Searching Strategies for the World Wide Web

The purpose of this assignment is for you to evaluate a website. There are literally more websites on the world wide web than you can look at in a lifetime. Not all of these sites are meaningful, necessary or appropriate.

By yourself, or with a partner, complete the following evaluation checklist for a website of your choice. Remember, we have covered the Acceptable Use of Network and Internet.

1.   Select a topic for information retrieval from these suggestions:
   ✓   a hobby or interest you have
   ✓   a sport related web site
   ✓   an organization that interests you
   ✓   a place that interests you
   ✓   a person or group that interests you
   ✓   an object that interests you

2.   Once you have selected a topic, generate a list of keywords to help you search the Internet. Generate a list of words to exclude. (E.g. Cobourg, school, exclude WEST)

3.   Familiarize yourself with search options available on most search engine websites.

4.   Use the list of keywords to generate your search. The more precise, the more valuable will be your search.

5.   If a page has "gone missing" (Error 404), or if there might be more useful information on this site, trim back the URL to the previous slash. Repeating this process might turn up other messages but it might lead to a better starting point.

6.   Don't get stuck sifting through pages that don't seem quite right. Move on to other pages, or revisit and revise your previous steps.

Here is the Google advanced search options:
Find web pages that have...

all these words:	
this exact wording or phrase:	
one or more of these words:	OR ___ OR ___

But don't show pages that have...
any of these unwanted words:

Checklist for Evaluating Websites

Name:_____   Date:_____

Answer "yes" or "no" or "?" to the following statements.

- ☐ The information in the website seems to be correct and can be found on other websites and in print materials.

- ☐ If there are pictures, the pictures seem to be original and not edited.

- ☐ The information on this site helps me to answer my research question.

- ☐ The author of the website can be identified and contacted.

- ☐ There are no examples of stereotyping (racial, cultural, faith or gender) found on the web site.

- ☐ All people and cultures that are represented are depicted respectfully.

- ☐ The site is relatively free of bias.

- ☐ The information on the website is factual, and not an opinion expressed by the author.

- ☐ If a point of view is expressed, the opposite point of view has also been presented in an impartial way.

- ☐ The website is attractive, well organized and has eye-catching visuals.

- ☐ Words are spelled correctly and the grammar is correct.

- ☐ All of the hyperlinks are working, well chosen and well organized.

- ☐ The website is easy to navigate and the home page can always be accessed.

Copy from the Address Bar the URL:

_____

If you have answered "yes" to all of the statements, this website may be useful to you.
If you have answered "no" to any of the statements, you need to consider whether this site will be of use to you.
If you have a "?", you should discuss the statement with a teacher or group member.

What is the best part of the website?	How could this website be improved?