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

© 2006. Kathleen Schrock (kathy@kathyschrock.net)

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? Internet Explorer

What is the URL of the Web page you are evaluating?

<http://www.longwood.edu/staff/goetzla/span400/400resources.htm>

What is the name of the site? *Web Sites For Language Teachers*

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

<b>Part 1: Technical and visual aspects of the page</b> As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	YES	NO
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• If so, are they helpful?	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is there a table (columns of text) on the page? (Check the source code to be sure.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• If so, is the table readable with your browser?	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Summary of Part One

The title is interesting. I felt as if I found a treasure chest since there are many websites included in this website that related to teaching foreign languages. I like it that the websites are separated according to content and also countries. I find difficulty when I search for lesson plans about some Latin American countries. Mostly lessons are about Spain, Mexico, and/or Argentina/Peru, Puerto Rico. However, there are 20 Spanish speaking countries.

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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? ??	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If there is no date, does the information appear to be current? (some links don't work)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would information somewhere else have been different? • Why or why not? <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">           Since this websites provides only other websites related to teaching foreign languages, information wouldn't be different than here. However, there might be much better websites that gives more valuable information related to this subject.         </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the information lead you to other sources, both print and Web, that were useful? (They are all sources and websites)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a bibliography of print sources included?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the information appear biased? (One-sided, critical of opposing views, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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? <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">           Lily Ann Goetz – Longwood University ???         </div>		
What organization is the person affiliated with? <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">           N/A         </div>		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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? <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">           After reading the criteria about evaluating websites, I don't find this website valid.         </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are you satisfied the information useful for your purpose? • If not, what can you do next? <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">           I am not fully satisfied, however websites that are grouped according to the language and/or countries can give me ideas and lead me to better sources.         </div>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the information on this page provide easily-replicable best-practice information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the information on the page provide links to professional teaching standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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.

As a Spanish teacher candidate, at the beginning of my career, I am interested in looking every website that is related to the subject area. As I was checking the websites, I came across with forums for Spanish teachers, radio or television of Venezuela, newspaper of Uruguay. The variety sources such as newspaper, radio, TV and forums are providing great example and enhancing understanding the Hispanic culture much better. Therefore, even though some sights are not possible to connect, give me great idea what sources I have to explore.