



Evaluating Internet Sites

The Internet consists of various information resources. Many of these are well documented, supported by facts and published through reputable sources. Others are not. This diversity makes it important to evaluate Internet resources carefully before including them with other research sources. The checklist below provides a three step process to assist with evaluating Internet sites.

■ Identify Publication Source

-Conduct "URL Analysis" to identify document's origin/publisher

Analyze a site's url as follows:

Host site identification/personal directory/file name
Http://www.svsu.edu/~mel/evaltip.html

Common site identification domain endings

.com– indicates a commercial site (www.dow.com)
.edu– indicates an education site (www.svsu.edu)
.gov– indicates a government site (www.ed.gov)
.org– indicates an organization site (www.mla.org)

■ Locate Bibliographic Information

-Locate essential document information

Title
Author (are credentials listed?)
Publication/Revision/Updated date
Email address or other form of contact information

■ Conduct a Content Analysis

-analyze document's content by identifying
Intended audience (who is the information aimed at?)
Accuracy (is the source of information provided?)
Fact vs. Opinion
Coverage (in-depth vs limited aspects)