

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"> • Who wrote the page and can you contact him or her? • What is the purpose of the document and why was it produced? • Is this person qualified to write this document? 	<p>Accuracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure author provides e-mail or a contact address/phone number. • Know the distinction between author and Webmaster.
<p>2. Authority of Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who published the document and is it separate from the "Webmaster?" • Check the domain of the document, what institution publishes this document? • Does the publisher list his or her qualifications? 	<p>Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What credentials are listed for the author? • Where is the document published? • What is the URL domain? <p>Every domain name has a suffix that indicates the type of institution it represents.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .gov - Government agencies • .edu - Educational institutions • .com - Commercial business • .org - Organizations (nonprofit) • .mil - Military (see reverse for more examples)
<p>3. Objectivity of Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What goals/objectives does this page meet? • How detailed is the information? • What opinions (if any) are expressed by the author? 	<p>Objectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if page is a mask for advertising; if so information might be biased. • View any Web page as you would an infomercial on television. Ask yourself why was this written and for whom?
<p>4. Currency of Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was it produced? • When was it updated? • How up-to-date are the links (if any)? 	<p>Currency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many dead links are on the page? • Are the links current or updated regularly? • Is the information on the page outdated?
<p>5. Coverage of the Web Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the documents' theme? • Is it all images or a balance of text and images? • Is the information presented cited correctly? 	<p>Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If page requires special software to view the information, how much are you missing if you don't have the software? • Is it free or is there a fee, to obtain the information? • Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?
<p>Putting it all together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 requirements 	

URL (Uniform Resource Locator) is a four-part addressing scheme that tells us how and where to locate the file.

Example:

http://www.lacitycollege.edu/resource/library/websearch.html

The diagram shows the URL **http://www.lacitycollege.edu/resource/library/websearch.html** with four parts identified by arrows and labels below:

- protocol**: points to **http://**
- domain name**: points to **www.lacitycollege.edu**
- pathname**: points to **/resource/library/**
- file name**: points to **websearch.html**

Most common domain name suffixes

.gov	government agencies				
.edu	educational institutions				
.com	commercial business				
.org	nonprofit organizations				
.mil	military				
.ac	academic (similar to .edu)				
.us	state and local governments, schools and community colleges				
.az.us	Arizona state and local governments, schools and community colleges				
.ca.us	California state and local governments, schools and community colleges				
.aero	air transport industry (new)				
.biz	businesses (new)				
.net	network organization				
.pro	professionals, like lawyers, physicians or accountants (new)				
.cn	China	.ca	Canada	.jp	Japan
.ru	Russia	.es	Spain	.mx	Mexico
.uk	United Kingdom (Great Britain)	.gov.mx	governmental, Mexico		
.gov.uk	governmental, United Kingdom	.org.mx	nonprofit organization, Mexico		
.edu.uk	educational, United Kingdom	.edu.mx	educational, Mexico		
.ac.uk	academic, United Kingdom	.com.mx	commercial, Mexico		
.edu.ca	educational, Canada	.gov.ru	governmental, Russia		
.ac.jp	academic, Japan	.edu.es	educational, Spain		