

Evaluating a website:

Make a note for the following when reviewing websites; try to explain your reasons.

Evaluating websites can assist with future use. Websites can be good for some information and not so good in other ways.

For example, a website might show current information but might not be totally correct with descriptions or might be good with non bias opinions but not quite relevant to your specific needs.

Currency:

How current is the information provided?

Some websites advise when the material has been written or updated. You can also find out by looking at other websites that might mention old news and this would assist in your decision as to currency.

Reliability:

How reliable is the information provided?

Have you been told something by a website which turns out later to be slightly inaccurate or they have taken information from a strange source. In other words, could you trust all the information from the website in the future?

Level of difficulty:

Was the website easy to use and navigate?

Did you find the links easy to identify, could you read the website or was the text too colourful or distracting pictures?

Bias:

Did they show a bias?

If a website is selling holidays, they will tell you the building site next to the hotel room is actually a local attraction. The website might also think 2 miles to the beach is “easy access to the local beach”. So, think about the information provided and how you might have to review whether it is bias or not.

Relevance:

How relevant to your search was the website?

Web designers want you to view their web pages no matter what you are searching for. They might push up the search engine listings and you might find the website is not relevant to your search or it might be partially appropriate to your search.

Appropriateness of format:

Was the web page too wide or too long? Was it acceptable to print? Was it okay to read? Was the web page in a strange file format that your computer could not view correctly? Did they have nothing but movies?

Other:

Any other news related to websites – something that might assist you in the future when looking at websites. Good / Bad / Ugly.

Example review:

Website 1: www.notbrilliantbutnotbad.com

Currency:

Web pages had been updated just last month and the information provided appears to be quite recent.

Reliability:

Information found on the page was written by Professor Wattshisname at the College of Outer Mongolia. He provided statements from other websites telling the reader when he last accessed these websites and who they had been written by. I searched for Professor and located his credentials on the official College website and the Institute of Outer Mongolia studies.

Level of difficulty:

I got lost after the second link. Too many adverts distracted me and I couldn't read some of the text due to the colours used.

Bias:

The writer was born and bred in the city to which he spoke. He appears to be funded by the local tourist company and was over the top with his praise. Would have preferred to have a list of pros / cons to enable me to make my mind up rather than him tell me it was all brilliant for the wrong reasons.

Relevance:

Only one paragraph was relevant to my search. The rest of the website spoke about his enjoyment of reading the phone book from cover to cover. So, not quite relevant except of the small amount of good information at the start of the page.

Appropriateness of format:

The first landing page was standard HTML but most of the documents provided asked me to download some strange program. Also, too many videos and not enough text to read. It took ages watching the videos to achieve small amount of data.

Other:

Small amount of relevant information obtained but on the whole not a brilliant website, with too much bias. Also, I think I am now receiving loads of spam from registering with this website. Would not really use in the future, except of the first part of the page, or if I need information about his local phone book!