

### **SUS III Technology Web Site Evaluation Criteria**

Today the Internet provides faster and more extensive ways of retrieving and sharing information than ever before. The Internet opens windows to easy access and distribution of information; anyone can publish anything on the Internet. No central authority is in charge of approving what is published. It follows that some of the information on the Web is inaccurate. Not all information is equally reliable.

With no editor or peer review process between the author and a published document, it is best to approach information on the Internet with caution. Finding information is only one step in the research process. In the information-rich environment of the technological world, it is crucial to be able to evaluate your results to determine the best and most relevant information. The basic evaluation criteria of quality, credibility, accessibility, scope, and cost are still issues, but ones that must be viewed in new ways.

Here are some guidelines to assist you in evaluating Web-based resources.

#### **Purpose:**

Does the web site have a clearly stated purpose - to educate, to inform, advocate for a position, stimulate discussion, entertain, etc.?

Who is the intended audience?

Is it substantive or just a collection of links?

#### **Authority**

Who is the sponsoring institution? - **\*\*NOTE: Check the ending suffix of the site (.edu, .com, .net, etc.).\*\***

Is it maintained by an established authority?

Is a contact address provided? - **\*\*NOTE: Try to delete the files and folders - one at a time from right to left - to see if you can find out other information about the site.\*\***

Is the information copyrighted?

#### **Content**

Is the information accurate, current, and unbiased when checked against other sources?

Is the information primary or secondary in nature?

Is the information well-researched and valid?

Is the page well-documented?

How detailed is the site's coverage of its subject?

Does the information fill a curricular need?

Are descriptive summaries provided for links? Do the links guide users to the best sites?

Do the images enhance the content?

Is this the best medium for this information?

Is advertising present on the page?

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**Technical Quality**

Is the site user-friendly? Is it easy to navigate around the site?

Is the home page concise and quick to view?

Do layout and design help the user to find information?

Is the site interactive?

Is it accessible? Is this a stable, reliable site?

Are Unified Web Accessibility Guidelines followed?

Is a search engine provided to search the site's content?

Can the browser being used take advantage of all features available at the site?

**Reviews**

Has this site been reviewed by a professional publication or rated by a commercial rating service?

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