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Success Factors for Destination Marketing Web Sites: A Qualitative Meta-Analysis

YOUNG A. PARK AND ULRIKE GRETZEL

Destination marketing organizations invest considerable amounts of money in the development of Web sites as part of their overall promotion efforts. With increasing pressure on their budgets, it becomes ever more important for these organizations to assess the effectiveness of their Web sites, evaluate the return on their investments, and derive feedback on necessary improvements. Web site evaluation measures have been proposed in many ways and various contexts over the past decade. The study presented in this article used a qualitative meta-analysis methodology to synthesize the diverse findings. A unified framework of commonly used Web site success factors emerged from the analysis and included a total of nine factors: (1) information quality; (2) ease of use; (3) responsiveness; (4) security/privacy; (5) visual appearance; (6) trust; (7) interactivity; (8) personalization; and (9) fulfillment. Additional factors to further inform Web evaluation efforts were identified based on Werthner and Klein's dimensions of Web communication. The article concludes with a discussion of implications for future research.

Keywords: *Destination marketing; Web site evaluation; e-satisfaction; e-loyalty; e-quality; qualitative meta-analysis*

INTRODUCTION

Destination marketing organizations (DMOs) are organizations that have been established to promote specific destinations to potential travelers (Gartrell 1994). The Web has revolutionized the way DMOs provide destination information and the manner in which they communicate and interact with consumers and practitioners (Wöber 2003). Web-based destination marketing has become a reality for most DMOs and simultaneously constitutes a great opportunity and a great challenge for these organizations (Gretzel, Yuan, and Fesenmaier 2000). As Web-based marketing strategies have become more widely adopted and pressure on DMOs to account for investments in their Web sites has increased, interest in the evaluation of Web sites has grown. However, whereas general advertising effectiveness measures have been developed and widely discussed in the literature, for example, by Kim, Hwang, and Fesenmaier (2005), the development of Web site evaluation methods has been all

but systematic and conclusive. Morrison, Taylor, and Douglas (2004) report that Web site evaluation in tourism is still in its early stages of development. There are currently no commonly accepted standards for evaluating Web site success in tourism (Law and Bai 2006), leading most DMOs to simply track visits or measure some basic form of conversion (online brochure request or actual travel after visiting the Web site). Although valuable to some extent, these measures give little insight as to what aspects of the Web site triggered or hindered certain attitudes or behaviors and how the Web design, structure, content, and so forth could be improved. Increasing the effectiveness of their Web sites is crucial for DMOs and Web site evaluation methods need to be able to inform this process (Tierney 2000).

Studies that try to identify and evaluate Web site success factors have emerged in various disciplinary areas (tourism, marketing, information systems, human-computer interaction, advertising, etc.) and have been labeled in many ways (Web site evaluation, e-satisfaction, Web quality, e-quality, e-loyalty, etc.). Although somewhat different in their approaches, the underlying concepts of these studies are very similar and a unified model of success factors based on the various existing research models could greatly inform the field as well as the practice of tourism Web site evaluation. Therefore, the goal of the study presented in this article was to conduct a meta-analysis of the findings of existing studies in order to draw conclusions about the factors that drive Web site success. According to Hunter, Schmidt, and Jackson (1982, p. 10), "a single study will not

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resolve a major issue, and a small sample study will not even resolve a minor issue. Thus, the foundation of science is the culmination of knowledge from the results of many studies.” Consequently, the aim of this article is not to annotate the past but rather to summarize the collective understanding of Web site success factors. The major benefit of this study is the digest of a large volume of key factors into one comprehensive model that can be tested and applied to Web site development and evaluation problems. This integration helps to identify not only commonalities but also gaps in existing approaches.

BACKGROUND

Successfully integrating information technology such as Web sites into the fabric of their organizations and their marketing strategies is critical for the survival of DMOs as promoters of destinations and brokers of information between tourism suppliers and consumers (Buhalis 2000; Gretzel et al. 2006; Wang and Fesenmaier 2006). Effective Web-based marketing requires taking full advantage of Web sites as a communication medium (Brownlie et al. 1994; Cronin 1995). Gretzel, Yuan, and Fesenmaier (2000) claim that the success factors for marketing on the Web include attracting users, engaging users’ interest and participation, retaining users and ensuring they return, learning about user preferences, and relating back to users through customized interactions. Similarly, Wang and Fesenmaier (2006) suggest that the key ingredients to successful Web-based destination marketing include identifying, developing, and analyzing the factors that can influence or even shape customer needs, thus suggesting that Web site development and evaluation efforts should not only assess the technical quality of the medium but should also include aspects related to customer satisfaction. The following provides a brief overview of Web site evaluation studies as well as the literature on customer perceptions, satisfaction, and loyalty in an online context.

