

# How to Evaluate Websites

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# The role of the Information Specialist has shifted in the Internet Era

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## Then

- Card Catalog
- Print/Reference Resources
- One or two resources
- Focus on using only the books already in the library
- Cycle time of hours

## Now

- Online Catalog
- Google
- 10,000 resources in 2 seconds
- Focus on drilling down to usable info, verifying sources
- Cycle time of minutes

# NetGeneration

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- Born 1982-2000, grown up immersed in technology
- Spend more time with digital media than TV
- 94% have used the WWW for school research
- Social learners/ informal learners
- Read visual images, text literacy less well developed
- Learn by doing, exploring
- Want to work on 'things that matter'
- Shift attention, want fast responses
- It's cool to be smart
- Teachers are vital, computers are the tool

"Classrooms and Libraries for the Net Generation," Doug Johnson 2007.

Help Save The **Endangered**  
**Pacific Northwest Tree**  
**Octopus**  
From Extinction!

[Information](#)

[FAQs](#)

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## About The Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus

The Pacific Northwest tree octopus (*Octopus paxarbolis*) can be found in the **temperate rainforests** of the Olympic Peninsula on the west coast of North America. Their habitat lies on the Eastern side of the Olympic mountain range, adjacent to Hood Canal. These solitary cephalopods reach an average size (measured from arm-tip to mantle-tip,) of 30-33 cm. Unlike most other cephalopods, tree octopuses are amphibious, spending only their early life and the period of their



- **Greenpeas.org** - Greenpeas is working to save the world from humans.
- **World Conservation Union** - An international organization whose mission is "To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable."
- **The Wildlife Fund** - The WWF works to preserve genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity throughout the world.
- **UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre** - An office of the UN that provides information for policy and action to conserve the living world.
- **People for the Ethical Treatment of Pumpkins** - How many pumpkins must be sacrificed every year to decorate our houses and keep our bellies filled with pies before we realize the error of our ways? Too many, it seems!

[Information](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Sightings](#)

This site is not associated with the University of Connecticut, the Neag School of Education, or any other education facility.

# The DHMO home page. (See Editorial: Truth about DHMO.)



**DHMO.org**  
Dihydrogen Monoxide  
Research Division



## DHMO Special Reports

- [Dihydrogen Monoxide FAQ](#)
- [Enviro Impact of DHMO](#)
- [DHMO and Cancer](#)
- [DHMO Research](#)
- [DHMO in the Dairy Industry](#)
- [MSDS for DHMO](#)
- [DHMO Conspiracy](#)
- [Editorial: Truth about DHMO](#)
- [Fake Email SPAM Alert](#)
- [Linking to DHMO.org](#)
- [What is Dihydrogen Monoxide?](#)

## WELCOME

Welcome to the web site for the Dihydrogen Monoxide Research Division (DMRD), currently located in Newark, Delaware. The [controversy](#) surrounding dihydrogen monoxide has never been more widely debated, and the goal of this site is to provide an unbiased data clearinghouse and a forum for public discussion.

Explore our many [Special Reports](#),

## DHMO Related Info:

- [National Consumer Coalition Against DHMO](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [NIH National Toxicology Program](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)
- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [Green Party, New Zealand](#)
- [Sandia National Laboratories](#)
- [Sierra Club](#)

## **BAN DIHYDROGEN MONOXIDE - THE INVISIBLE KILLER!**

Dihydrogen monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and kills uncounted thousands of people every year.

### **What are the dangers of Dihydrogen Monoxide?**

Most of these deaths are caused by accidental inhalation of DHMO, but the dangers of dihydrogen monoxide do not end there. Prolonged exposure to its solid form causes severe tissue damage. Symptoms of DHMO ingestion can include excessive sweating and urination, and possibly a bloated feeling, nausea, vomiting and body electrolyte imbalance. For those who have become dependent, DHMO withdrawal means certain death.

