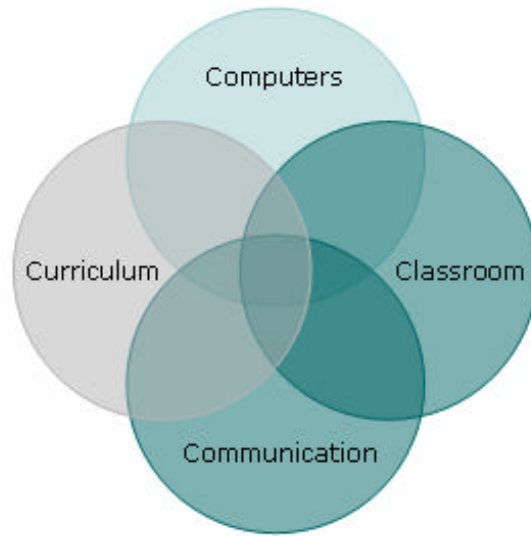


Computers, Curriculum, Communication, and the Classroom

Presented by Kathy Schrock
(kathy@kathyschrock.net)
c2005
<http://kathyschrock.net/4cs/>



Critical Evaluation of Information

The Five W's of Web Site Evaluation

WHO

Who wrote the pages and are they an expert?
Is a biography of the author included?
How can you find out more about the author?

WHAT

What does the author say is the purpose of the site?
What else might the author have in mind for the site?
What makes the site easy to use?

WHEN

When was the site created?
When was the site last updated?

WHERE

Where does the information come from?
Where can I look to find out more about the producer/
sponsor?

WHY

Why is this information useful for my purpose?
Why should I use this information?
Why is this page better than another?

WEB SITE EVALUATION & INTERNET LESSON PLAN GUIDE

You have found a Web site to consider using in developing a unit of study. How do you determine if it fits your needs? (Remember to save it as a Bookmark or Favorite before you lose it!). Start by jotting down some notes about your first impression.

FIRST IMPRESSION

- Is it student-friendly? Appropriate reading and interest level?
- Is it related to your unit of study and important to the body of knowledge students are researching?
- Does the screen load in a reasonable amount of time?
- If it is important to you, is the site free of advertisement banners and pop-ups?
- Do most of the links you try work?
- Do you feel comfortable and confident getting around the site?

NOTES

If you've answered no - look elsewhere. The Internet is loaded with student-friendly, information-packed sites. You may not want to deal with slow-loading sites. Other sites may be easier for students to navigate because they include site maps on the home page. Banner advertisements may confuse and distract your students. Continue your search to find a site that works for you and your students.

WEB ASSESSMENT

If you've answered yes, then the site has made a good first impression. Spend some time at the site to determine the following:

Site URL: _____

Site Title: _____

What did you find useful about this site? _____

Does the data appear to be up to date and correct? __Yes __No __Can't tell

Are there any links that may get students lost or confused? __Yes __No __Maybe

Must students log in or use a password? __Yes __No __Can't tell

Will they be asked any personal information? __Yes __No __Can't tell

INCORPORATING CURRICULUM STANDARDS, BENCHMARKS, AND OBJECTIVES

Now you need to think about your essential question, and your curriculum standards, benchmarks, and objectives. How can this site enrich your students' learning experience? Being prepared for an Internet session for students requires time. Spend at least two sessions exploring the site to understand its operation, and to be assured of its reliability and validity. If you have planned an online activity, go through all the steps yourself to mark the way for your students.

Unit of study to connect with: _____

Subject/s to incorporate: _____

Specific skills to tie in with this link: _____

Specific outcome of visiting this site: _____

Curriculum Standard/Benchmarks//Objectives: _____

How long must you take to introduce the site? _____

How will students work? Independently Paired Small group Whole class

How many sessions or visits to the site do you anticipate scheduling? _____

Will you need the lab or can the session be conducted in the classroom? _____

What is the backup plan if the Internet connection fails? _____

What is the extension activity for advanced students? _____

ASSESSMENT

Not every outcome of a lesson can be anticipated. Was there a missing element to your planning that you should note? Did things turn out better than expected? Note any observations and be willing to share any positive or negative feedback with your colleagues.