Web Site Evaluation

Web site evaluation promises strategic benefits such as customer retention, positive return on investment, and leadership within the competition (Cronin 2003). Several evaluation studies have been conducted related to tourism Web sites (for example, Kasavana 2002; Morrison, Taylor, and Douglas 2004; Murphy et al. 1996; Scharl, Wöber, and Bauer 2004; Tierney 2000), using a multitude of approaches that range from expert judgments to consumer surveys to automated evaluations by crawler technology. These studies have identified a myriad of possible factors. For instance, Schegg et al. (2002) analyzed Swiss hotel Web sites to find successful online marketing strategies and proposed more than 10 key factors for evaluating the effectiveness of hotel Web sites. Therefore, what the past research seems to have in common is a general agreement that assessing a Web site’s effectiveness or performance requires multidimensional instead of unidimensional evaluation approaches and measures. However, the number, labels, and definitions for these dimensions differ across the various studies, making it difficult to compare findings and identify factors that have consistently been used to evaluate Web sites. This situation

has led to a lot of replication and little progress in our understanding of key factors that should be included in Web site evaluation frameworks. Although the boundaries are blurry, Web site evaluation studies tend to rely more often on expert assessments or predetermined benchmarks and on the tangible aspects of a Web site rather than on consumer opinions. Studies that are based on the latter are more likely to appear under the categories of e-quality, e-satisfaction, or e-loyalty studies.

E-Quality, E-Satisfaction, and E-Loyalty

There is a growing body of research addressing the topic of defining, measuring, and managing e-quality, e-satisfaction, and e-loyalty. These studies focus on measuring key factors that address customers’ needs, wants, and expectations toward a Web site. Maintaining a high quality is crucial for Web sites in order to increase customer satisfaction and encourage customers to return. The term service quality is widely used as a measure of a customer’s judgment about an entity’s overall excellence and superiority (Zeithaml and Bitner 2000), whereas e-quality is defined as the customer’s overall judgment of an e-entity’s excellence (Santos 2003). Santos (2003) stresses that e-quality offers a sustainable competitive advantage for the e-company by driving customers’ purchase decisions and enhancing customer relationships.

Like e-quality, e-satisfaction has also been recognized as important in the marketing literature and diverse studies have been conducted to identify the drivers of e-satisfaction. Anderson and Srinivasan (2003, p. 125) defined e-satisfaction as “contentment of the customer with respect to his or her prior purchasing experience with a given electronic commerce firm.” According to McKinney, Yoon, and Zahedi (2002), Web site characteristics and service features are important drivers of customer satisfaction in an online context. Given the well-studied and extensively documented relationships of customer satisfaction with customer behavior and, ultimately, company profitability, measuring customer satisfaction based on the interaction with a Web site becomes an important issue (Bansal et al. 2004). Some studies related to customer evaluations of Web sites have explicitly concentrated on customer retention. For instance, Reichheld and Schefter (2000) described loyalty as being all about quality customer support, on-time delivery, compelling product presentations, convenient and reasonably priced shipping and handling, and a clear and trustworthy privacy policy. The authors also claimed that loyalty through means of customer retention is critical to the success of any e-business because loyal customers significantly contribute to customer acquisition through positive word-of-mouth.

Identifying Success Factors for Destination Marketing Web Sites

In order to learn from the existing studies that have emerged from different theoretical backgrounds and have been informed by somewhat dissimilar goals, commonalities in the factors employed need to be identified and synthesized into a framework that can be used as the basis for Web site evaluation efforts in the context of destination marketing. Such a formally derived integration of existing research also provides a crucial foundation for future

research in that it makes gaps in existing approaches apparent and calls for the development of specific measures for the various Web site evaluation dimensions. A qualitative meta-analysis approach was deemed as most appropriate for achieving this goal. Its process and outcomes are described in the subsequent sections of the article.

