

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF A WEB SITE: WEB SITES FOR USE BY EDUCATORS

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Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators <http://discoveryschool.com/schrockguide/>

What type of connection do you have to the Internet?

Dial-up connection: modem speed 28.8 33.6 56k

High-speed connection 56K DSL T1 T3 **Broadband/cable** Other

What Web browser are you using? Firefox

What is the URL of the Web page you are evaluating? <http://www.santamariaesl.com>

What is the name of the site? ESL Materials by Competency

DOUBLE-CLICK IN THE CHECKBOX TO SEE THE MENU FOR ADDING THE CHECK!

Part 1: Technical and visual aspects of the page As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	YES	NO
Does the page take a long time to load?		√
Do any pictures or photographs on the page add to the information?	√	
Is the spelling and grammar correct on the page?	√	
Are there headings and subheadings on the page?	√	
• If so, are they helpful?	√	
Is the page signed by the author?	√	
Is the author's e-mail address included?	√	
Is there a date on the page that tells you when it was last updated?		√
• If so, is it current?		√
Is the format of the page standard and readable with your browser?	√	
Is there an image map (large clickable graphic with hyperlinks) on the page?		√
Is there a table (columns of text) on the page? (Check the source code to be sure.)	√	
• If so, is the table readable with your browser?	√	
If you have graphics turned off, is there a text alternate to the images?		√
On supporting pages, is there a link back to the home page?		√
Are the links clearly visible and annotated or explanatory?		√
Are there photographs or sound files on the page?		√
• If so, can you be sure that a picture or sound has not been edited?		
• If you're not sure, should you accept the information as valid for your purpose?		

Summary of Part One

Using the data you have collected above, write a short statement explaining why you would or wouldn't recommend this site to a fellow educator.

This is a pretty good site that references material across the web that is useful in teaching and learning English for speakers of other languages. I know it's outdated because some of the links to the materials are no longer working.

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Part 2: Content As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	YES	NO
Is the title of the page indicative of the content?	√	
Is the purpose of the page indicated on the home page?	√	
When was the document created?		√
If there is no date, does the information appear to be current?		√
Does up-to-date information matter for your purpose?	√	
Is the information found on the page useful for your purpose?	√	
Would it have been easier to get the information somewhere else?		√
Would information somewhere else have been different? • Why or why not? some would, but this web site has a ton of links, many of them still working.		

Did the information lead you to other sources, both print and Web, that were useful?	√	
Is a bibliography of print sources included?		√
Does the information appear biased? (One-sided, critical of opposing views, etc.)		√
Does the information contradict something you found somewhere else?		√
Do most of the pictures supplement the content of the page?		√

Part 3: Authority As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	YES	NO
Who created the page? My wife and I worked on this site. I did the web page structure, and she then used it to make lists of the content she had found online.		

What organization is the person affiliated with? ABC Unified School District.		
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Conduct a <i>link</i> : command in a search engine to see who links to this page. Can you tell if other experts in the field think this is a reputable page?	√	
Does the domain of the page (k12, edu, com, org, gov) influence your evaluation?		√
Are you positive the information is valid and authoritative? • What can you do to validate the information? I think it is, since it is a list that of resources and there are no value statements regarding the content except to say that the resource is useful..		

Are you satisfied the information useful for your purpose? • If not, what can you do next? Yes, but the out of date and broken links need to be fixed.		√
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If you do a search in the newsgroups (i.e. Google Groups) on the creator of the page, do you find additional information that shows the Web page author is an expert in the field?	√	
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Part 4: Pedagogy As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	Y	N	N/A
Does the information on this page adhere to research-based principles of teaching?			√
Does the information on this page provide easily-replicable best-practice information?			√
Does the information on the page provide links to professional teaching standards?			√
If the site is intended to provide professional development for educators, is the information presented using multiple modes of presentation, such as the use of text, illustrations, videos, audio, etc.?			√

Looking at all of the data you have collected above while evaluating the site, explain why or why not this site is (or is not) valid for your purpose. Include the aspects of technical content, authenticity, authority, bias, pedagogy, and subject content.

I believe that this site is valid for ESL teachers since the content that works is great, and the author is eminently qualified to have made the choices she made (she has written 15 books in the ESL field).