

## Evaluating Web Sites: What criteria can help us determine whether a Web site contains useful information?

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### **What is the topic of my project and why have I chosen this topic?**

Before we can use information found in web sites on the Internet, we need to evaluate the quality of the sites found. This is a project to examine and compare Internet web sites dealing with the evaluation of other web sites. I have selected sites that present some criteria for helping us determine whether a Web page contains useful information or not. From these sites I have developed my own set of criteria for evaluating web sites. Finally I have ranked the sites according to these criteria.

### **Here are some web pages that were relevant to my topic:**

1. Evaluating Web Sites: Criteria and Tools  
Cornell University Library  
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/okuref/research/webeval.html>
2. Evaluating Information Found on the Internet  
The Sheridan Libraries of The Johns Hopkins University  
<http://www.library.jhu.edu/elp/useit/evaluate/>
3. Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply & Questions to Ask  
UC Berkeley Library  
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>
4. Five criteria for evaluating Web pages  
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/okuref/webcrit.html>
5. Evaluating Quality on the Net  
by Hope N. Tillman, Director of Libraries, Babson College, Babson Park,  
Massachusetts final version - March 2003  
<http://www.hopetillman.com/findqual.html>
6. Walt's Navigating the Net Forum: Evaluating Quality  
© 2001 by Walt Howe (last revised 25 April 2001)  
<http://www.walthowe.com/navnet/quality.html>

**Summary: best sites to use for a project, and my least favorite one**

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Evaluation overview</i>	<i>Useable?</i>
<i>Evaluating Web Sites (Cornell)</i>	<b>84</b>	highest marks on all criteria except no graphics	<b>yes</b>
<i>Evaluating Information Found on the Internet (Johns Hopkins)</i>	<b>82</b>	a little hard to read, lots of links but not easy for ESL students	<b>yes</b>
<i>Evaluating Web Pages (UC Berkeley)</i>	<b>82</b>	relevant info presented in table but no graphics and only 2 references	<b>yes</b>
<i>Evaluating Quality on the Net (Hope Tillman)</i>	<b>72</b>	Excellent article with many examples but no graphics and probably least accessible to ESL students, and is also on a personal site	<b>possibly</b>

**Conclusion**

The page that seemed most relevant to my project while remaining easily accessible to many of my students was "Evaluating Web Sites: Criteria and Tools, from the Cornell University Library." I gave this site an 84 rating. I thought that Hope Tillman's article, "Evaluating Quality on the Net" gave the most comprehensive and detailed coverage of the topic of the few sites I looked at, but if I were a student in one of my classes, I probably wouldn't use this site because it was too detailed for my purpose, which was to find criteria for evaluating the quality of information on the Internet. I thought the other sites all presented that information in more easily accessible form.