METHODOLOGY

Meta-analysis is a methodology employed to synthesize the outcomes of various studies related to the same topic or outcome measure (Hunter, Schmidt, and Jackson 1982). It is typically conducted as a quantitative procedure geared toward the comparison of effect sizes across a variety of research studies. Given the diversity of approaches used in the context of Web site evaluation such statistical evaluation is not possible. However, an integration of research findings can also be achieved through qualitative means. Qualitative meta-analysis, also referred to as meta-synthesis, follows the same replicable procedures of a quantitative meta-analysis; however, it is interpretive rather than aggregative (Paterson et al. 2001). As in the case of a quantitative meta-analysis, defining the domain of research and establishing criteria for including studies in the review is critical.

Data Collection

Computer databases (Ebsco, ProQuest, and Google scholar) were initially searched to identify relevant research in both tourism and nontourism fields. Search terms included different combinations of *Web*, *eCommerce*, *Internet*, *satisfaction*, *loyalty*, *quality* and *evaluation*. Data collection efforts also included a systematic search of selected journals/proceedings within the timeframe of January 1997 and September 2006. Tourism-related publications included in this search were the ENTER conference proceedings, the *Journal of Information Technology and Tourism*, *Tourism Management*, *Journal of Travel Research*, *Annals of Tourism Research*, *Journal of Hospitality Information Technology*, *Journal of Vacation Marketing*, and the *Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing*. To identify research in nontourism fields, the top 10 e-commerce research journals as listed by Bharati and Tarasewich (2002) were searched. The next step in the data collection process involved a type of snowball sampling technique in that the references listed by the obtained studies were used to determine additional studies. The identified papers were then evaluated with respect to their suitability for inclusion in the study, for example, research that focused on Web site evaluation with respect to Intranets and job performance were excluded. This procedure resulted in a sample of 153 academic papers.

Description of Sample

The papers included in the sample were classified into tourism (53 papers) and nontourism papers (100) based on the focus of their research. Not surprisingly, most papers were published after 2000. Whereas the number of relevant publications in nontourism areas shows a steady increase until 2005, publications in tourism fluctuate more and seem to have peaked in 2004 (Figure 1).

The papers were further categorized based on their title, keywords, and dependent variables (if applicable) into four subject areas: (1) web evaluation, (2) e-quality; (3) e-satisfaction; and, (4) e-loyalty. Figure 2 depicts the distribution of papers among these subjects for tourism as well as nontourism papers. The frequencies show that tourism papers appeared mostly under the label of Web evaluation, whereas nontourism papers fall most frequently into the e-quality category. Figure 2 also shows the limited number of e-satisfaction and e-loyalty studies in tourism.

Data Analysis

Several steps were followed in the process of synthesizing the Web site evaluation concepts presented in the various studies. First, the dimensions/factors used in the studies were extracted from the text of the papers. A detailed list of factors identified in the various studies is included in the appendix to this article. Second, the factors were presorted based on their title only. As a next step, the factor descriptions as provided in the papers were reviewed and concepts were resorted. For instance, accessibility was found to have different meanings in different studies. In some instances it referred to usability concerns such as ease of finding the Web site and downloading speed (Gupta, Jones, and Coleman 2004; Yoches and Erdem 2005), whereas in other instances it referred to accessibility of service representatives (O'Connor 2004; Yang 2001). If a concept contained subdimensions, the subdimensions rather than the overarching concept were sorted into the various categories. For instance, this was the case with the category Web System Quality, which included access, usability, entertainment, hyperlinks, navigation, and interactivity (McKinney, Yoon, and Zahedi 2002). The sorting process is further illustrated in Figure 3, which relates to specific factors used by Posselt and Gerstner (2005). Look, for example, was described as overall look and design of the site. Based on its meaning it was assigned to the Visual Appearance category. If a factor could not be assigned to any of the existing concepts, a new category was created.

FINDINGS

The papers included in this study identified on average five Web evaluation factors (mean value = 5.24). The paper by Madu and Madu (2002) listed the greatest number of dimensions (16) whereas Zhang and von Dran (2001) only measured 1 dimension. Thus, over 700 concepts were initially entered into the meta-analysis. The various steps of the sorting process resulted in a total of 38 factors, suggesting that there was considerable overlap if not in the wording than at least in the meaning of the factors identified by the studies in the sample. This list of factors was used to identify the most commonly used Web site success factors as well as to point out potential gaps in current Web site evaluation approaches.

