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## A Guide to Writing Website Reviews

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## **The Writer's Workshop**

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### **A Guide to Writing Website Reviews**

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#### **What is a website review?**

A literary review is both an evaluation of a publication and a critical appraisal according to merit. Reviewing a website provides an opportunity for novice writers to have their work published, whilst providing peers with an informative and concise opinion about relevant web-based materials. An opinion is given about the content, structure, ease of navigation and appropriateness of material. While many people are utilising the Internet for research purposes, it is essential to use a critical approach when finding resources to use. Therefore, website reviews provide a valuable tool to the readership.

#### **Who reads the review?**

Website reviews are written to inform a readership of new or valuable websites pertaining to a particular subject. When writing a website review it is essential to consider the needs of the readership. The Journal of Emergency Primary Health Care (JEPHC) is a peer-reviewed, international electronic journal with a mission to advance and promote the art and science of pre-hospital care, research, education, clinical practice, policy and service delivery. The JEPHC readership includes paramedics, nurses, physicians, fire, rescue, and other emergency service personnel. It is also important to consider that the JEPHC is an international journal and as such reviews should be relevant and interesting to peers globally.

#### **What should a website review cover?**

There are some basic details which should be included but not limited to:

- The name of the site and author (if known)
- The URL of the site
- Relevance to the readership
- Main features (e.g. search engine functionality, downloadable formats etc.)

*Author(s): Emma Brandenburg*

- Content – including amount of content and credibility of resources and contributors
- Layout of the site including navigation and ease of use – the required skill level of the user
- Your opinion as to why the site is valuable to you and to its intended readership.

When reviewing a website, initially explore the site in general. Get a sense of what the site offers and whether it is relevant to your practice, as well as its potential interest or value to a wider audience. Next, describe the look and accessibility of the website, is it engaging? Is it easy to find the information you are looking for? Does the website use relevant graphics and other media to illustrate and support information without distracting from the written content? Are you able to access everything you want to? What will a reader find when he/she visits the site? Describe the website's target audience and provide the reader with some background information regarding the content. Is the material appropriate, accurate and contemporary?

What readers want most of all is your opinion on the website. They want to know if it was useful, how you used it, what worked, what didn't work, how you felt about it and what practical or clinical relevance it has. Conclude your review with a summary of your opinions as to who may benefit from using the site, and whether you recommend it or not, and why?

If you would like to be considered as a book or media reviewer for JEPHC, please download and complete an [application form](#), or contact Rhona Macdonald by email: rhona.macdonald@med.monash.edu.au or by telephone: +61 3 9904 4198.

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