

## **MIT 512: Web Evaluation Tool**

### **Context**

This web evaluation tool was developed as part of the course requirements for MIT 512: Computer Applications in Education. The tool was completed during the fall of 2006 under the supervision of Dr. Sue Jen-Chen. I worked on the web evaluation tool as part of a group project using both synchronous and asynchronous communication tools. The members of my team were Tom Dorgan and Newman Lanier, both MIT students. Upon completion of the web evaluation tool, the task required that I review an instructional web site using the tool and develop a report on the site.

### **Conditions**

Because of the research I had completed both in the MIT program and throughout my teaching career, I had some experience evaluating the educational and instructional value of websites. However, I had not established a formal tool to be used in this process. This project was completed in three weeks which included two weeks to develop the evaluation tools for students and teachers as well as one week to evaluate the site I chose.

### **Scope**

The final product included an evaluation tool for students to use in assessing a website's educational value as well as an evaluation tool for teachers to use in establishing valid and reliable resources for use in instruction. The tools have a high usability and will hopefully be implemented in schools in the near future. I have distributed the tools to colleagues in the school systems for testing in application.

### **Role**

My role in this group project was to use the research collected by my teammate Tom Dorgan and develop the evaluation tools. I compiled his research on currently existing evaluation tools as well as standards for websites and created our initial drafts. Our other teammate, Newman, made recommendations about revisions and usability concerns and I edited the tools based on these recommendations.

### **Reflection**

Creating this webquest gave me the opportunity to not only think about what features to look for in sites I wanted to use for instruction but also what features I was including in my own sites. Even though this evaluation tool is focused on education applications there are basic standards of website design that can be

integrated into evaluation tools for business and industry sites as well. Additionally, I gained experienced working with a team on this project. Learning about colleagues work styles and communication styles provided me with experience in communicating and working effectively with colleagues that may have different educational and technical backgrounds.