Common Factors

Identified as common factors were those dimensions reported by more than 10% of the studies. A total of 13 of such key dimensions were found in the tourism papers and

FIGURE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS BY YEAR AND AREA OF INVESTIGATION

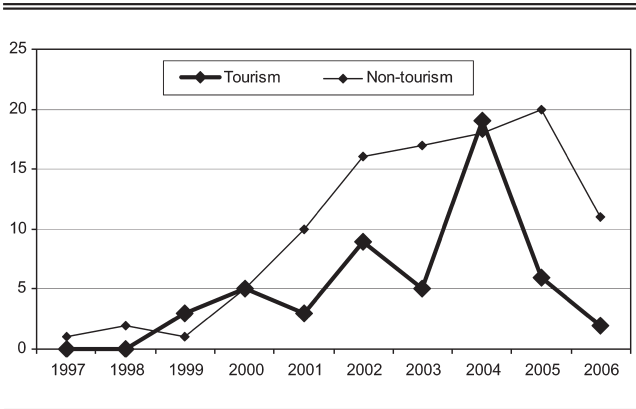
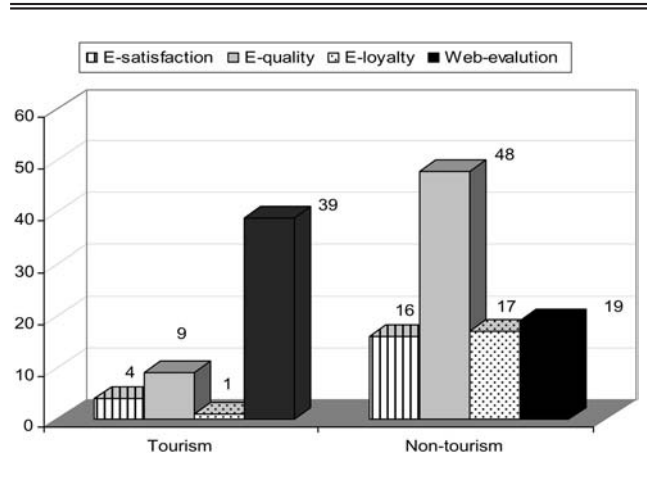


FIGURE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS BY SUBJECT AREA AND AREA OF INVESTIGATION



15 common factors emerged from the nontourism studies. Table 1 presents the actual rankings of these common factors for tourism and nontourism related papers. The Information Quality factor was used in a majority of tourism studies (87%) and was also widely used in nontourism studies (83%). However, the factor that most often occurred in nontourism studies was Fulfillment, a dimension that did not appear at all in tourism studies. Ease of Use was also a commonly evaluated factor in both tourism and nontourism studies as was Security/Privacy. Interestingly, Visual Appearance was a much more common success measure in nontourism studies. Also, Customization was a factor that was commonly used in nontourism studies but not at all in tourism-related Web evaluation efforts.

These factors were then further condensed based on their logical relationships to increase the applicability of the evaluation framework to actual Web site performance measurement. For instance, Navigation was conceptualized as essentially a usability factor and was merged with Ease of Use. Most authors described navigation as successful movement through a Web site (Kaplanidou, Vogt, and Morris 2005; Yoches and Erdem 2005). Similarly, Customer Service was merged with Responsiveness as both fundamentally addressed issues of getting in touch with the company and receiving a prompt response to questions or problems (Wolfinbarger and Gilly 2003). Further, Brand/Reputation was combined with Trust as both concepts reflect a customer's evaluation of the credibility of the company and its offerings, including the Web site. This effort led to nine common factors that appear to form the basis of the majority of studies. These factors are: (1) Information Quality; (2) Ease of Use; (3) Security/Privacy; (4) Visual Appearance; (5) Personalization; (6) Responsiveness; (7) Interactivity; (8) Trust; and, (9) Fulfillment. The identified dimensions largely correspond with Rowley's (2006) findings of commonly used dimensions except for Visual Appearance and Trust. Table 2 provides an overview of the common factors with a short description for each.

This unified model of key success factors for DMO Web sites differs mostly from existing frameworks in tourism in

that it includes a fulfillment related factor. Fulfillment refers to the delivery of products and services within a service level promise (Field, Heim, and Sinha 2004; Wolfinbarger and Gilly 2003; Zeithaml, Parasuraman, and Malhotra 2002). Although DMOs have traditionally not engaged in the selling of products, almost all mail out brochures, many offer online booking capabilities, and some even provide virtual souvenir shops on their Web sites. Thus, measuring a DMO Web site's performance in terms of fulfillment becomes important. While having a return policy is only crucial for those DMOs that actually ship tangible products, other aspects such as order confirmation and delivery estimates apply to traditional DMO activities such as sending out promotional materials.