NOTES TO YOURSELF

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Originally created by Catherine Jolicoeur

Adapted with permission from:

<http://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/CharltonSt/Units3/solarsystem/webeval.html>

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CRITICAL EVALUATION OF A WEB PAGE



Updated by Kathy Schrock
(kathy@kathyschrock.net)
May 25, 2003

THE IMPORTANT BOOK: SUMMARIZING WORKSHEET

The Important Book by Margaret Wise Brown was written in 1949, and is still in print today!

It contains eleven short essays all written in the same style, with an introductory fact, other supporting facts, and a repeat of the most important first fact. An example from the book reads like this:

*Brown, Margaret Wise. The important book. Harper Trophy, 1977.
ISBN: 0064432270*

The important thing about rain is that it is wet.

It falls out of the sky,
and it sounds like rain,
and makes things shiny,
and it does not taste like anything,
and is the color of air.

But the most important thing about rain is that it is wet.

WEB PAGE EVALUATION

Using this same format, summarize the information found in your article dealing with critical evaluation of a Web page.

The important thing about the critical evaluation of Web page information is:

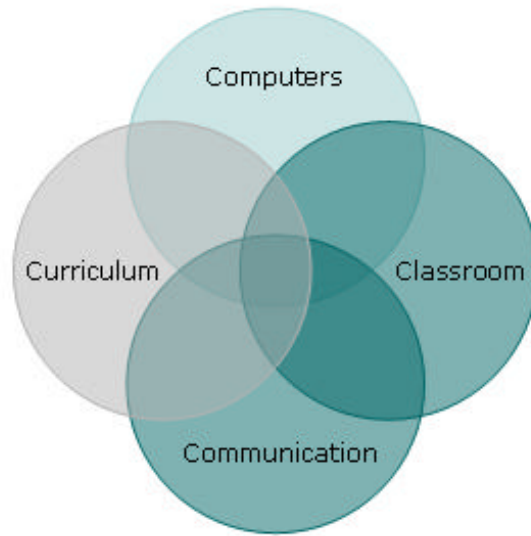
It _____

and _____

and _____

and _____

But the most important thing about the critical evaluation of Web information is:



Subject Directories

Subject Directory Assignment

1. Visit <http://kathyschrock.net/4cs/>
2. Visit the subject directories listed
3. Jot down your thoughts on each one using the following criteria:

Were you able to find a description of the site's selection process?

Who is providing the subject directories/electronic library collection? Why?

Do you feel that the selection criteria used are meaningful in deciding the authority, accuracy or timeliness of a given resource?

What is the scope of the collection? (e.g., subject coverage, type of site included etc.)

Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators

Education Index

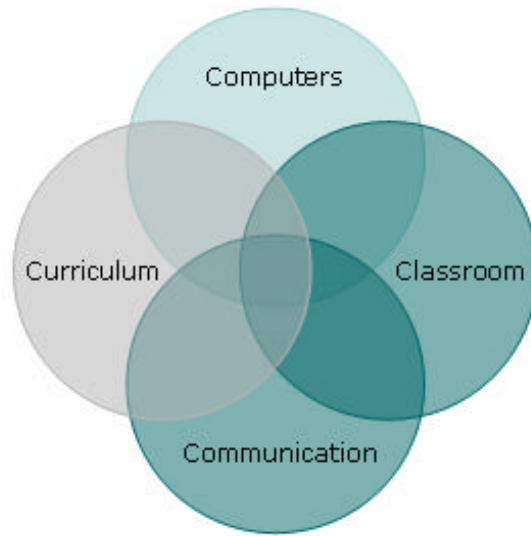
Teachers First: Content Matrix

Michigan Electronic Library: Education

Michigan Teacher Network: Index

Conclusion:

Which subject directory provided the most usable/high quality sites? Why? How could you tell?