### **Dihydrogen Monoxide Facts**

Dihydrogen monoxide:

- is also known as hydric acid, and is the major component of acid rain.
- contributes to the *Greenhouse Effect*.

Facts about...

# The Civil War





# Can you spot problems with the text?




The United States Civil War was the bloodiest conflict in American History, claiming more lives than The American Revolutionary War, World War I, World War II, The War against Switzerland, The War of 1812, and the Vietnam War combined. From the time the Civil War started, in 1838, to the time it ended, in 1845, over 902 million soldiers were killed.

The war began as the result of a dispute between certain southern states and certain northern states regarding slavery and the taxation of cotton exports. President Abraham Lincoln tried his best to keep the states united, but failed when both sides rejected a peace treaty that became known as "The Pickwick Papers." Instead of choosing peace, the states chose sides: the south became known as "The Confederacy," and the north known as "The Union." Union states included Delaware, Oregon, New York, Alaska, and Tennessee. Confederate states included Florida, California, and Kansas.

# Six basic criteria for evaluating web pages

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- Accuracy
  - Authority
  - Objectivity
  - Links
  - Technical aspects
  - Currency
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# Accuracy of the Web

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- Who wrote/designed the website?
- Is this person qualified to write this site?
- Does this person provide a way to contact him or her?
- What is the purpose of the website?

# Authority of the Web

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- What is the domain of this webpage?
- Does the publisher list his or her qualifications?
- Does an institution publish or sponsor this site?

# Objectivity of Web Page

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- Is this web site trying to sell something?
- What opinions (if any) are expressed?
- Who is the audience for this web site?

# Links

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- Are there links?
- Are the links current?
- Do the links relate to the topic?
- Can you view the links for free?
- Are the links easy to view without having special software?


# Technical aspects to the Web Page

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- Are there Images/Pictures?
- Do they add to your overall understanding of the webpage?
- Are the images/pictures a distraction?
- Do they cause the page to take a long time to load?
- Grammar/Punctuation

# Currency of the Web Page


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- Is the Website current?
  - When was it produced?
  - What was the last update?
  - How up-to-date are the links if any?
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# Internet Site Evaluation Form

## Internet Site Evaluation



Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Document: \_\_\_\_\_

http:// \_\_\_\_\_

**Who** is responsible for maintaining the page? \_\_\_\_\_

Does this person have credentials or affiliations that create confidence in his knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information (email, address, phone): \_\_\_\_\_

Identify the site's domain (e.g. .com, .edu, .gov, .net, .org) \_\_\_\_\_

Does the domain affect the viewpoint of the information on the site? \_\_\_\_\_

For whom is the information presented? \_\_\_\_\_

**What** is the purpose(s) of the site?

Educational     Commercial     Persuasive     Entertainment  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

To what information does this site provide access? Check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> research information	<input type="checkbox"/> links to related information	<input type="checkbox"/> student projects
<input type="checkbox"/> questions and answers	<input type="checkbox"/> communication w/ experts	<input type="checkbox"/> material for teachers
<input type="checkbox"/> multimedia elements	<input type="checkbox"/> graphics	<input type="checkbox"/> advertisements
<input type="checkbox"/> bibliography	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____	

Does the coverage (value and depth) meet your need? How? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the information appear to be error-free, including grammar and spelling? \_\_\_\_\_

**When** was the page created? \_\_\_\_\_, When was it last updated? \_\_\_\_\_

**Where** are there other sources that verify the information on this site? \_\_\_\_\_

**Why** do you think the sponsor posted the site? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would you select this source for your research? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Jorgensen K. Rasm 2007, Loudoun County Public Schools/Information Resources, information from the American Library Association, Media Awareness Network, Canada.ca, etc. etc. etc.

# Our Belief

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“Our Core belief is that searching the Web is easy– finding what you’re looking for is the hard part.”

-- *Chris Sherman*

