

Website Evaluation

When doing research for a paper or project it is very important to be sure the information you gather is correct and useful. In evaluating a site I found on the internet I have found that finding useful resources is very difficult. I did not know where to begin on how to evaluate a site so I logged on to the library's website and looked up their criteria for site evaluation and that is the information that I will be using in my evaluation.

The site I evaluated is <http://library.thinkquest.org/12834/> a site about medieval women called "Dominion and Domination of the Gentle Sex: The Lives of Medieval Women". The ending of the site, the .org, means the site is sponsored by an organization this is a good sign. Most credible sites end with an organization abbreviation as no company wants to attach their name to something that is not beneficial and factual. Another useful site ending is .edu, those sites are educationally sponsored. Be careful of any .com's that you might find as any information may be put on there by anyone. The site I evaluated did not post when it was last updated or when it was created; an update is usually lets the reader know how involved the author is in the site and whether or not it has been kept current with changing conditions. The authors of my site are listed on their own separate page and they are both women. With their names an email address for them is also listed. The site is meant to appeal to anyone interested in the medieval time period and particularly those that are interested in the women of that time. The language of the site is fairly simple, showing the author's appeal to every reading level. Though the site

is written by women and about women, I do not consider the author biased as the information posted is mostly factual, not many stories but rather simple biographies. The site contained many extra links, all of which worked. Some interesting and helpful links on the opening page are "The Inquisition" which allows you to take a quiz to test your knowledge of Medieval women; "Visit the City" that allows me to read about what women's roles were in the city at any given place, such as the church or market place. There is a "Biography" link that opens to show a listing of several women of the time period accompanied by a brief description of them; another link is "Sister Cities" describing life in the surrounding towns and the final link on the opening page leads to author information. This site did not contain any advertisements which is a good sign because the ones that have several ads and pop ups are usually run for a profit and not for informational purposes. This website also contains notated paragraphs and a link to the resources the authors used.

Though the site is not dated and shows no proof of being recently updated I found the information on it interesting and pertinent. All of the links worked properly, the authors are listed along with their sources. I would consult this site for a research paper.