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## CRITICAL EVALUATION OF A WEB SITE: *WEB SITES FOR USE BY EDUCATORS*

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Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators <http://discoveryschool.com/schrockguide/>

What type of connection do you have to the Internet?

- Dial-up connection: modem speed  28.8  33.6  56k  
 High-speed connection  56K  DSL  T1  T3  Broadband/cable  Other

What Web browser are you using? Firefox

What is the URL of the Web page you are evaluating? <http://http://www.americareadsspanish.org/en/acercade.asp>

What is the name of the site? America Reads Spanish

**DOUBLE-CLICK IN THE CHECKBOX TO SEE THE MENU FOR ADDING THE CHECK!**

<b>Part 1: Technical and visual aspects of the page</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.</b>		
Does the page take a long time to load?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do any pictures or photographs on the page add to the information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the spelling and grammar correct on the page?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there headings and subheadings on the page?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• If so, are they helpful?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the page signed by the author?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the author's e-mail address included?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is there a date on the page that tells you when it was last updated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• If so, is it current?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the format of the page standard and readable with your browser?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there an image map (large clickable graphic with hyperlinks) on the page?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a table (columns of text) on the page? (Check the source code to be sure.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• If so, is the table readable with your browser?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you have graphics turned off, is there a text alternate to the images?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On supporting pages, is there a link back to the home page?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the links clearly visible and annotated or explanatory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there photographs or sound files on the page? (Photographs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• If so, can you be sure that a picture or sound has not been edited?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• If you're not sure, should you accept the information as valid for your purpose?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Summary of Part One**

I am little confused about this website. Even though I enjoy seeing book lists or Spanish magazine, I am confused of understanding of this web site. It seems more commercial that the listings of papers, books presented for sale. It is confusing to navigate. However, I like to see variety of websites that includes bestseller books in Colombia, Mexico, Spain and Spanish actors and artists.

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<b>Part 2: Content</b> As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	YES	NO
Is the title of the page indicative of the content?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the purpose of the page indicated on the home page?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
When was the document created? 2006	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If there is no date, does the information appear to be current?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does up-to-date information matter for your purpose?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the information found on the page useful for your purpose?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would it have been easier to get the information somewhere else? ??	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Would information somewhere else have been different? • Why or why not? I am examining every website that can be related to Spanish, Spanish teaching. I visit every alternative, but I can't replace this website with another one yet. I don't believe the information changes in another site, because information presented with references.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the information lead you to other sources, both print and Web, that were useful?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a bibliography of print sources included?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the information appear biased? (One-sided, critical of opposing views, etc.) (Not relate to all Spanish speaking countries such as bestseller list)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the information contradict something you found somewhere else?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do most of the pictures supplement the content of the page?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Part 3: Authority</b> As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	YES	NO
Who created the page? I am not sure in this one either. It seems a collaborative work. Many organizations seems like partners, but creative or commercial interest, I am not sure.		
What organization is the person affiliated with? Trade Commission of Spain		
Conduct a <i>link</i> : command in a search engine to see who links to this page. Can you tell if other experts in the field think this is a reputable page? ( <a href="http://www.reforma.org">www.reforma.org</a> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the domain of the page (k12, edu, com, org, gov) influence your evaluation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you positive the information is valid and authoritative? • What can you do to validate the information? I can order some books and see if they are literary books. Check if I can utilize them in classroom or are they being referred in textbooks.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you satisfied the information useful for your purpose? • If not, what can you do next? I am fully satisfied because even though the site looks like full of information, it is confusing to navigate and it is not intended for teachers' use particularly, therefore it is not connected to standards or lessons.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you do a search in the newsgroups (i.e. Google Groups) on the creator of the page, do you find additional information that shows the Web page author is an expert in the field?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Part 4: Pedagogy</b> As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	Y	N	N/A
Does the information on this page adhere to research-based principles of teaching?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the information on this page provide easily-replicable best-practice information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the information on the page provide links to professional teaching standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If the site is intended to provide professional development for educators, is the information presented using multiple modes of presentation, such as the use of text, illustrations, videos, audio, etc.?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Part 5: Narrative Evaluation

Looking at all of the data you have collected above while evaluating the site, explain why or why not this site is (or is not) valid for your purpose. Include the aspects of technical content, authenticity, authority, bias, pedagogy, and subject content.

I would use the web site to gain knowledge about newly released books, lists of bestsellers in different Spanish speaking countries, but I don't think I would recommend this site. First of all, it seems more commercial purpose, not related to teaching. Also, it is confusing to navigate. However, it is a source in Spanish. I liked the online magazine very much. It is possible to read news from different countries. By using more, If I utilize and value more, then I would definitely recommend to my colleagues.