Gaining Knowledge From The Electronic Highway

Since the conception of the World Wide Web, and the electronic highway, it is virtually impossible to run out of web sites that contain information that will cover any topic one can think of. During this engagement I will examine an education web site in an attempt to evaluate its effectiveness. The web site I selected is the U.S. Department of Education.

The first question I will raise deals with who the intended audience is. In going to the U.S. Department of Education web site, and taking a glance at the home page, it is clear that the information presented is for those interested in the education field, or for those wanting to see how our government is approaching the educational needs of the country. The web page is broken into different areas of interest for gaining information on a topic specific to the user or browser.

This brings me to the next question on how useful is the information service provided to the target audience. The information in the web page is of interest to most American’s because it will give you an idea of how important the Bush administration feels about education, what it’s plans are, and some of it’s goals.
If you’re in the education profession the web site gives you insight of what to expect in the way of support for education, and the change needed in the education programs throughout the country. For those interested in entering the education profession, the web site gives you areas specific to your questions and needs. Questions as simple as how to become a teacher, or if you have completed the requirements, locations of jobs.

The information on this particular web page is kept current. Most of the news articles appear as current stories within the past few weeks as they occurred. The section on grants and financial aid reflect updates as of the first of the government fiscal year, or a date from the last revision. Most jobs posted are current and have a suspense date to apply by.

The next question I will cover is how useful is the information to me personally, both now and in the future. I found interest in this web page for a few reasons, one is I’m a facts only person. The information contained in this web page is presented in a non-bias way, and lets me formulate my own opinions and ideas. It sticks to facts of what problems have been identified in education, what is being done by the federal government to correct these problems, and what part the field of teaching will play in continuing the process of change. This is important to me both now and in the future. I will find information contained in this web page in the future as I search for employment as a teacher.
Of special interest to me is a government program to help place soldiers once separated from active service. Attached you will find a web link to Troops-To-Teachers, a program that was introduced by government in the 80’s. The Bush administration, with a push from the First Lady, Mrs. Bush, has renewed its commitment to our servicemen and women who are looking to serve their community in the teaching profession.

The question of what criteria can be used to determine if this site is reliable can be determined in a few ways. As I mentioned before, I’m a facts only type for this very reason. The information in this web site is mostly facts. If one reads that the current government budget for education in minority learning institutions is $30 million, it would be easy to find on the web page by searching for finance and budget. If one learns of job openings in a certain state just go to job openings and search by state. Most of the information on a government web page is credible and can be researched for reliability.

To rate this site I would have to say that for graphics it would get a 3. There are no bells and whistles at this web page. For text I would rate it at 8, due to the ease one can navigate, once on the home page. To finding links I’ll give this page an 8, most links come up easily and one can search the World Wide Web even more intense.
In closing I would like to say that the knowledge one can gain by clicking on to the electronic information highway is staggering. The web page I discussed is just one of many like it, and should be viewed by those having an interest.