

Website Evaluation Guide

GHSON LIBRARY

UPDATE 2011

PLEASED

Are you pleased with this website?

P-- Purpose

What is the author's purpose?

L-- Links

Are the links active? Do they work? Are the sites that they link to reliable?

E-- Editorial

Is the information at this site accurate, comprehensive, and current? Objective? What audience was the site designed for? Professionals students, children, consumers?

A-- Author

Who is the author of the site and are they reliable? Are their credentials identified and appropriate?

S-- Site

Is this site attractive and the information clearly presented? Is it easy to navigate? Do the graphics load quickly? Can you search through the site efficiently?

E-- Ethical

Is it easy to tell if the site is commercial? Is author and developer information in plain site or do you have to sift through the site to find it? Is it professional? Is the aim of the site easily apparent?

D-- Date

Is the site current? When was it last updated?

Websites to Help Evaluate Websites

Cramer, S. (2007). *Evaluating web pages*. Duke University Libraries. Retrieved from <http://library.duke.edu/services/instruction/libraryguide/evalwebpages.html>

Kirk, E. E. (2011). *Evaluating information found on the Internet*. Sheridan Libraries; John Hopkins University. Retrieved from <http://guides.library.jhu.edu/evaluatinginformation>

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (2011). *Evaluating web-based health resources*. National Institutes of Health. Retrieved from <http://nccam.nih.gov/health/webresources/>

National Library of Medicine (2010). *MedlinePlus guide to healthy web surfing*. National Institute of Health. Retrieved from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthywebsurfing.html>

Sebeck, R. (2011). *Evaluating web information*. University Libraries; Virginia Tech. Retrieved from <http://www.lib.vt.edu/instruct/evaluate/>

University of California at Berkley Library (2011). *Evaluating web pages: Techniques to apply & questions to ask*. Retrieved from <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

Charts & Checklists

Cornell University Library; Olin & Uris Libraries (2010). *Evaluating web sites: Criteria and tools*. Retrieved from <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/webeval.html>

Health on the Net Foundation (2008). *HON code of conduct (HONcode) for medical and health web sites*. Retrieved from www.hon.ch/HONcode/HONcode_check.html

Ohio State University Libraries (2008). *Evaluating web sites > checklist*. Retrieved from <http://liblearn.osu.edu/tutor/les1/checklist.html>

4. <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/diabetes-diet/DA00077>

3. **Your diabetes diet: Exchange lists**

Your diabetes eating plan can help you control your blood sugar level. Use diabetes exchange lists to make sure you're getting a proper mix of calories, carbohydrates and other nutrients.

2. May 4, 2010

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Author: Find the author or responsible person, company or organization. This information can generally be found under the title or at the bottom of the webpage. This example was unusual as it listed it twice on the webpage. Use the copyright owner if a specific author is not named.

Date: Look for a specific date. Sometimes it can be found at the beginning of the article with the article title and author. Use the "Updated on" date, if available, or the copyright date.

Title: Generally, the title is clear. If there appear to be multiple titles or a title with a subtitle, use what best describes the information that is presented.

Website address: Copy and paste the web address from the address window at the top of your browser. This provides the best direct link back to the information. If the information was printed, many times the web address can be found on the bottom of the print out.

Citing a Website in APA Format Example:

Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. (2010). *Your diabetes diet: Exchange lists*. Retrieved from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/diabetes-diet/DA00077>

The colors are for the example only to help identify the different parts needed to correctly cite in APA format. The font color for your citation(s) should be black.

Website Evaluation Checklist

✓	Ask yourself	Answer or Example
	Is the site relevant to your topic?	
	Is the domain appropriate for your topic?	
	What is the intent of the site?	
	To inform and educate	
	To sell something	
	To persuade the reader	
	To entertain as satire or parody?	
	Is the overall content well organized?	
	Is the site easy to navigate?	
	Is the author/publisher clearly identified?	
	Does the author/publisher have appropriate credentials?	
	Is there contact information for the author/publisher?	
	Is the site current /up-to-date?	
	Is the content biased or slanted?	
	Are there working links or references to related professional sources?	

Check for More Information About Your Site

Go to alexa.com, add the site URL and click "Get details"	
In a search engine such as Google or Yahoo, type in "link:"+the site URL, example: link+ http://www.hon.ch/home1.html	
Check the site in a reputable directory that evaluates its contents, such as ip12, www.lii.org , Infomine, About.com, etc.	
See which blogs link to it at blogsearch.google.com . Are they reliable?	
Google the author/publisher	

Keep in mind—That no matter how great a site looks, no matter how professionally done, or how many bells and whistles, if the authorship is not objective and fact based, it is NOT a good source for your research.