Additional Factors

User interactions with Web sites are quasi-social interactions for which general communication and persuasion principles hold true (Reeves and Nass 1996). Consequently,

FIGURE 3
ILLUSTRATION OF FACTOR SORTING PROCESS

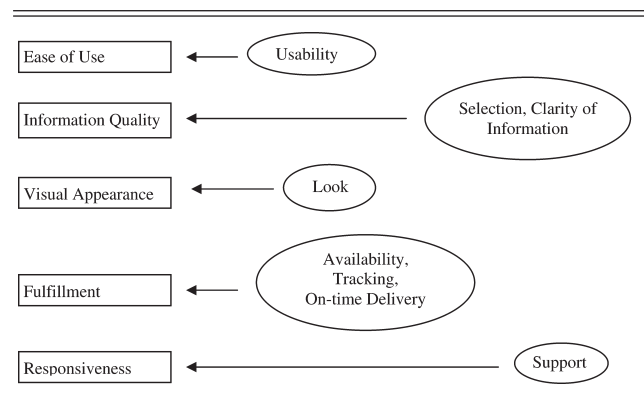


TABLE 1
MOST PROMINENTLY USED CONCEPTS

Tourism		Non-Tourism	
Key Factor	Percent (%) of Papers	Key Factor	Percent (%) of Papers
Information Quality	87	Fulfillment	90
Ease of Use	60	Information Quality	83
Security/Privacy	43	Ease of Use	69
Responsiveness	42	Visual Appearance	63
Customer Service	39	Security/Privacy	53
Interactivity	39	Responsiveness	47
Accessibility	29	Interactivity	45
Navigation	27	Customer Service	39
Visual Appearance	23	Accessibility	35
Personalization	19	Navigation	25
Trust	18	Personalization	24
Brand/Reputation	16	Customization	20
Incentive	16	Trust	20
		Brand/Reputation	17
		Return Policy	15

TABLE 2
DESCRIPTION OF UNIFIED KEY EVALUATION FACTORS

Key Factors	Description
Ease of Use	Usability, accessibility, navigability
Responsiveness	Logical structure Accessibility of service representatives, e-mail service, reply to online reservations Contact information Availability of help functions such as a toll-free telephone, intuitive online help
Fulfillment	Order process, accuracy of service promises, billing accuracy Online booking process and confirmation On-time delivery
Security/Privacy	Protecting information during transmission and subsequent storage Security for online purchases/reservations Privacy/confidentiality statement
Personalization	Personalized or individualized attention Customization of offerings and of information
Visual Appearance	Attract attention Convey image Aesthetics
Information Quality	Variety, scope, currency, conciseness, accuracy of information Authority, reliability, uniqueness of information
Trust	Brand recognition Consistency Intentions Credibility
Interactivity	Interactive features such as virtual tours Interactive communication (FAQs, guest books, chat)

destination marketing Web sites provide unique opportunities for persuasion through interactivity and the ability to create stimulating information environments. However, a recent study by Kim and Fesenmaier (2005) found that destination Web sites in the United States largely neglect persuasion principles and are rather inconsistent in their communication efforts. The qualitative meta-analysis conducted for this study shows that existing Web site evaluation

frameworks fail to fully integrate measures necessary to detect such shortcomings. This is partly due to misconceptions of the Web as a purely informational and functional medium that still largely prevail in the tourism field. Werthner and Klein (1999) point out that tourism marketing messages serve four distinct purposes: (1) information; (2) education; (3) advertising/persuasion; and (4) entertainment. Whereas the first purpose is reflected in the unified

