Quality Assessment Protocol for Selecting Website Resources

Resources available on this website have been reviewed for their relevancy to educators and administrators interested in promoting equity in midwifery education and training programs. They have been reviewed for quality using the following criteria: accuracy, authority, objectivity, currency and coverage. The panel of reviewers includes midwifery educators - faculty and/or preceptors, some of whom are people of color.

The questions and suggestions below may be supplemented with other observations that a reviewer might find relevant and important.

Where the relevancy and reliability of resource content was questionable, those resources have either been excluded or noted with a disclaimer.

Criteria 1: Accuracy
- Is the resource reliable?
- Is it free from significant errors?
- For a website resource:
  - Who hosts the site?
    - Is the website host a University, a government, a professional association, a commercial host, an advocacy group, a publisher?
    - Are the host's biases (obvious or otherwise) evident? If so, what are they?
  - Does the website state its purpose and intended audience?
  - Can the content be verified with information found in other print and/or web-based sources?
- Do any web resources, journals or magazines give the resource or site a stamp of approval and if so who are they?

Criteria 2: Authority
- What are the qualifications of the author(s) or publishing organization(s)? Are they an authority on the subject?
  - For a website, can you determine who has contributed to the site?
- Are any references cited?
  - Do those references refer to work other than that of the author?
- For a website resource:
  - Is there a way to contact the producers of the site?
  - What type of site is it? i.e. educational, professional, personal, advocacy, advertising, etc.?
  - What is the source of information provided?
  - Is the webpage's author or contributor also published in print? If yes, do these print sources help you learn more about the author(s) and their qualifications?
  - Have the author(s) created other websites? If yes, do these other site(s) provide additional information about the author(s)?

Criteria 3: Objectivity

- Do the author(s) or creators have any potential conflicts of interest that might bias the content?
- For a website resource:
  - Is the informational content being supplied by the same person or organization as the advertisements (if present)? If so, is the informational content biased as a result?

Criteria 4: Currency

- Is the resource current? If not, is it still relevant or historically significant?
- For a website:
  - When was the page was last updated?
  - Are there many broken links on the site? If so, has the page been abandoned?
  - How often do new links appear on the site?

Criteria 5: Coverage

- Is the information adequately covered by the resource? Is something important missing?
- For a website:
  - How does the content compare to information found on other websites? Does one site provide more information, more references, more contacts?
  - How does the content compare to information found in print sources such as books, journals, reports, etc. (if available)?

Criteria above adapted from: http://unfccc.int/essential_background/library/items/1420.php