

Evaluating Web Sources

Evaluate Two (2) Web sites by completing an evaluation worksheet for EACH site and attaching a copy of the first page of each web site to the worksheet. The worksheets are attached.

A. ACADEMIC SEARCH ENGINES:

1. SCIRUS Scientific Search Engine

- **Very good for most biological topics.**
- Go to the [COS Library Search Engine List Web page](http://cos.edu/library/subject/search.htm) at <http://cos.edu/library/subject/search.htm>, select the **Scirus** Search Engine and use your topic's keywords for a search.
- Complete the attached COS Library Web Page Evaluation Worksheet for **ONE Web Site** you located on your topic using this search engine.

2. Another Academic Search Engine

- Select a second search engine from the COS Library Academic Search Engine list at <http://www.cos/library/subject/search.htm>. **Or**
- If your topic is human disease related you will find the [MedlinePlus Health Information from the National Library of Medicine](http://www.medlineplus.gov) at <http://www.medlineplus.gov> an excellent source.
- Complete the attached COS Library Web Page Evaluation Worksheet for **ONE Web Site** you located on your topic.

B. INTERNET DIRECTORIES AND SUBJECT SEARCH ENGINES

- The COS Library maintains subject directories of useful web sites as well as the Google Commercial Web Directory and Search Engine.
- Locate **one web site** that might be useful on your topic.

<http://cos.edu/library/subject/healthsci.htm> - good for health & medical topics (Medline is a good one to try.) **Or**

<http://cos.edu/library/subject/sciences.htm> - good for a wide variety of biological topics. **Or**

[Google Directory](#) - first select broad category such as Science or Health and then narrow down from there.

- Complete the attached COS Library Web Page Evaluation Worksheet for the Web Site you located on your topic from one of these directories.

**** UPON COMPLETION OF THIS ASSIGNMENT YOU SHOULD HAVE 3 SEPARATE WEB PAGE EVALUATION WORKSHEETS COMPLETED ON 3 SEPARATE WEB SITES OR PAGES, WITH A COPY OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THE WEB SITE ATTACHED**

COS LIBRARY WEB PAGE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

List the Title, Internet address and the Search Engine or Directory used to locate the Web Site on your poster topic. **Attach a copy of the first page of the web site to this evaluation sheet.**

Title _____

Internet Address _____

Search Engine or Directory used to locate Web Site _____

Evaluate the Web site according to the criteria listed below. Read all of the questions for each topic before assigning points.

Make sure you are in the right place. (Value/Currency) 0 to 15 points ____

Does this site address the topic you are researching? Was the page worth visiting? Does it provide you with the information you really need in comparison to other sources i.e., encyclopedias, books, periodicals and newspapers? When the document was mounted on the Web and last updated?

When in doubt, doubt. (Content/Information) 0 to 15 points ____

Do you have good reason to believe that the information on the site is accurate? Do authors provide any supportive evidence for their conclusions? Are the conclusions justified by the information presented? What do the links offer that is not easily available in other sources? Is there a works cited list and if so are they credible?

Consider the source. (Authority/Reliability) 0 to 15 points ____

Who are the authors of the Web page? What gives them their authority or expertise to write? Is there a way to contact the author(s) via e-mail or traditional mail? Who is responsible for the site? Is this a commercial (.com), governmental (.gov), personal (.com), or academic Web site (.edu)? Governmental and academic sites often have more reliable information.

Know what's happening. (Treatment/Bias) 0 to 15 points ____

What is the purpose of the site? Is the main purpose to inform, to persuade, or to sell you something? Do you understand what is being said? What do you think has **not** been said that should be addressed? Can you distinguish between facts and opinions?

Look at details. (Structure/Navigation) 0 to 15 points ____

Is the site well organized? Are there misspelled words or examples of poor grammar? Do the links work and are they evaluated or annotated? Do they send you beyond the site to other reliable sources of information? Does the site offer anything unique or does it tell you little more than you could find in an encyclopedia? Are the graphics on the page clear and helpful or distracting and confusing?

Total Points _____

A total of 75 points are possible, if your total score is below 50 points should you be using this Web page as a source?????????

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