Internet Evaluation Criteria

Authority / Source

- Is there an identified author of the web site or page?
- Is contact information, i.e., an e-mail address, given for the author?
- Are the credentials of the author stated? Is the author an expert in his/her field or affiliated with a reputable organization, institution, or company?
- Is this site sponsored by an organization? If so, is the purpose and scope of the organization given? Is a phone number and surface mail address given for the organization, in addition to an e-mail address?

Accuracy

- Does the page use correct spelling and grammar? Is the writing clear and concise?
- Is the information presented verifiable and accurate? Is there a bibliography?

Objectivity / Bias

- Does the site have a bias?
- Is there a commercial or organizational interest associated with the site?
- Are there advertisements on the page? Is the page actually an ad disguised as information?
- Is the site based on verifiable facts or opinions?
- Are inflammatory words, phrases or profanity used in the site?
- Are misleading or deceptive arguments used?
- Are stereotypes or ethnocentric arguments used?

Currency / Date

- How current is the information?
- When was the site or page last updated?
- Does the site or page aim to provide current information or is it primarily for historical purposes?
- Are there “broken” links?
- Is the information timely in relation to the content?
- If the site or page provides time sensitive information, is the frequency of updates posted?

Coverage / Content

- How complete and thorough is the coverage of the information presented?
- If the site claims to provide scholarly research, are references available?
- Is there original content or is the page just a collection of links?