EDD 1004- Fall 2016

Reviewer: Naomi M. Lucas

Website: The Brookings Institution

URL or Address: https://www.brookings.edu

Website Overview (sponsorship, accuracy, audience, affiliations, currency):

Funders

As of 2015 the Brookings Institution had assets of $482 million. Its largest contributors include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Hutchins Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, the LEGO Foundation, David Rubenstein, State of Qatar, and John L. Thornton. (Brookings 2015 annual report)

Defining itself: About Us

The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Our mission is to conduct in-depth research that leads to new ideas for solving problems facing society at the local, national and global level. Articles are added almost daily.

The Brookings Institution is an American think tank on Think Tank Row in Washington, D.C. One of Washington's oldest think tanks, Brookings conducts research and education in the social sciences, primarily in economics, metropolitan policy, governance, foreign policy, and global economy and development.

The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit organization devoted to independent, in-depth research that leads to pragmatic and innovative ideas on how to solve problems facing society. Brookings's commitment to institutional independence is rooted in the individual independence of its scholars. Therefore, the Institution does not take positions on issues.

The Brookings Institution traces its beginnings to 1916, when a group of leading reformers founded the Institute for Government Research (IGR), the first private organization devoted to analyzing public policy issues at the national level.

Experts of Brookings

Brookings brings together more than 300 leading experts in government and academia from all over the world who provide the highest quality research, policy recommendations, and analysis on a full range of public policy issues (Brookings 2016).

The research agenda and recommendations of Brookings's experts are rooted in open-minded inquiry and our 300+ scholars represent diverse points of view. Research topics cover foreign policy, economics, development, governance and metropolitan policy.

What is the Ease of Navigability & Visual Appeal? (links, graphics, tables, diagrams, advertising)

The big headlines on Brookings home page most often draw the eye first upon entering the page – especially in the upper part. The institution's logo remains at the top left in order to easily return home. The menu is in the top right part of the page along with the search icon. The pages are easy to navigate due to the large font of the titles of articles. The introductory paragraphs are in boldface or larger font size. The clear illustrations and pictures related to the subject matter. The ability to eye-track visualizations allow the users access much of the information on the website. Users will find it effortless scroll look below the fold and access links to the full articles.

Why Would Students of Policy Be Interested (relevance to education, policy-centric):

Brookings has five research programs at its Washington, D.C. campus: Economic Studies, Foreign Policy, Governance Studies, Global Economy and Development, and Metropolitan Policy and three international centers based in Doha, Qatar (Brookings Doha Center), Beijing, China (Brookings-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy), and New Delhi, India (Brookings India).

Brookings was named best think tank for "Domestic Economic Policy" and "International Development," in addition to being "Best Managed," having "Best Quality Assurance and Integrity Policies," and having the "Most Significant Impact on Public Policy." (University of Pennsylvania's 2015 Global Go To Think Tanks Report)

An academic analysis of Congressional records from 1993 to 2002 found that Brookings was referenced by conservative politicians almost as frequently as liberal politicians, earning a score of 53 on a 1–100 scale with 100 representing the most liberal score. Lending itself to earning a fair and balance reputation. The same study found Brookings to be the most frequently cited think tank by the U.S. media and politicians.

What Does it Teach You About Education Policy (well-balanced, objective, bias): Brown Center on Education Policy

Brookings uses original research and policy analysis to help solve the nation's critical education problems, constructing objective analyses and suggesting new ideas for policymakers, educators, and the public at large. Its objective content provides better information about education that can vastly improve both the policies that govern educational institutions and the quality of learning itself. Brookings Brown Center is examining the challenges facing the American education system and identifying practical policy solutions. Brown Center on Education Policy is a go to resource for scholars interested in Education policy.

Brookings Institution 2016, October. Retrieved https://www.brookings.edu/
The 2015 Brookings annual report.

Evaluating Web Sites: A Checklist

Why evaluate web sites? No one judges the quality or accuracy of information found on the World Wide Web before it is published, so you must evaluate what you find for yourself. Some sites are created by experts; for example, the University of Maryland Libraries site is authored by librarians who have expertise in the field of information science. However, the vast majority of World Wide Web sites are designed and authored by non-experts.

Directions:

1. Carefully read through and answer each question directly on this form.
2. After filling out the page print it.
3. Attach a printout of the first page of the web site you are evaluating to this checklist and hand the packet in to your professor.

What is the URL or web address of the web site you are evaluating?

http://

What is the title of the web site?

Authority and Accuracy

Anyone who knows a little HTML coding and has access to a server can create and load a web page. It is important to find out the author's *identity* and his or her *qualifications* or *expertise* in order to determine the credibility and reliability of the information.

Who is the author of the web site?

I couldn't tell

The author is:

What authorship clues did the URL (web address) provide? *Check all that apply:*

company (.com)   non-profit organization (.org)

acadmic institution (.edu)   country-specific site (e.g., .uk)

U.S. government agency (.gov)   personal web page (e.g., www.jamieoliver.com)

U.S. military site (.mil)   other? *Please describe:*

network of computer (.net)

What are the qualifications of the author or group that created the site?

I couldn't find this information.

The author's qualifications are:

Purpose and Content

Determine the purpose of the web site by looking closely at the content of the information. Some sites provide links to information (e.g., an About Our Organization or Mission Statement page) detailing the purpose in creating the web site, while the purpose of others might not be obvious at first. Take the time to thoroughly explore a web site to determine if the information is mostly subjective (biased or opinionated), objective (factual), or mixed.

What is the purpose of the web page or site? *Check all that apply:*

A personal web page

A company or organization web site

A forum for educational/public service information

A forum for scholarly/research information

For entertainment

An advertisement or electronic commerce

A forum for ideas, opinions, or points of view

Other – please explain:

In your own words, briefly describe the *purpose* of the web site:

What does the web site provide? *Check one:*

Balanced, objective or factual information

Biased, subjective or opinionated statements
     Are the arguments well supported?   Yes   No

Both objective and subjective information

I couldn't tell

Other – please explain:

Does the web site provide any contact information or means of communicating with the author or webmaster?

No

Yes, the site provides:

Currency

The currency or regularity of updating information is vital for some types of web sites and not so important for others. For example, web sites that provide historical information, such as the presidential papers of George Washington, do not have to be updated as often as sites that provide news stories or stock market information.

When was the web site last revised, modified, or updated?

I couldn't tell

It was updated:

Is currency important to the type of information available on this web site? Please explain:

Is the site well maintained?

I couldn't tell

Yes

No

Are links broken (do you receive error messages)?

I couldn't tell

Yes

No

Design, Organization, and Ease of Use

Design, organization, and ease of use are important considerations. Web sites can provide useful sources of information. However, if a web site is slow to load, or difficult to navigate, search, and read, its contribution and usefulness will be lost.

In your opinion, how does the web site appear overall? *Check all that apply:*

Well designed and organized   Poorly designed and organized

Easy to read and navigate   Difficult to read and navigate

Help screens are available   Help screens are unavailable

A search feature/site map is available   A search feature/site map is unavailable