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Website Evaluation

Overview

The internet offers many resources and great websites for any field of study and setting. I chose the website *Asha.org* because it is a comprehensive resource for those interested in the Speech Pathology and Audiology field. ASHA is a professional, scientific and credentialing organization that serves thousands of members and affiliates. The website can be used by students, speech, audiology professionals, and the public. It has many useful links depending what someone is looking for. Students can find helpful information before they apply to their program of study and after they have finished. The website is also helpful for professionals already in the field. They can find jobs and also learn about different conferences across the country. The public can go on the website for educational information, to find professionals in their area and health insurance information.

I personally find this website to be very valuable. I have used it many times during my college career to find state approved speech pathology programs. I also used the website to learn more about the application process and other facts about the career. In the future, I am interested in searching the website for job opportunities and continuing my education. The website is also useful to find scholarly articles. I have not joined the organization yet but I plan to do so once I start the program next fall.

This website can be used in the high school and college setting for those students interested in Audiology and Speech Pathology. It can be used by counselors and professors to guide their students. Students can also access the website on their

own and take advantage of the many resources. They can even join the National

Student Speech Association (NISSHLA). Students become mentors as well or find

mentors in their area. In addition, the ASHA website outlines the specific curricular

standards of the National Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. It

informs students of how to obtain their certification and how to maintain it.

Software/Website Evaluation Form

Title of Software/Website: www.asha.org

Intended Grade Level: High School junior to Adult

Content Area: Audiology and Speech Language Pathology

SA	A	D	SD	NA	Content
x					The content is accurate.
x					The objectives meet my curriculum needs.
x					The reading level and vocabulary is appropriate for the intended user.
x					The website/software has various levels of instruction for varied abilities.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	Technical Aspects
x					Uses the unique capabilities of the computer.
x					Sound can be turned off.
					Maintains a record of student performance/progress.
x					Instructions are clear.
x					User can skip over familiar instructions.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	Design
x					Graphics and sound add to effectiveness of the program.

					Screen format is well planned and consistent.
x					
				x	Difficulty of instruction adjusts according to student response.
				x	Feedback is effective and appropriate.
x					Students can access menu to change activities.
				x	Responds to errors effectively.
SA	**A**	**D**	**SD**	**NA**	**Support**
x					Documentation is clear and comprehensive.
x					Print materials are provided for students.
				x	Additional learning activities are suggested in the documentation.
SA	**A**	**D**	**SD**	**NA**	**Motivation**
x					Easy to use.
	x				The students will like it.

Three things I liked about the website/software:

1) I really like that it can be used by everyone (students, professionals, teachers, and public)
2) I like that it offers a link for publications and research.
3) I like that it can serve as a guide for career development and it can be used to search for accredited programs.

Three things I disliked about the website/software:

1) Some valuable resources are only offered to ASHA members
2) The membership for ASHA can be expensive
3) There are not too many animations.

My Overall Recommendation:

Overall, I really like this website and I recommend it to everyone. It offers extensive information about the field.

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Evaluation

      I personally think that the ASHA website positively fulfills each of the areas of the

evaluation chart. There were some aspects that did not apply to it in a few of the areas.

In regards to content, I strongly agreed that the site is accurate and it is constantly

updated. It also has the right vocabulary for different users. It is targeted to different

people and can be easily understood. There are a technical terms mostly found on the

links for professionals in the Speech and Audiology fields. It also meets curricular

needs and it specifies them in the website.

      The technical aspects of the website are also properly working. Links accurately

direct to many resources about different topics. Instructions are also clear if a member

wants to do any of the activities or look at the articles. Everything is easily accessed on

the website. The website does not maintain record of student performance. It only

maintains record of login information for membership purposes. The design also adds to

the easiness to navigate the website. Colors are appropriate as well. Feedback and

difficulty of instruction do not apply to the website.

      Users can print information from the website if they choose to such as institution

requirements and testing information. Documents are easy to read and accessible. In

addition, I also strongly agreed with the motivation rates. I think that people find the

website appealing and informative. I personally really liked all aspects of the website. I

think that students will most likely feel the same. Even though the website is not

necessarily "fun" it is extremely helpful. People will visit in order to get the information

they need. This can be seen in the high number of members the organization and the

high number of visitors to the website.

In conclusion, the website can be used in all kinds of settings and by multiple individuals. It can be used at home by students, professionals and parents. It can also be used by counselors in career services to give students information regarding the speech and audiology field. It can be used in special education classes since there is useful information about children and others with impairments. Teachers and parents can access information about different conditions and therapy. It can be used by professors who need to research scholarly articles for classroom purposes. It can also be used by current professionals, who want to continue their education and find other resources.