

THE GALLUCCI-CIRIO LIBRARY: EVALUATING WEB PAGES

I. Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Is there an author? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the author qualified? An expert? <input type="checkbox"/> What organization is responsible for the content? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the sponsor of the page reputable? How reputable? <input type="checkbox"/> Is there a link to information about the author or the sponsor? <input type="checkbox"/> If the page includes neither an author nor indicates a sponsor, is there any other way to determine its origin? <input type="checkbox"/> Look for a header or footer showing affiliation. <input type="checkbox"/> Look at the URL <input type="checkbox"/> Look at the domain. .edu, .com, .ac.uk, .org, .net
	<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Anyone can publish anything on the web. <input type="checkbox"/> It is often hard to determine a web page's authorship. <input type="checkbox"/> Even if a page has an author, qualifications are not usually provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship is not always indicated. <input type="checkbox"/> The domain tells you a lot about the type of page
II. Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Is the information reliable and error-free? <input type="checkbox"/> Is there an editor or someone who verifies/checks the information?
	<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Anyone can publish anything on the web <input type="checkbox"/> Unlike traditional print resources, web resources rarely have editors or fact-checkers. <input type="checkbox"/> Currently, no web standards exist to ensure accuracy.
III. Objectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does the information show a minimum of bias? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the page designed to sway opinion? <input type="checkbox"/> Is there any advertising on the page? <input type="checkbox"/> Look at the domain. .edu, .com, .ac.uk, .org, .net <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a .com is probably trying to sell you something a .net usually means the .com was already in use a .org is an non-profit organization. They are still trying to cell something even if they aren't making money. .ac .uk and others are for specific countries .edu is for schools and colleges. Some colleges and universities give students webspace. .gov is a government webpage
	<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently the goals of the sponsors/authors are not clearly stated. <input type="checkbox"/> Often the Web serves as a virtual soapbox.
IV. Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Is the page dated? <input type="checkbox"/> If so, when was the last update? <input type="checkbox"/> How current are the links? Have some expired or moved?

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	<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Publication or revision dates are not always provided. <input type="checkbox"/> If a date is provided, it may have various meanings. For example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It may indicate when the material was first written It may indicate when the material was first placed on the Web It may indicate when the material was last revised
V. Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What topics are covered? <input type="checkbox"/> What does this page offer that is not found elsewhere? <input type="checkbox"/> What is its intrinsic value? <input type="checkbox"/> How in-depth is the material?
	<p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Web coverage often differs from print coverage. <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently, it's difficult to determine the extent of coverage of a topic from a web page. The page may or may not include links to other web pages or print references. <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes web information is "just for fun", a hoax, someone's personal expression that may be of interest to no one, or even outright silliness.