model of Web site success factors, the other three are only somewhat captured, for example, through Personalization and Interactivity. Several factors that were included in only a small number of the studies could inform the measurement of the extent to which DMO Web sites facilitate learning, entertainment and persuasion. One of these factors is cultural adaptation. Given the global audience DMO Web sites receive, catering to the needs of international visitors can greatly enhance the Web site's persuasive impact on the specific target market (Cyr and Trevor-Smith 2004; Sing et al. 2006). Another factor that emerged from the meta-analysis is playfulness. Although still not widely recognized in Web evaluation frameworks, playfulness, fun, enjoyment, and flow have received increasing attention in the overall human-computer interaction literature (Blythe et al. 2003; Lin, Wu, and Tsai 2005) and pleasure has recently been identified as an important mediating variable between evaluation of Web site quality and satisfaction (De Wulf et al. 2006). As DMOs start to invest in the entertainment aspects of their Web sites, they need to have measures in place to evaluate these efforts. Further, given the importance of word-of-mouth in tourism (Kotler, Bowen, and Makens 2006), fostering and managing positive eWOM (electronic word-of-mouth) through a DMO Web site is a must. Social involvement emerged as a factor that signifies opportunities to share information and communicate experiences and opinions to others. Whereas the Interactivity factor stresses the destination Web site's effectiveness in engaging the user with Web site content through interactive features, social involvement emphasizes the sharing and peer communication dimension of Web site interactions. Also, marketing and incentives were factors that appeared in the included studies and hint at attempts to better measure the advertising/persuasion aspect of Web sites. Finally, emotional appeal was also suggested in the literature as a success measure to be included in Web evaluation efforts. Since destinations market tourism experiences with often highly emotional significance and travel information search involves hedonic components (Vogt and Fesenmaier 1998), appealing to travelers' emotions besides just their functional information needs through Web site content and features appears to be an important factor to consider.

Factors Not Considered in Existing Research

One aspect of destination marketing involves inspiring people to visit places or attractions that they did not know or consider before engaging with promotional materials. Web sites have to help achieve this persuasion goal and their effectiveness needs to be evaluated in this respect. Gretzel (2005) defines inspiration as persuasive communication that influences individuals' consideration sets. Cross-references to nearby attractions or events, suggested itineraries, featured products, as well as recommendations are examples of inspirational Web site components that should be evaluated separate from other Web site elements.

Technology integration is another factor that should be considered for Web evaluation studies because it will increase in importance as new technologies such as car navigation systems, MP3 players, Web-enabled cell phones and other forms of mobile computing become widely adopted by

the traveling public. A substantial role of destination Web sites will be the provision of content that can be downloaded to these various devices and used during the actual trip. Investments in Web site features that support technology integration will have to be measured and evaluated to inform DMOs of their performance with respect to disseminating information and marketing messages through a variety of channels.

Current Web site evaluation studies assume that consumers cognitively engage with various features of a Web site and Web site quality measures are largely geared toward evaluations after the Web site has been used for quite some time. Recent research suggests that first impressions of Web sites are typically formed within milliseconds (Kim and Fesenmaier 2005; Lindgaard et al. 2006). Thus, it is important to develop evaluation measures that can capture and assess a destination Web site's ability to appeal to consumers within the blink of an eye and without cognitive elaboration (Gladwell 2005).

CONCLUSION

Web evaluation has become a critical process in DMOs' performance measurement efforts. However, Web evaluation research over the past decade has led to diverse approaches and findings rather than a unified understanding of success factors that should be measured to gauge a Web site's performance. The common success factors and potential additional factors identified in this study provide an important basis for practical Web evaluation implementation and simultaneously serve as a useful input for future research. Since the concepts identified as success factors have not been uniformly operationalized in past research, the big challenge for the research community involves developing and testing measures that reflect the nine core dimensions as well as assessing the merit of including the proposed additional factors. Further, it is not yet clear which of these success factors are hygiene factors in that they only inhibit customer interactions when absent and which factors are the true catalysts for changes in consumer attitudes and behaviors (Kim and Fesenmaier 2005; Zhang and von Dran 2001; Zhang et al. 1999). Further, many Web evaluation efforts currently restrict themselves to ratings of features and do not link evaluations to outcome measures. What these outcome measures are is an area of research that clearly needs attention.

As DMOs, technologies, and consumers change, the factors to be included in Web evaluation efforts might change. Thus, the success factors proposed in this study provide a snapshot of currently relevant dimensions and are to be seen as a starting point for future research rather than a fixed framework. Also, which factors to include and which outcome measures to use ultimately depends on the marketing goals a DMO establishes for its Web site. Many DMOs have yet to determine clear objectives for their Web sites as well as strategic development plans for their online marketing efforts. Web site evaluation is of little use if its results are not interpreted in the context of specific goals.

