe or disbelieve its accuracy?

#### **Authority:**

1. Do you recognize the author's name?
2. If you don't recognize the name, what type of information is given about the author? Position? Organizational affiliation? E-mail address? Biographical information?
3. Was the site referenced in a document that you trust?
4. Do you consider the author of the site to be an expert of the subject covered? Why or Why not?

**Objectivity:**

1. Determine the aim of the author or organization publishing the site.
2. What is the purpose of the web site: Is it advertisement for a product or service? Is it for political purposes? Is it trying to sway your opinion about an issue? Or?
3. Do you trust the author or organization providing the information? Why?
4. Can you determine the real purpose of the site?
5. What is it and how did you determine the purpose?

**Currency:**

1. Is the date clearly displayed?
2. Can you determine what the date refers to? When the page was first written?
3. When the page was first posted on the Internet?
4. When the page was last revised or updated?
5. The copyright date?
6. Are the resources used by the author current?
7. Does the page content demand routine or continual updating or revision?
8. Do the links on the page point to the correct Internet site addresses?

**Coverage:**

1. Are the topics on the site explored in depth?
2. Are the links on the site comprehensive or used as examples?
3. On the site, are the links relevant and appropriate?
4. How valuable is the information provided?
5. Do you consider the information on this site to be relevant and comprehensive? Why or Why not?

Credits: Material was designed and developed by Jennifer Sharkey, Asst. Professor of Library Science, Purdue University Libraries- 11/04

“Evaluating Sources & Sites on the Web & Internet: a tutorial: <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/InternetEval/>”