

# Criteria for Evaluating Web Sites

## ✓ **Authority**

- Is the author clearly identified?
- Are the author's credentials listed?
- Is there an institutional affiliation?
- Does the author have standing in the field?
- Can you easily contact the author for clarification of information?

## ✓ **Accuracy**

- Is the information accurate?
- Does the site offer a selected list of resources?
- Is the source of information clearly stated?
- Is there an explanation of the research method used to gather data?

## ✓ **Objectivity**

- Is the purpose of the site clearly stated?
- Is the information impartially presented?
- Is sponsorship acknowledged?

## ✓ **Coverage**

- Does the site satisfy the needs of its intended audience?
- Is the subject coverage comprehensive?
- Does the site offer extra features not available in other formats?

## ✓ **Currency**

- Is the site current?
- Was the site updated recently?
- Are the links kept up-to-date?

## ✓ **Design**

- Is the site clearly organized?
- Is there an internal search engine?
- Is the site user friendly?
- Can the site be accessed reliably?
- Do visual effects enhance the resource?
- Are there options for text only and non-frames views?
- Can the site be accessed without additional viewers or plug-ins?

### **Navigating the Web: Using Search Engines and Evaluating Resources**

**Janet Schnall**, Information Management Librarian, [schnall@u.washington.edu](mailto:schnall@u.washington.edu)

**Emily Hull**, Networked Information Librarian, [eehull@u.washington.edu](mailto:eehull@u.washington.edu)

**UW Health Sciences Libraries & Information Center**, [hsl@u.washington.edu](mailto:hsl@u.washington.edu)

**Tutorial** can be found at: <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/help/navigating/>