

Evaluating Web Pages

Student “Checklist”

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Thinking Critically About World Wide Web Resources:

www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/critical/index.htm

Steve Grant’s “Evaluation Short List”...

- *Is this the kind of information I need? Is it valuable for my needs?*
 - ✓ Is it “on target” for my topic? Is it relevant to what I really need to know?
 - ✓ Can I read it well enough to understand it?
- *Sufficient? Enough information to be useful?*
 - ✓ Merely a list of links, or does it have content?
 - ✓ Just a “sampler”, or “in-depth”?
- *New information? Anything I don’t already know or have from another source?*
- *Who’s the intended audience? What’s the purpose of this page?*
 - ✓ Trying to sell me something?
 - ✓ What other pages link to this one?
 - To find out, use Google’s (Advanced Search) “Link to:”
- *Who wrote it? Why should I believe them?*
 - ✓ If they quote or cite information from other sources, do they cite those sources in such a way that I could go find them if I wanted to?
 - If they’re Web sources, author should provide a hyperlink.

- ✓ Author's job title or credentials?
- ✓ What else has he/she written?
 - Try doing keyword search on author's name
- *Is contact information with the author provided?*
 - ✓ Hotlink to his/her email is good; snailmail and/or phone is better
- *Is the page associated with reputable institution?*
 - ✓ University, publisher, well-known/respected organization
- *Does the information seem biased? If so, can I still use any of it?*
- *How current is the page?*
 - ✓ Look for date created or revised
- *Do all its hyperlinks work?*
- *Are there spelling and or grammar errors?*