

# Fact or Fraud! A Critical Evaluation Of Popular Health Trends on the Web



## Selected Criteria for Evaluating Websites

1. Beck SE. *Evaluation Criteria* 2005 [Accessed 2005 May 6].  
<<http://lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/evalcrit.html>>  
**Site description:** Basic overview covering Accuracy, Authority, Objectivity, Currency, Coverage
2. Liebermann J. *Evaluating Health Web Sites* 2000 [Accessed 2005 May 6].  
<<http://nmlm.gov/scr/conhlth/evalsite.htm>>  
**Site description:** Because of the ever-growing amount of information on the Internet, it is important to evaluate the quality of the information that you find. It is possible for virtually anyone to post information on a web page, consequently information can not be taken at face value but must be judged for accuracy. This site lists points to consider when evaluating health sites.
3. Loogootee W. *Evaluation Rubrics for Websites*. [website] 1998 [Accessed 2005 May 6].  
<<http://www.siec.k12.in.us/~west/online/eval.htm>>
4. Medical Library Association. *A User's Guide to Finding and Evaluating Health Information on the Web* 2004 [Accessed 2005 May 6].  
<<http://www.mlanet.org/resources/userguide.html>>  
**Site description:** MLA's latest consumer resource provides guidelines on finding the highest quality health information on the Web as well as examples of the best health Websites. Included in this guide are general starting points as well as specific sites for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.
5. National Cancer Institute. *How To Evaluate Health Information on the Internet: Questions and Answers*. [Website] 2003 [Accessed 2005 May 6]. <[http://cis.nci.nih.gov/fact/2\\_10.htm](http://cis.nci.nih.gov/fact/2_10.htm)>  
**Site description:** This fact sheet can help people decide whether the health information they find on the Internet or receive via e-mail from a website is likely to be reliable.
6. Smith A. *Evaluation of information sources* 2003 [Accessed 2005 May 6].  
<[http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair\\_smith/evaln/evaln.htm](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair_smith/evaln/evaln.htm)>  
**Site description:** This website contains a list of links to websites that list criteria for evaluating information resources. It is particularly useful to librarians and others who are selecting sites to include in an information resource guide, or informing users as to the qualities they should use in evaluating Internet information.
7. Teach L. *Health-Related Web Site Evaluation Form* 1998 [Accessed 2005 May 6].  
<<http://www.sph.emory.edu/WELLNESS/instrument.html>>  
**Site description:** This evaluation instrument is for health educators and clinicians to use to evaluate the appropriateness of websites for their clientele for further health education. Explore the site you would like to evaluate and then fill in the evaluation form. Form may be printed for personal use.