

CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING EDUCATIONAL WEB SITES

Please use the following checklist to aid in your evaluation of educational web sites. Once completed, 80% of the boxes should be checked off. If not you may want to consider whether or not to use the site as more than reference.

CONTENT

- Content is free from commercial, political, gender, or racial bias.
- The web site's stated curricular goals, objectives, and motives should match its content.
- If the content is based upon personal opinion, the author should make it known to the reader.
- The content contains a neutral or positive tone.
- The scope of information is stated.
- Clearly states the academic level of target audience.
- Contains content and activities that match the academic level of the web site's target audience.
- Recognizes that students learn in different ways.

CREDIBILITY

- Author has appropriate credentials to author the content of the web site.
- Author's name, email/contact info, or address/phone number is provided.
- The educational credentials or expertise of the author is stated on web site.
- The web master/web designer is credible and provides contact information.
- Author responds to queries about the web site's content.
- Web site should state the educational background of the author.
- Web site should distinguish between the author of the content and the designer of the web site because lack of accurate information can be masked by the 'print' of an expert web designer or web master.
- The web site's information clearly matches the web site's intended purpose.
- Web site is free from grammatical and typographical errors.

CURRENCY

- ❑ Evaluated links complement the web site's content.
- ❑ Affiliations with other educational organizations/companies are stated.
- ❑ Check the web site address or URL/domain to locate the organizational source of the web site.
- ❑ Web site clearly indicates the publishing date as well as when the content was last updated.
- ❑ The information is cited properly to allow access to a larger information base.

DESIGN

- ❑ The use of graphics and colors enhance the web site's information.
- ❑ There is a balance of text and graphics corresponding to the ability of the audience.
- ❑ Home page contains direct links to all other parts of the web site.
- ❑ Useful content is no more than 3 clicks away from home page.
- ❑ All links are kept current and active and the links take user to valid and appropriate content.

Each page or section on the web site is clearly labeled.

ACCESSIBILITY

- ❑ Any special software requirements to view web site's content is stated clearly.
- ❑ Web site has text-only option to accommodate visually impaired users.
- ❑ Web site loading time is minimal/web designer informs the user of length of download time.
- ❑ Access to content should be free – user should not have to pay a fee or provide personal information (name, e-mail address) to gain access to educational content.