Search Strategies



Searching Assignments

Presented by Kathy Schrock (kathy@kathyschrock.net)

1 Reference question: _____

2	Must	Might	Mustn't

3	Boolean query 1	AND OR NOT	AND OR NOT
	Boolean query 2	AND OR NOT	AND OR NOT

4	Find results	related to all of the words	<input type="text"/>
		related to the exact phrase	<input type="text"/>
		related to any of the words	<input type="text"/>
		not related to the words	<input type="text"/>
	Find results	related to all of the words	<input type="text"/>
		related to the exact phrase	<input type="text"/>
		related to any of the words	<input type="text"/>
		not related to the words	<input type="text"/>
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		related to the exact phrase	<input type="text"/>
		related to any of the words	<input type="text"/>
		not related to the words	<input type="text"/>

5

Find results	related to all of the words	<input type="text"/>
	related to the exact phrase	<input type="text"/>
	related to any of the words	<input type="text"/>
	not related to the words	<input type="text"/>

6

Search engine	Wildcard searching allowed?	Capitalization make a difference?	Name order make a difference?
AltaVista ↓			
Google			

7

Kartoo

<http://www.kartoo.com/>

8

Invisible Web links

<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/yp/iypsrch.html#invisible>

9

Google Tools

<http://www.kathyschrock.net/4cs>

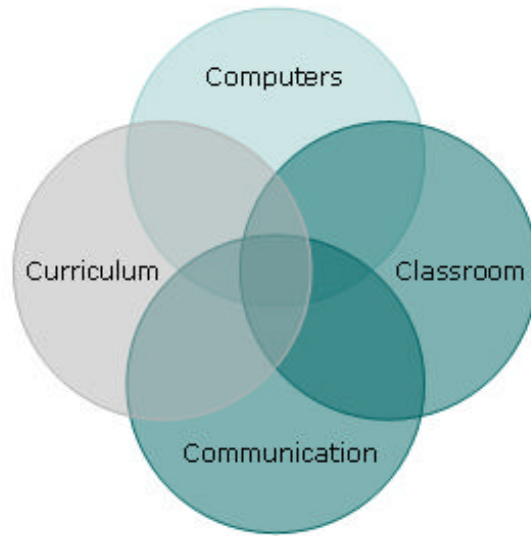
Google Tool	Something neat	Something you learned

10

Best Tool for the Job

<http://www.kathyschrock.net/4cs>

Tool used	Something neat	Something you learned



Blogger.com Instructions

Tech Blog: kathyschrock.blogspot.com

Post comment →

The screenshot shows a Blogger blog page for 'KATHY'S KAFFEEKLATSCH'. The page is dated Saturday, March 05, 2005. The main content includes a welcome message, a definition of 'kaffeeklatsch', and a post titled 'New technology in your school'. The post asks readers to share exciting new technology devices or programs in their schools. A 'Post comment' arrow points to the 'Post comment' button at the bottom of the post. The footer of the page reads 'c2003-4. Kathy Schrock. kathy@kathyschrock.net'.

Creating your first blog

- Let's work through the registration and template-choosing process
- Go to <http://www.blogger.com/>

The screenshot shows the Blogger homepage. The main heading is 'Blogger'. Below the heading, there are four icons representing 'Publish thoughts', 'Get feedback', 'Find people', and 'Add links'. To the right, there is a section titled 'Create a blog in 3 easy steps:' with three numbered steps: 1. Create an account, 2. Name your blog, and 3. Choose a template. A red arrow points to the 'CREATE YOUR BLOG NOW' button. The footer of the page reads 'c2003-4. Kathy Schrock. kathy@kathyschrock.net'.

Create a new blog

Create a new account

The screenshot shows the Blogger account creation page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Blogger logo and 'Push-Button Publishing'. Below it, a progress indicator shows three steps: 1. CREATE ACCOUNT (active), 2. NAME BLOG, and 3. CHOOSE TEMPLATE. The main heading is '1 Create an account'. The form includes several input fields: 'Choose a user name', 'Enter a password', 'Retype password', 'Display name', and 'Email address'. Each field has a corresponding help text on the right. At the bottom, there's an 'Acceptance of Terms' section with a checkbox and a link to 'Terms of Service'. A 'CONTINUE' button with a right-pointing arrow is located at the bottom right of the form.

c2003-4. Kathy Schrock. kathy@kathyschrock.net

Create a new blog

The screenshot shows the Blogger dashboard for a user signed in as 'kathyschrock'. The top navigation bar includes the Blogger logo and a 'Sign out' link. The main heading is 'Dashboard'. On the left, there's a 'Blogs' section with a table listing existing blogs. On the right, there's a user profile card with a photo and links for 'Edit Profile (or View)' and 'Change Password'. Below the profile card is an 'AdSense Invite' section. At the bottom center, there's a 'CREATE A BLOG' button.