APPENDIX

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF KEY FACTORS USED IN TOURISM-RELATED WEB EVALUATION STUDIES

Study	Tourism
Study	Key Factors Identified
Morrison, Taylor, Morrison, and Morrison (1999) Weber and Roehl (1999)	Technical, Marketing, Internal, Customer Security, Quality of information, Internet vendor's reliability, Getting orders/services in timely manner, Ease of contacting vendor, Ease of placing orders, Ease of handling returns/refunds, Customer service and after-sale support, Variety of choices, Ease of canceling orders, Ease of payment procedures, Lowest price, Satisfaction of being cutting edge
Buhalis and Spada (2000)	User-friendly and easy-to-understand system, Comprehensive destination information before, during, and after trip, On-line booking confirmation, Speed of transactions, Range of prices available, Late-availability information, Secure payment methods, Option to conduct virtual tours and view pictures of a destination, Book products form a variety of distribution channels, On-line booking through DMS, Availability of help function such as a toll-free telephone, Intuitive on-line help
Friel, Sombert, and Crimes (2000)	Transparency, Proactiveness, Service, Speed, Reliability, Care, Creativity
Pröll and Retschitzegger (2000)	Quality of access, Quality of content, Ability to customize
Jung and Butler (2000)	Successful website: regular updating, repeat visits, appearance, useful information, interactivity, web design, promotion (off-line), forming partners, value-added info, institutional support, building royalty, clear navigation paths Successful web design: appearance, added value, content, design & creativity, ease of use, joy of use, relationship with customers, security, transportation support
Chu (2001)	Informative, Interactive, Attractive
Perdue (2001)	Speed and quality of site accessibility, Ease of navigation, Visual attractiveness of the site, Quality of the site, Quality of information content
Yip and Law (2002)	Special discounts, Free delivery of tickets, Extra benefits, Complementary shopping coupons, Secure personal information
Wan (2002)	User interface: Ease of physical access, Ease of accessing specific information within the web site, Standardized format, Ability to access information in multiple ways, Help and orientation, Variety of information: Simplicity, current and reliable information, Comprehensive coverage, Hyperlinks to relevant web sites Online reservation: Capacity to make reservation or remit payment by credit card
Law and Leung (2002)	Information quality: Accompanying persons, airline preferences, availability of regulations and rules, class choices, date or time not available for booking, list of airline choices, meal selection option, number of travelers, price comparison of different airlines, special airfare promotion, seat selection, summary of selected itinerary, ticket type. System use: Confirmation period, express search, free entry of origin, free entry of destination, free entry of departure day/time, online ticket purchase, reservation steps to follow, steps to make reservation and payment System quality: no errors in searching and researching, secure payment systems, message display, warning on infeasible date/time Service quality: Customer support, online suggestions, payment options Customer loyalty: Membership, extra bonus for frequent flyer members
Sigala and Christou (2002)	Perceived ease of use, Perceived usefulness, Perceived functionality of Internet tools, Perceived usefulness as an education tool, Perceived competencies, Perceived level of IT support
Ranganathan and Ganapathy (2002)	Information content, Design, Security

(continued)

