

WWW EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Unlike most books and periodicals, which go through a filtering process (i.e., editing, peer review), information on the World Wide Web is mostly unfiltered. So, using and citing information found on the Web is a little like swimming on a beach without a lifeguard. Within the three main parts of a Web document – header, body, and footer – you can assess the following elements:

- author or contact person (usually located in the footer)
- link to local home page (usually located in either the header or footer)
- institution (usually located in header or footer)
- date of creation or revision (usually located in footer)
- intended audience (determined by examining the body)
- purpose of the information, i.e., does it inform, explain, or persuade? (determined by examining the body)

Find these on each page of promising information and evaluate it based on the following "WWW Evaluation Checklist:"

AUTHOR

1. Who is the author of the document? Write the author here:
2. Is the author the original creator of the information?
 Yes No Can't tell
3. Does he or she list his or her occupation, years of experience, position, or education? If so, list here:
4. With this information or lack of it, do you feel this person is qualified to write on the topic?
 Yes No If yes, why?

LOCAL INSTITUTION OR HOME PAGE

5. What institution (company, government, university, etc.) or Internet provider supports this information?
6. If it is a commercial Internet provider, does the author appear to have any affiliation with a larger institution?
 Yes No
7. If it is an institution, is it a national one? Yes No
8. Does the institution appear to filter the information appearing under its name?
 Yes No
9. Does the author's affiliation with this particular institution appear to bias the information?
 Yes No

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

10. When was the information created or last updated?
11. What appears to be the purpose for this information? (explain)
 Inform Explain Persuade Other

CONCLUSION

12. Given all the information you determined from above, is this document appropriate for your topic? Yes No
If yes, explain why, including any reservations you might have.