BLOG NAME	NEW POST	CHANGE SETTINGS	LAST UPDATE
Schrockguide Birthday Blog			19 Apr 2005
Kathy's Kaffeeklatsch			14 Apr 2005

c2003-4. Kathy Schrock. kathy@kathyschrock.net

Name your blog

Name of blog

URL of blog

The screenshot shows the Blogger interface for naming a blog. At the top, there are three steps: 1. CREATE ACCOUNT, 2. NAME BLOG (highlighted), and 3. CHOOSE TEMPLATE. The main heading is '2 Name your blog'. Below this, there are three input fields: 'Blog title' with a red exclamation mark icon and a placeholder text 'Enter a title for your blog.'; 'Blog address (URL)' with a red exclamation mark icon and a placeholder 'http://[] .blogspot.com' and a note 'You and others will use this to read and link to your blog.'; and 'Word Verification' with a handwritten image of 'rxziac' and a note 'Type the characters you see in the picture below.' Below these fields is an 'OR' separator and an 'Advanced Setup' section with a note: 'Want to host your blog somewhere else? Try [Advanced Blog Setup](#). This will allow you to host your blog somewhere other than Blogspot.' A 'CONTINUE' button with a right-pointing arrow is at the bottom right.

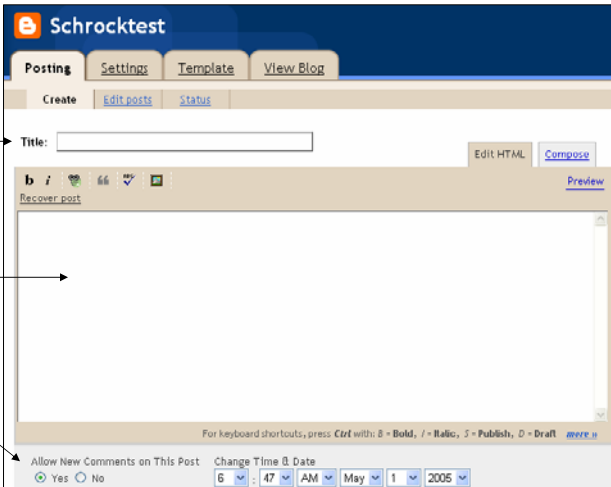
c2003-4. Kathy Schrock. kathy@kathyschrock.net

Choose your template

The screenshot shows the Blogger interface for choosing a template. At the top, there are three steps: 1. CREATE ACCOUNT, 2. NAME BLOG, and 3. CHOOSE TEMPLATE (highlighted). The main heading is '3 Choose a template'. Below this, there are four template preview cards, each with a 'VIEW' button and 'Created by' information: 'Minima' (Created by Douglas Bowman), 'Minimal Black' (Created by Douglas Bowman), 'Dotz' (Created by Douglas Bowman), and 'Son of Moto' (Created by Jeffrey Zeldman). To the right of the templates, there is a text box: 'Choose a custom look for your blog. Click the image to see a larger version in a separate window. Create a new blog ~~on~~ the ~~template later~~, or even create your own custom template design once your blog is set up.'

c2003-4. Kathy Schrock. kathy@kathyschrock.net

Start posting



The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Start posting' interface for a user named 'Schrocktest'. The interface includes a navigation bar with 'Posting', 'Settings', 'Template', and 'View Blog' tabs. Below this is a sub-navigation bar with 'Create', 'Edit posts', and 'Status' options. The main form area contains a 'Title:' text input field, a 'Compose' button, and a large text area for the post content. At the bottom of the form, there are options to 'Allow New Comments on This Post' (Yes/No), a 'Change Time & Date' section with dropdowns for hour, minute, AM/PM, month, and day, and a year dropdown. A 'Preview' button is located in the top right corner of the text area.

Title of post →

Post text →

Allow comments? →

c2003-4. Kathy Schrock. kathy@kathyschrock.net