

Your Evaluations of Websites (Summary)

Take away: A site cannot be declared “good” or “bad” unless the purpose that it’s being used for is considered.

You would not expect to get balanced information about electric cars from a site selling a particular brand of electric car. But if you were interested in purchasing that brand’s electric car it could be the perfect website for you.

Likewise, a website offering psychological support to people in a crisis might be perfect for someone looking for immediate help, but less useful for those doing research on cultural differences in help-seeking behavior.

Summary of good aspects of websites identified:

- * Has useful links that provide additional info.
- * The author’s contact details are given, making it more trustworthy.
- * References are provided.
- * It partners with well-known universities or other trusted organizations
- * The use of color made navigation easier.
[Made it possible to skim through the information to find what you wanted.]
- * Uses illustrations effectively. AV materials useful to get deeper insights
- * Q & A helpful in anticipating the questions users might ask and answers them in advance
- * Explains issues from both perspectives—positive and negative sides.
- * Doesn’t just give a superficial overview; there are deep explanations with examples.
- * Was targeted at various sorts of people who have an interest in the issue
- * Is well organized, with many images and graphics that helped the user navigate the site.
- * Has helpful headings before each section.
- * Offers options for how people could help the organization carry on its activities.
- * Gave a variety of ways for how the organization can be contacted.
- * Creates a community of people with similar interests
- * Case studies are used to provide deeper, personal insights about the issue.

CHIE (Talked about “good” websites you found related to issue of *Bullying*)

Helpline for kids in Australia: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

She found that...

- * The use of color made navigation easier.
[Made it possible to skim through the information to find what you wanted.]
- * Use of illustrations effective
- * Q & A was helpful in that it Anticipated the questions users might ask and answered them
- * AV materials on the site were useful [Videos showed what kids experienced, allowing us to show empathy.]

NAMI (Talked about “good” websites you found related to issue of *Income Inequality*)

The conversation: <https://theconversation.com/ex-prisoners-are-going-hungry-amid-barriers-bans-to-benefits-on-the-outside-156338>

She found that...

- * It had useful links that provided additional info.

- * The author's contact details were given, making it more trustworthy.
- * References were provided.
- * It partnered with well-known universities.

University of Tokyo: <https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ja/index.html>

Nami found that if you go to Todai's home page and type a controversial issue in the search box, you can get back lots of interesting and well-written content. Most of the papers have been written by Todai professors or graduate students.

She found this content to be...

- * Authoritative [because it's clear who the author is and what their affiliation is as well.]

Lumen Learning's online course offerings and content were also mentioned as being good by Nami: <https://lumenlearning.com/> . [You seem to need an account to access the content.]

She found that there were...

- * attractive photos informative captions
- * detailed references for everything that was presented
- * summaries at the end of each section that summed things up well

Other sites Nami mentioned as being good:

<https://www.lib.umn.edu/sup.org/books>
Cnx.org

MANAKA (Talked about "good" websites you found related to issue of *Animal Rights*)

Britannica's ProCon.org site

She found this website to be "good" because it...

- * Explains issues from both perspectives—positive and negative sides.
- * Doesn't just give a superficial overview; there are deep explanations with examples.
- * Seems trustworthy because it is associated with Britannica Encyclopedia.

PETA.org

She also found PETA's Website to be "good" because...

- * It made a strong impact with its heart-breaking photos.
- * It allows us to see the reality of the situation.
- * It is reliable since PETA is a well-known, high profile organization that has worked in this area for a long time

NATSUMI

Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/> [Site aiding people who may need support and counseling, those who provide it, and the loved ones of those needing these services.]

She found the Website to be helpful because it...

- * Was targeted at various sorts of people who have an interest in these services: those experiencing hardship, their parents or loved ones, and the professionals who provide the services.
- * Was well organized, with many images and graphics that helped the user navigate the site.

- * Had helpful headings before each section.
- * Offered options for how people could help the organization carry on its activities
- * Gave a variety of ways for how the organization could be contacted.

HIROAKI

He used the Carrot search engine [<https://search.carrot2.org/#/search/web>] to find sites relevant to the topic “Political correctness.”

[I’m not sure if he suggested that the UK newspaper “The Telegraph” was a good site or if it was a US newspaper “The Telegram.” Or, perhaps the Telegram Messenger App. The word may have been autocorrected by the politically ignorant MS Word that I was typing in.]

He found The Guardian’s (UK Newspaper’s) Website to be helpful because it...

- * Is well known, with quite a long history and has timely, relevant information

However, he wondered if a particular article on political correctness from 2016 might be too outdated. That brought up the important point that the age of particular information might make it less useful in some contexts.

Hiroaki found Reach Out <https://au.reachout.com/> to be a “so so” site because...

Although it was informative, easy to navigate, and visually engaging...

It was not so detailed and it might be seen as a disadvantage that it was directed mainly at young people since the topics covered are presented in an overly simplified way.

He found the site Humanities Commons <https://hcommons.org/> to be useful for...

- * Creating a community of people with similar interests
- * Accessing interesting content that might be trustworthy (since the participants are “humanities scholars and practitioners”)

Hiroaki thought that Springer Publisher’s site <https://link.springer.com/> might be good as...

- * it had links to various books and academic journals.
- * It seemed to be a distinguished academic publisher. [Hint: If you search for Springer articles on the Aogaku portal you can read many of them for free, whereas they’re extremely expensive on the Springer website.]

Wikipedia was considered as a “so so” site by Hiroaki for researching something like “Social Justice Warrior” since...

- * useful information can be picked up.
- but...
- * since anyone can edit the site, the trustworthiness of the info is questionable.

NANOKA (Talked about “good” websites you found related to issue of the *Death Penalty*)

She thought the Amnesty International website <https://www.amnesty.org/en/> might be good because...

- * It provided a wide array of general information.
- * It offered lots of AV supplementation; videos illustrating the stories that were written about
- * It was detailed.
- * Different columns talking about actual case studies was useful

She also found that the website of the Equal Justice Initiative <https://eji.org/> was good because...

- * It contained lots of numbers and statistics, but it was all presented in context and often visually, through diagrams, charts, photos, videos, and illustrations.

She found the Death Penalty Information Center <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/> to be good due to...

- * How up-to-date the information is
- * How detailed the case studies are about real people who are waiting to be executed.
- * The social features of the website making it easy to share the content on Facebook, Twitter, or through email.