Webpage evaluation criteria

If you aren't sure of the quality of a webpage, this page should be used to test online webpages for university level research or assessment. Download this page and keep it handy as an evaluation guide.

Part 1. Authority

Evaluation point	Does the site meet the point
Does the web page belong to a governmental, educational or organisational website?	☐Yes ☐No
Is the institution, department or organisation clearly identified?	☐Yes ☐No
Has the author provided any evidence/sources to back up their information?	☐Yes ☐No
Does the information include references you can easily check?	☐Yes ☐No
Is there evidence the information has undergone some peer review process?	☐Yes ☐No
Was the page accessed via an ANU catalogue?	☐Yes ☐No

Part 2. Accuracy

Evaluation point	Does the site meet the point
Does the author or publisher list their credentials, qualifications or affiliations?	☐Yes ☐No
Can their credentials, qualifications or affiliations be verified?	☐Yes ☐No
Who is providing the information: is the author of the source clearly stated?	☐Yes ☐No
Does the author provide contact details (eg an email address) that can be used to ask follow-up questions about the information?	☐Yes ☐No
Is the web page written about fact, and not written to be ironic, satire or parody?	☐Yes ☐No
Is the page grammatically correct and without spelling errors?	☐Yes ☐No

Part 3. Objectivity

Evaluation point	Does the site meet the point
What is the purpose of the page? Does the page have an academic agenda?	☐Yes ☐No
Does the page provide a balanced approach?	☐Yes ☐No
Is it detailed information?	☐Yes ☐No

Part 4. Currency

Evaluation point	Does the site meet the point
Is the information current and up-to-date? (Check the 'last updated' info at the bottom of the page).	☐Yes ☐No
If the page includes links, are they up-to-date?	☐Yes ☐No

Part 5. Coverage

Evaluation point	Does the site meet the point
If there is quoted material, or material taken from other sources, is the material cited correctly?	☐Yes ☐No

Part 6. Targeted audience

Evaluation point	Does the site meet the point
Is the web site aimed at researchers (not the general public)?	☐Yes ☐No

If most of the questions above are 'Yes', then the web page in question passes the webpage evaluation test!