Checklist for Evaluating Internet Resources

When evaluating a resource, it is important to gather some basic information about the WHO, WHY and WHEN of that resource. The following questions can help determine the quality of the resource chosen.

URL of the site: ______________________________________________________

WHO

• Who is the author (individual or institutional)? This can usually be found at the bottom of the page or sometimes in a link titled “about the author.”

• With what organization/institution is the author affiliated? What information does the site provide about the authors’ educational backgrounds, job responsibilities, or other expertise that might qualify them to contribute information about the topic?

• Who published it? Again this information is often found at the bottom of the page.

• Who is the intended audience? Sometimes an “about” section will detail this information.

WHY

• Why does this resource exist? What is its purpose? To inform? To persuade? To deceive? Other purposes?

• Why is this resource relevant to the topic?

• Is there a bias or slant? It is essential that the user determine if there is a hidden or open agenda.

WHEN

• When was this source published or updated?

• Does the timeliness of this resource matter to its validity?