Criteria for Evaluating Quality

The poor quality of information resources on the Internet is a well recognized problem. Information in various forms is created for many different purposes and there is no single foolproof indicator of quality. It is a good idea to carefully consider various indicators. Criteria for evaluating Internet resources include:

- **Currency**: How recent is the information at the time of publication? Is up-to-date information provided expeditiously? Does the organization or person hosting the resource appear to have a commitment to ongoing maintenance and stability of the resource?

- **Credibility**: What source makes this information credible? What are the author’s credentials? Is there evidence of quality control?

- **Accuracy**: Is the information complete, factually irrefutable, and independently verifiable?

- **Source**: Does the information include documentation or a list of references? A bibliography, along with footnotes, indicates that the author has provided evidence to substantiate the reliability of information presented.

Additional criteria for evaluating web sites can be accessed through UNM’s Zimmerman library at the following URL:

[http://elibrary.unm.edu/tutorials/evaluate/evaluatetheweb.html](http://elibrary.unm.edu/tutorials/evaluate/evaluatetheweb.html)