State Government Website

Whether or not you use the internet on a everyday basis, does one ever think about how many websites there are in todays world? Well there are hundreds of thousands of websites in todays world and they all have their own purpose whether it is to entertain, inform, educate, or persuade you. Spending time throughout the days and weeks on the internet, will make a person start to just make judgments and put built in judgments on certain webpages. The thing about this is that we will not even purposely judge these sites, it will just simply happen because over time if you continue to look at something you will notice more on it therefore start creating judgments for specific sections. These judgments vary in so many different ways because in the process of placing a judgment you will base it off of different criteria. Criteria for a website can be bases on credibility, readability, appearance, objectivity, etc. The Indiana State Government is a great example to use if you are trying to find a good webpage to evaluate and critique. At first glance, there is so many different things going on for example there is a search bar, different articles, many different categories to search through, and it even has the Indiana Governor’s webpage included as well. Indiana State Government’s website, www.in.gov/core/, can be judged in many ways such as appearance, interactions within the site, and credibility.

Taking a look at this website the viewer will start making judgments right away. Someone can take away that it is full with color, or buttons, or articles, or etc., but do people
really take a moment to sit and critique and analyze the full webpage. The very first thing that comes to mind while looking at this website is the fact that it is very busy which can mean many different things. Having little white or empty space makes this busy is because they are using every little bit of space that is provided for them. The reason that webpage developers do this is so people pay more attention, for instance if you were to have one website with a lot of white space compared to a website that has little to no white space then you will be more likely to enjoy the one with little to no white space as you will be able to look and browse more selections than the one that has a lot of white space. Another thing that is visible when viewing this website is that when you scroll down through, the header with certain interactions follows you the whole way down, not only on the home page but on anything that you click on. The reason that people will do this is because one the information in the header is important and they want you to also be able to see it and also they do this to keep you on the website longer because if you are continually scrolling through an article and you are almost done then you can click right at the header and select another subject without having to scroll anymore. The appearance of this website is audienced towards older people. The reason that it is visible that it is not intended for children to look at is because children usually do not have social media platforms and they also do not know or care about the government. It is important when creating a website that you make clear of who your audience is so that people know if they should be on that specific website or not. For example, a child would not like to get on this government website and an adult would not want to get onto a website full of children’s video games. Some websites have audiences of all ages, cultures, and ethnicities. A great example of one of these types would be YouTube in which the audience can be anyone from a little baby who is watching a cartoon, a teenager who is watching their favorite professional YouTuber, or even senior citizens who seem to watch
more of the political debates or controversies. I feel as if the overall appearance of a website is important so that viewers have the tendency or urgency to stay longer and not leave because they find it rather boring to simply look at.

Every time a website is opened in a browser there are usually different buttons throughout the design that are assigned to do different tasks. The first button or set of buttons that stick out would be the ones that are all different types of social media platforms. The reason that social media is put on websites is so that if people are interested they can follow that social media account for further updates or information. This particular website has an email button up on the row of social media platforms and the reason for this is that all people do not have or own any social media so if they are really curious and want further updates about the specific topic they can either email someone about it or they can sign up for email updates. The social media and email icons are located in the header which follows you throughout any click that you make and through any scrolling that you do. Another interaction on this website that is very visible is the search bar right in the middle of the screen. While looking at this search bar you may notice a few things. The few things that you may discover is there are words being generated across the search bar, popular topics displayed, and there is a discover more icon as well. The words being generated across the search bar and the popular topics are very important and beneficial because it is giving you an idea of what past people have searched. So whether or not you are on the website looking up something particular or not you have two very good sources available to you to figure out either what to look up or maybe bring you into the category of what you are looking for. Other interactions included in this website are the different articles and categories to take you to other pages to look at a more specific idea of something but there is also ways to get to involved with the different elected officials of Indiana. This is helpful to people because if you
are trying to learn more about a specific official than you can find who you are wanting to see and you can go to their own personal homepage or you may click on their social media accounts to seek more information. The reason that this interaction can be beneficial to the people is because instead of you trying to go to the internet or the different social media platforms to try to look an individual up and possibly getting wrong results or fake accounts, you can click right on their social media and it will take you directly there without any misdirection. I think interactions throughout websites or buttons are a key to the development because it can make tasks easier on the people by being able to use a search bar or a help section or even a support and chat spot where you can either get in touch with a person or you can type to a chat bot who will help you find articles relating to what you are looking for.

When you are on the internet and trying to find information about a specific subject, you want to find information that is accurate and credible. Having information that is not credible is useless because if it is not credible then you have no idea where it is accurate or not. Just by opening this webpage you should be able to look at the web address and determine for yourself whether or not that webpage is credible or not. Looking at https://www.in.gov/core, you see that it is not .com or .org or .edu but rather it says .gov which means it is a “government site” according to a document from UC Berkeley’s Library about evaluating webpages.(Kupersmith) There still a possibility that the information will not be credible so then you have you read different articles on the website and look for the citations or people’s name and you can further look them up to see whether or not it is accurate. I believe that the Indiana Government page is credible because it is a government based website and the Governor of Indiana and almost all articles you can find on there have additional sites to go to in reference of them or they have references to the different laws throughout the state.
The display or design of a webpage is very important so that people can take in what they need to and not get bored or be confused about what the point of it is. If a websites was created that had lots of white space, few to none interactions, and no organization the people will spend little to no time on these type of websites compared to such that are very busy in the sense they have no empty space and are full of different interactions. The purpose of a website is so people from all over can visit it and retain information in some type of way so that they spend countless amounts of time on certain websites over others. Without placing judgments, website developers might not be able to put together a well-designed website because they have nothing to base it off of. I believe that the Indiana State Government webpage displays every aspect that a website should display. The creators of it have made a design to which attracts the attention of the people because it is busy with so many different interactions and no white space. The appearance, interactions within a webpage, and credibility are three key major parts that come with evaluating a webpage.
IN.gov | The Official Website of the State of Indiana, www.in.gov/core/.

Kupersmith, J. *Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply & Questions to Ask*, UC Berkeley, laulima.hawaii.edu/access/content/group/8fc98f26-7b72-42c1-0041-108f739b082/internet/ucb_evaluate_url.html.