

## Checklist for the Evaluation of Websites

*Use this checklist to help you evaluate the quality and reliability of Internet sites.*

| <b>Author and Site Sponsor</b>  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Can't tell</b> |
|---|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Is there an identifiable author? Check the top or the bottom of the page.   |            |           |                   |
| Can you determine if the author is an authority in the field? Are his/her qualifications clearly stated--professor? doctor? other professional?   |            |           |                   |
| Does the author include his/her e-mail or other address to allow questions or comments about the site?  |            |           |                   |
| Is the producer or sponsor of the site clearly identified? Check the top or bottom of the page for logos or links to pages that discuss the sponsor.  |            |           |                   |
| Is the sponsor an individual? a company? a government agency? a university? a political organization? a religious group? Does this make a difference in how you look at the information provided? |            |           |                   |
| Can you tell if the sponsor has a particular political or philosophical stance?   |            |           |                   |
| <b>Content</b>  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Can't tell</b> |
| Is the intended audience for the site clearly identified or defined?  |            |           |                   |
| Is the scope or purpose of the site clearly stated?   |            |           |                   |
| Is the text well-written? Is it free of grammatical and spelling errors?  |            |           |                   |
| Is the provided information accurate?   |            |           |                   |
| Is the subject matter covered adequately?   |            |           |                   |
| Does the information seem to have any political or ideological biases?  |            |           |                   |
| Is the content valuable to you as a researcher?   |            |           |                   |
| Does the site make a unique contribution to knowledge on this topic?  |            |           |                   |
| Are links to related sites provided?  |            |           |                   |
| Are the links relevant to the subject?  |            |           |                   |
| Can you tell whether links were evaluated before being included?  |            |           |                   |
| <b>Currency</b>   | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Can't tell</b> |
| Is the information provided up-to-date?   |            |           |                   |
| Can you tell when the site was created? Check the bottom of the page.   |            |           |                   |
| Has the site been updated recently?   |            |           |                   |
| Are the links reliable, taking you to active sites?   |            |           |                   |