

HDSB Website Evaluation Guidelines for the Elementary and Secondary Internet Tools Websites

Criteria	Guidelines
Author/Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The author/organization/source is reputable, an expert in the field, etc. • The author's credentials are listed. The author's affiliation to the institution is stated. • Contact information for the author/organization is provided. • The website is an award-winner. • The website domain falls into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ .ca – Canadian-based website (some Cdn websites will use other domains) ➢ .gc.ca or .gov – Government ➢ .edu – Educational institution ➢ .org – Organizations or special interest groups, usually non-profit • Websites from these domains are selected if appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ .com, .net, .biz – Mostly companies
Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information sources are cited/credited. • There is a bibliography or resource list included. • The information presented is comparable or better to other information you may have found from other sources, including print resources. • The information presented on the site can be verified. • The website uses proper grammar and spelling.
Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original posting date is listed. • The revision dates are listed. • The links to other websites are working and appropriate. • The website is actively maintained. • The statistical or factual information provided is up-to-date.
Objectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements are acceptable if they are appropriate for the intended audience. • The website is bias-free/stereotyping-free unless it is being used specifically to teach about the topic. • If the information given is mostly opinion, then there is valid evidence provided to support the author's argument.
Purpose/Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content is appropriate for the intended audience. • The content/information is geared to support student learning. • The content supports both curriculum and recreational reading needs.
Usability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a help feature available on the site. • Site navigation is intuitive and simple to use. • The design of the site is user-friendly and audience appropriate.

** With all else being equal, Canadian content is preferred.**