Evaluating Web Pages

Student “Checklist”
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Thinking Critically About World Wide Web Resources:
www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/critical/index.htm

Steve Grant’s “Evaluation Short List”...

• *Is this the kind of information I need?  Is it valuable for my needs?*
  ✔ Is it “on target” for my topic?  Is it relevant to what I really need to know?
  ✔ Can I read it well enough to understand it?

• *Sufficient?  Enough information to be useful?*
  ✔ Merely a list of links, or does it have content?
  ✔ Just a “sampler”, or “in-depth”?

• *New information?  Anything I don’t already know or have from another source?*

• *Who’s the intended audience?  What’s the purpose of this page?*
  ✔ Trying to sell me something?
  ✔ What other pages link to this one?
    ▪ To find out, use Google’s (Advanced Search) “Link to:”

• *Who wrote it?  Why should I believe them?*
  ✔ If they quote or cite information from other sources, do they cite those sources in such a way that I could go find them if I wanted to?
    ▪ If they’re Web sources, author should provide a hyperlink.
✔ Author’s job title or credentials?
✔ What else has he/she written?
  ▪ Try doing keyword search on author’s name

• Is contact information with the author provided?
  ✔ Hotlink to his/her email is good; snailmail and/or phone is better

• Is the page associated with reputable institution?
  ✔ University, publisher, well-known/respected organization

• Does the information seem biased? If so, can I still use any of it?

• How current is the page?
  ✔ Look for date created or revised

• Do all its hyperlinks work?

• Are there spelling and or grammar errors?