

Criteria for Evaluating Educational Websites

Name: Epic

Epic is a free online library. The free school plan allows students and educators access to 20,000 free online books. Epic Plus allows access to over 40,000 books and can be used during non-school hours. The books are colorful and engaging. Most have audio options. Specific books can be assigned to students. Books are leveled by Lexile levels and many offer quizzes.

URL of website: <https://www.getepic.com/>

<https://www.getepic.com/educators>

Type “Yes” or “No” next to each question.

A. ORIGIN -What is the website's origin?

Epic was created by parents Kevin Donahue and Suren Markosian to provide online access to books for children to read.

1. The organization providing the site is clearly indicated. **Yes**
2. There is information about the site's authors (About Us, Our Objectives, Modus Operandi, Mission Statement, etc.) **Yes**
3. The site's creators have provided their credentials (if need be). **Yes**
4. The site's creators have indicated the source of their materials where it is necessary to do so. **Yes**
5. There is an address made available for further information and questions concerning the site's information and content. **Yes / Email addresses are provided for further inquiries and help.**

B. DESIGN -Is the website well designed?

Epic is well designed and easy for both students and teachers to navigate. It is engaging and provides valuable content.

1. The site's general appearance is appealing to its intended audience (colors, graphics, layout). **Yes**
2. It is easy to navigate through the site -links are clearly marked and self-explanatory making navigation intuitive. **Yes**
3. The links appearing on the site work (take the user to a new page). **Yes**
4. Supporting pages have a link back to the site's main page. **Yes**
5. The text on the site is easily readable (font, size, color scheme). **Yes**
6. The graphics on the site serve a purpose and are not too big. **Yes**
7. The site is not cluttered with advertising -overshadowing its content. **Yes**
8. The site is interactive -there is something to DO on the site (game, fill-out forms, chat, newsgroup/message board, etc.). **Yes**
9. The site's design and added features (graphics, sounds, video, databases, Active X,

Shockwave, CGI, JavaScript and Java Applets) do not hinder the enjoyability of the site but enhance it. **Yes**

C. CONTENT -Is the website's content meaningful in terms of its educational value?

The website provides valuable content that is age appropriate and relates to current language arts standards.

1. The title of the site is indicative of its content. **Yes**
2. The language is developmentally appropriate for its targeted audience. **Yes**
3. The use of text and graphics as links is appropriate to level of understanding of targeted audience. **Yes**
4. The targeted audience has required skills to comprehend content. **Yes**
5. The targeted audience has required skills to navigate with ease through the site. **Yes**
6. The site is free of spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, syntax errors, or typos. **Yes**
7. The site promotes equal and just representations of racial, gender, and religious issues. **Yes**
8. The content is informative. **Yes**
9. The site contains a wealth of information and deserves more than one visit. **Yes**
10. The site has links to other websites relevant to the same topic. **No**

D. ACCESSIBILITY -Is the website accessible?

Epic is user friendly with intuitive icons. Students that are non-readers can easily navigate the website and listen to stories.

1. The site does not take a long time to load. **Yes**
2. The site provides a "help feature" or instructions on its use. **Yes**
3. The site does not require special "plug-ins" or other types of special viewing helpers. If it does, this is clearly indicated. **Yes**
4. The site does not require usage fees to be paid. **Yes / It is free of charge during school hours. After school hours parents or school systems would have to purchase Epic Plus or a family subscription.**
5. The site has rules to its use. **Yes**
6. The site requires a registration or password to access and use it. **Yes**

E. CURRENCY -Is the website current?

Epic adds new books to its online library every week.

1. The site has been recently updated. **Yes**

2. The information recently updated is highlighted for the user. **Yes**
3. There is a statement pledging to current updates. **Yes**

Taken from:

<http://pages.infnit.net/seguind/criteria.htm>