

HSO Content Criteria

Must fulfill all 8 of the following criteria to qualify:

	Check if fulfills	Comments
RELEVANCE/INDEPENDENCE	////////////////////	////////////////////
Information is relevant to the health sciences (e.g., medicine, public health, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, nutrition, etc.)		
Information is useful by itself as a teaching/learning tool (no power points without lecture notes or audio)		
OBJECTIVITY	////////////////////	////////////////////
Website is educational: not for advertising or marketing		
CREDIBILITY/CURRENCY	////////////////////	////////////////////
Source is credible		
Material is current		
DESIGN	////////////////////	////////////////////
Site is user-friendly		
Material is automatically searchable or metadata is sufficient for identification		
Material is free		

Explanation of each criterion

RELEVANCE/INDEPENDENCE
<p><i>Information is relevant to medicine, public health, PA, or nursing:</i> It would be expected that a physician, nurse, physicians' assistant, public health worker, or low-level/low-literacy community health worker in training or in practice could find the material useful for a regular or an unusual aspect of their job. All topics could and should be included for these disciplines, including, for example, anything listed in MeSH headings for inclusion in medicine. Both standard and unusual topics should also be listed, including, for example, both common and rare diseases or cures (especially those applicable in developing countries), common and unusual appearances of common diseases, regular protocols for standard lab procedures and emergency protocols for disasters. Also, we should include issues for special populations, such as neonates, refugees, those with religious proscriptions, suburban residents and the effects of urban sprawl on their health, health effects for women living in countries with common female genital mutilation or with strict exposure rules for women. Not included would be issues that would clearly be better-handled by practitioners in other disciplines: for example, topics in agricultural practice would not be included, though occupational health issues for farm workers, neuropathology of pesticide exposure, and even the resources used to grow a pound of beef vs. a pound of tofu should be included, as they are all pieces of information a health worker could reasonably find useful. Likewise, most information in the arts would be irrelevant, but repetitive stress injuries for performers, the health effects of art therapy, and even a psychiatric analysis of the mental health of van Gogh would be included. The default should typically be for inclusion, but all our screeners have a trial period where their judgment is checked by our Content Director..</p>
<p><i>Information is useful by itself as a teaching/learning tool:</i> There are two target audiences for these materials: teachers and learners. Materials for teachers should be geared toward independent use by a teacher, and should be labeled as such. Complete materials, and a full explanation of how to use them should be included. This could include a schedule of lesson topics with slides and lecture notes provided for each lecture, and/or a full description of how to construct hands-on lab experiences for students, and/or questions and answers for teachers to use with students for assessment. It would not just be a curricular outline, or a list of reading materials, or someone's powerpoint presentation (we should never include a powerpoint without full lecture notes at minimum). For materials for students, a learner (at any of a variety of learning levels) should be able to sit down with the materials at their computer (or print materials out, or copy them to a disk, IPod, or PDA as needed) and learn directly from them. Materials for students should not require a teaching intermediary. An example of a good learning object for a student would be a text, with/without illustrations, streaming video, audio, pre-/post-test, and/or chat room accompaniments.</p>
OBJECTIVITY
<p><i>Website is educational: not for advertising or marketing:</i> We will not include websites that have advertising embedded in them or that require viewing ads to access them. We will not include any information, even if from a source rated as credible by our criteria below, if there are obvious biases.</p>
CREDIBILITY/CURRENCY
<p><i>Source is credible:</i> We can include information from any institution that is accredited as an institution of higher learning in their home country, as a nationally-credentialed specialty society (by ABMS-equivalent organizations), and government institutions. Information from NGOs may be acceptable if their author(s) are from an accredited institution of higher learning, specialty society, or government organization.</p>
<p><i>Material is current:</i> Materials ideally should include the date last updated, and will have been updated within two years. While fresher will always be better (all other things being equal), exceptions to this include relatively stable basic science or clinical materials (within 10 years), important information that is not available in a more current document, or historically important/archival material.</p>
DESIGN

Site is user-friendly:

It should be easy to access and navigate, and be uncluttered, with clear and well-working links, and should be well-organized. File sizes will be prominently noted in the metadata given to users for each item selected. While it would be good for the materials to load quickly, large PDF files that are rich with information are also very important to include.

Material is automatically searchable and/or metadata is copious and already provided:

Many learning objects will have text that is fully searchable by our search engine, but other materials (PDFs, videos, images) will also be included with sufficient metadata (particularly title and keywords) that it will appear in appropriate searches.

Material is free:

For the foreseeable future, all our materials will be free to all users, and no content providers are paid. We will eventually consider having some materials only available to users in certain populations designated by the content providers.