25 CC's for Evaluating Religion Internet Sites

1. **Credibility**: Who is the author? Is there information about the author? Can you find it? Is the author a current Catholic?

2. **Credentials**: What qualifications does the author have in this subject? If this is theological material, is the author in good standing with the Church?

3. **Contact and Communication**: Can the author or web master be contacted with comments or questions?

4. **Clues**: Where is the web site located? Does the domain name end in .com, .gov, .edu, etc.? Did a Church organization publish these pages or only an individual?

5. **Commendation**: Has the site been recommended or reviewed by a reliable source, such as a bishop or Church organization?

6. **Content:** What is the purpose of the information on the site? Is it genuine and trustworthy, or is it opinion and bias?

7. **Catholic:** Is this Catholic content and does this information reflect an   ecumenical understanding of religious tradition and teaching?

8. **Coverage:** What is the scope? Is the topic covered in depth: Is it full and comprehensive or is it trivial?

9. **Copyright:** What is the copyright? Is this material current or dated?

10. **Comprehension:** At what level is the material? Is it too complicated or too long?

11. **Critical Thinking:** Can you treat this material the same way you would treat a published book? Does it drift from the main topic?

12. **Citation:** Does the author give credit for cited work?   Is this "public domain" or is it protected by copyright?

13. **Currency:** Has the information been updated recently? Is there a date for "last updated?"

14. **Continuity:** Will the site continue to be updated? Can you rely on the site over time?

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15. **Connectivity:** Does access to the site require special software? If it is popular,   will   it   be accessible in the time you have?

16. **Clarity:** Is the design appealing, with elegant simplicity, or is it fussy, crowded, or complicated? Do too many fancy or large graphics make it slow to load?

17. **Context:** No matter how deep you go into the site can you return to the home page to determine the source? Has the author shown where all of the information came from?

18. **Cruise Control:** Is there a site map, table of contents, or outline of topics? Is there a search function in a large site?

19. **Completeness:** Is there a comparable source either online or in the real world?   Is the internet version complete?

20. **Correctness:** Are the facts correct? Web sites can contain unchecked information.   Does the site provide guidance?

21. **COPPA:** (Child Online Privacy Protection Act). If the site is intended for a child, is the author asking a child under age 13 to reveal personal information without parental permission?

22. **Quality Control:** Has the site been proofread, checked, edited?

23. **Compassion:** Are people treated with fairness and tolerance?   Or do you see bias, stereotyping, loaded language, racism, or other hurtful ideas?

24. **Care and Caution:** Do you remember to keep an eye open in case something is not appropriate for you?

25. **Comparability:** How does this online information fit into your subject and search? Does the Internet fill a gap or would it be easier to use another source?

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