<div align="center">

Web Site Evaluation
By Helen Lipka

</div>

Site Title: <u>The Topic: *Careers*</u>   **Site Last Updated**: <u>*Nancy Smith 7/02*</u>.

URL: http://42explore.com/careers.htm

Web Browser: <u>Internet Explorer</u>

The web site I am evaluating is a link in the eduScapes Web Site. EduScapes is a site developed for teachers, parents, and students and over all life long learners. Annette Lamb and Larry Johnson are educators and professional developers who provide this page as a free service. This website contains no outside sponsorship. All of the Internet resources are free**.**

<u>Validity</u>

The page I am evaluating, <u>The Topic: *Careers*</u>, was updated in July of 2002. The current authors name is given and hyperlinked to her e-mail. The names of the original authors' of this page are also given and linked to their e-mail as well. Located at the top of the page are 3 links, which direct the user to information about the authors of this site, their credentials, as well as their mission and philosophy.

The main author is Dr. Annette Lamb who has been an elementary library media specialist, computer teacher, and professor of education. She is currently a visiting Professor at Indiana University. She received her Ph.D. in Educational Technology from Iowa State University. Her roots in library, media, and technology are reflected in her passion for interdisciplinary approaches, reading and writing across the curriculum, and using a variety of resources from books to the Internet. Her credentials certainly speak for themselves and add strong validity to this site. Her knowledge and insight clearly come through in the organization of information on this page directed to all educational levels.

The web site clearly supports the educational goals and objectives. The focus is on careers throughout the entire page. The large numbers of links provide a warehouse of information to the explorer of this site. A majority of links provides the age appropriateness of the site. This is a helpful feature as it directs the learner to information for their age group.

It is apparent that copyright laws are followed. Resources are listed. Credit is given when due.
The page is not ADA compliant.

Screen Design

The web page is inviting and welcoming but not flashy. Very basic graphics are used. The layout of the page provides good direction. Links are highlighted with age appropriate labels. The font size and style are easy to read to the viewer.

The pages that are linked to the main page are very different in their presentation. Some have a colored background while others are plain with few graphics. However, each page begins with a clear purpose and direction. The sources are reliable and take the viewer the next step in their search. For example, **Career Paths Online** (*Students and youth*) at http://www.careerpathsonline.com/ gives a brief overview of the site. "Begin here with career planning at the beginning levels of determining interests and values or "career scaling."

As you scroll down the page there is a graphic of binoculars introducing a new section. Using a colored background (yellow) the designer of this page captures the attention of the visitor at this point. It signals that a change is coming.

The site certainly has one mission in mind that of Careers. The site is direct and to the point without any deviation from the topic. The page is developed in a sequential and logical order taking the visitor to a number of resources that will increase their knowledge no matter what their age.

A table of vocabulary words is located at the bottom of the page. Two of the career words are hyperlinked. The links take the viewer to the definition of the word as well as a large number of subordinate links aiding in the learners' understanding.

Navigation

Located at the top of the home page are 3 colorful bars that take the viewer to the home page, topic index and the main page of eduScapes. The site I am evaluating loads in a timely manner. I found that all of the links work properly. It was very easy to navigate through this site as well as the links. Information at all sites was pertinent to Careers. Graphics were used minimally however they were appropriate.

I did not encounter any multimedia resources in any of the main pages.

I found three linked sites that had their own in house search feature: **Occupational Outlook Handbook**, **Peterson's Education Portal** and **Job Readiness Scavenger Hunt**.

I did encounter a page with some pop-ups that I found annoying.http://www.lacnyc.org/resources/workshops/jobhunt.htm

The overall navigation was easy to follow and logical.

Readability

The organizational structure of the site was clear. I did not find anything distraction on the home page. Grammar and usage were correct. I did not find any punctuation errors or spelling errors. The site did not need editing.

The author does not have a bias. Actually, the information was provided without any comments from the authors. The material informs the viewer.

Based on the Web Site Evaluation Form that our group created, I would give this site a score of 86 out of 100. The site therefore is an Exemplary site to use.