QUICK WEBSITE EVALUATOR

Evaluate a website using the following step-by-step process to see if you should use it as a resource. The following questions should be asked about the site.

Is there an author’s name or the name of the sponsoring organization?

Is the date the site was last revised or updated provided?

Does the site answer your question clearly and thoroughly?

Stop! If you were not able to answer yes to EACH of the first three questions above, don’t use this website for your research. If you did answer yes, continue to determine its quality by looking at each of the following elements. Each one is important to consider but not essential. A usable website will have a few of the elements and the superior site will have nearly all of them.

Is the purpose of the site clearly stated or is the information within it biased or misleading? Does that compromise its usefulness?

Are the author’s credentials indicating their expertise provided?

Is there a comprehensive list of references that substantiate the information presented? (This would be the equivalent of a works cited page).

Is contact information for the author and/or organization given?

Are spelling and grammar correct?

Is the site well organized and easy to navigate?

Are all links at the site functional?

Are there few or no pages under construction?