



Endangered Species Research Project  
Evaluating Internet-Accessed Resources

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Criteria for Evaluating Internet Resources

From The University of British Columbia Library

The World Wide Web offers a great wealth of information, as well as the opportunity for people to express themselves and exchange ideas. This makes it a potentially great place to accomplish research on many topics. But putting documents or pages on the Web is easy, cheap or free, unregulated and unmonitored. If you are using a Web-based source for a research paper, you will need to develop skills to evaluate the credibility and appropriateness of what you find. The following checklist presents questions to ask to help determine whether a Web page is a suitable resource for a research paper, or not. Don't expect to be able to answer all the questions, all the time, for all Web sites you look at. Rather, try to use the questions as a tool to help you look at Web pages critically.

<b>Authority of Author or Source</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is there an author of the work? If so, is the author clearly identified?</li><li>• Are the author's credentials for writing on this topic stated?</li><li>• Is the author affiliated with an organization?</li><li>• Does the site or page represent a group, organization, institution, corporation or government body?</li><li>• Is there a link back to the organization's page or a way to contact the organization or the author to verify the credibility of the site (address, phone number, email address)?</li><li>• Is it clear who is responsible for the creation and/or maintenance of the site or page?</li></ul>
<b>Accuracy</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is this page part of an edited or peer-reviewed publication?</li><li>• Can factual information be verified through footnotes or bibliographies to other credible sources?</li><li>• Based on what you already know about the subject, or have checked from other sources, does this information seem credible?</li><li>• Is it clear who has the responsibility for the accuracy of the information presented?</li><li>• If statistical data is presented in graphs or charts is it labeled clearly?</li></ul>
<b>Currency</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is there a date stating when the document was originally created?</li><li>• Is it clear when the site or page was last updated, revised or edited?</li><li>• Are there any indications that the material is updated frequently or consistently to ensure currency of the content?</li><li>• If there are links to other Web pages are they current?</li></ul>
<b>Objectivity</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the page free of advertising? If the page does contain advertising, are the ads clearly separated from the content?</li><li>• Does the page display a particular bias or perspective? Or is the information presented factually, without bias?</li><li>• Is it clear and upfront about its view of the subject? Is the language appropriate?</li></ul>
<b>Coverage</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is there any indication that the page is incomplete or that it is not still under construction?</li><li>• If there is a print equivalent (magazine, etc.) to the Web page, is there clear indication of whether the entire work or only a portion is available on the Web?</li></ul>
<b>Purpose</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the primary purpose of the page? To inform, to explain or to persuade?</li><li>• Is the page or site a comprehensive resource or does it focus on a narrow range of information?</li><li>• What is the emphasis of the presentation? Technical, scholarly, clinical, popular, elementary, etc.</li></ul>

# Evaluating Internet Resources

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_



Using the 6 criteria discussed in class, go to the Web sites below and evaluate each site. Put a check for each area that meets the standards discussed. When you are done, count your check marks and make a final decision as to whether the Web site is a credible source or not. For each site, please list the author/source and the purpose of the Web site.

<http://www.ifaw.org/splash.php>

\_\_\_\_ Author/Source \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Currency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Objectivity \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

Are there issues not addressed by this list?

What is your main concern about this site? Explain

<http://www.endangeredspecie.com/>

\_\_\_\_ Author/Source \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Currency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Objectivity \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

Are there issues not addressed by this list?

What is your main concern about this site? Explain

<http://www.redlist.org/>

\_\_\_\_ Author/Source \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Currency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Objectivity \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

Are there issues not addressed by this list?

What is your main concern about this site? Explain

<http://www.bushmeat.org/>

\_\_\_\_ Author/Source \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Currency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Objectivity \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

Are there issues not addressed by this list?

What is your main concern about this site? Explain

<http://www.traffic.org/>

\_\_\_\_ Author/Source \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Currency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Objectivity \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

Are there issues not addressed by this list?

What is your main concern about this site? Explain

<http://www.wildaid.org/>

\_\_\_\_ Author/Source \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Currency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Objectivity \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

Are there issues not addressed by this list?

What is your main concern about this site? Explain