



Thinking Critically about Discipline-Based World Wide Web Resources

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The World Wide Web has a lot to offer, but not all sources are equally valuable or reliable. [Thinking Critically About World Wide Web Resources](#) offers some basic points to consider. Here are additional points to consider regarding Web sites for subject disciplines.

Content & Evaluation

- Does the site claim to represent a group, an organization, an institution, a corporation or a governmental body?
- Does the site offer a selected list of resources in a particular discipline or field or does it claim to offer a complete list? (**Note:** *Be sure to check with a librarian on the range of information resources in a particular discipline.*)
 - Does the site refer to print and other non-Internet resources or just Internet resources?
 - If a selected list is offered, are criteria provided describing how the list of resources was chosen?
 - Is an explanation provided for use of particular criteria?
- Does the site claim to describe or provide the results of research or scholarly effort?
 - Are sufficient references provided to other works, to document hypotheses, claims or assertions?
 - Are references cited fully?
 - Can the results be refuted or verified through other means--e.g., by use of library-related research tools?
- Is any sort of third-party financial or other support or sponsorship evident?
- Is advertising included at the site, and if so, has it had an impact on the content?
- Does the site combine educational, research & scholarly information with commercial or non-commercial product or service marketing?

Source & Date

- Who designed the criteria used in selecting items for this site (if any), and who selected the items listed?
- Is the site officially or unofficially sponsored or supported by particular groups, organizations, institutions, corporations or governmental bodies?
- Can the researchers, scholars, groups, organizations, institutions, corporations or governmental bodies listed as authors, sponsors or supporters, be verified as such, and what are their qualifications?
- How up to date is the study or the site?

Structure

- Are results of research studies reported in the style expected for that discipline?
- Are references provided in the style normally used for documentation in that discipline?

Other

- Is there a fee for use of access to any of the information provided at this site, or is all information at this site freely available?
- Are there options for text only, non-frames and non-tables views of this Web site?
- Is alternative text provided for images, to guide the visually-impaired?

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Comments to: [College Library Web Administrator](#)

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