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

Study	Key Factors
Wöber, Scharl, Natter, and Taudes (2002)	Volume of textual & graphical information, Diversity of words used, Ease of navigation, Interactivity, Reservation and booking features, Number of different language versions
Schegg, Steiner, Frey, and Murphy (2002)	Service Process: Access and Navigation, entertainment, information, online booking Customer relationship: communication, database management Value creation: Added value services, incentives and triggers Trust: implicit trust features, explicit trust features Cybermarketing
Palmer (2003)	Download Delay, Navigation/ Organization, Interactivity, Responsiveness, Information/ Content
Liang and Law (2003)	Customer contact information, Facilitation information, Reservations information, Surrounding area information, Management of website
Nysveen, Methlie, and Pedersen (2003)	Search engine, Service integration, Personalization, Trust, Reversed pricing, Auctions, Collective volume discount, Service aggregation, Customer community
Law and Wong (2003)	Secure payment methods, Different price ranges for products/services, User-friendly system, Rapid information search, on-line booking and confirmation, Comprehensive destination information, Availability of help functions, Provision of related Web links, Late availability information, Availability of virtual tours/video files of destination, Presentation style, specifically designed for user group
Yeung and Law (2004)	Language Usability, Layout and Graphics, Information Architecture Usability, User Interface and Navigation Usability, General Usability
Xiang and Fesenmaier (2004)	Functionality, Ease of use, Learnability, Speed, Design, Interactivity, Novelty
Scharl, Wöber, and Bauer (2004)	Product, Speed, Intelligence, Layout, Services, Languages, Navigation, Interactivity
Powley, Cobanoglu, and Cummings (2004)	Website quality (Efficiency, Speed and quality of design, Convenience of web site, Attractiveness of web site), Purchasing motivators, Personal significance, Travel information source, Attitude
Schaffer and Mills (2004)	Product quality, Processing capacity, Credit card protection, Data handling/privacy policy, Web site design, Navigation, Customer service
Zins, Bauernfeind, Missier, Venturini, and Rumetshofer (2004)	Design/layout, Functionality, Ease of Use, Learnability, Outcome/Future Use, Errors/system reliability
Fam, Foscht, and Collins (2004)	Calculation, Predictability, Intentionality, Capability, Transference, Tangibilization, Interactivity
Gupta, Jones, and Coleman (2004)	Access, Information, Design, E commerce/immediacy, Customer relationship
Aaberge, Grotte, Haugen, Skogseid, and Olnes (2004)	Information presentation, Web site structure, Content (Theme, Scope), Communication
Sigala (2004)	Playfulness, Aesthetics, Consumer return on investment, Service excellence
Christou, Avdimiotis, Kassianidis, and Sigala (2004)	Relative advantage, Compatibility, Trialability, Observability, Complexity, Perceived risk
Kline, Morrison, and John (2004)	User friendliness: Ease of navigation, Contact information Site attractiveness: Visual appeal Marketing effectiveness: Product, Information availability Technical qualities
Douglas and Mills (2004)	User friendliness: Web mobility, Ease of contact Site attractiveness: Web interface, Tangibilize products Marketing effectiveness: Marketing information, Destination activities, Market segments, Glocalization, Trip planner
Richard (2005)	High task relevant: Navigational characteristics, Informativeness, Information content effectiveness, Structure, Organization, Low task relevant: Entertainment
Kim and Fesenmaier (2005)	Aesthetics, Fun, Interactive media/experience, Metaphors, Narratives, Personalization, Promotions/Incentives, Social Actors, Tools

(continued)

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

Study	Key Factors
Kaplanidou, Vogt, and Morris (2005)	Navigation, Content, Accessibility
Yoches and Erdem (2005)	Interface, Navigation, Content, Reliability, Technical performance
Mich, Franch, and Martini (2005)	Identity, Content, Services, Location, Maintenance, Usability
Law and Hsu (2006)	Reservations information, Facilities information, Contact information, Surrounding area information, Website management
Baloglu and Pekcan (2006)	Interactivity, navigation, functionality, marketing
Kaplanidou and Vogt (2006)	Content (trip information functionality), Content (motivating visuals), Accessibility (fast downloads)

TABLE 2
SUMMARY OF KEY FACTORS USED IN NON-TOURISM RELATED WEB EVALUATION STUDIES

Non-Tourism	
Study	Key Factors
Rice (1997)	Design features or emotional experience, Enjoyable, Quality of the organization or layout, Uniqueness, Information/content, Exciting, Visually attractive, Ease to navigate, Speed of moving around the site
Griffith and Krampf (1998)	Online sales, Communication, Customer service
Palmer and Griffith (1998)	Multimedia use, Site navigability, Promotional activities, Sales and delivery, Product support
Abels, White, and Hahn (1999)	Use, Content, Structure, Linkage, Search, Appearance
Liu and Arnett (2000)	Information and Service Quality, System Use, Playfulness, System Design Quality
Voss (2000)	Lower level: Web site responsiveness, Effectiveness, Order fulfillment. Middle level: Trust, Customization, Information, Status Top level: Proactive service, Value-added service
Fink and Laupase (2000)	Tangibles, National Culture
Huizingh (2000)	Content: Information, Transaction, Entertainment, Number of features Design: Navigation structure, Search function, Protected content, Quality of structure, Image, Presentation style
Ahuja and Webster (2001)	Disorientation, Ease of use
Van Riel, Liljander, and Jurriens (2001)	Core service, Supplementary services, User Interface
D'Ambra and Rice (2001)	Training, Interests, Information, Shopping cost, Difficult information, Fun, Social influence, Identify control, Use control
Benbunan-Fich (2001)	Navigation, Content, Interactivity
Lee and Kim (2002)	Convenience: Information gathering; Order making Delight: Interface to system; Interface to people Firmness: Robust, Security
Yeung and Lu (2004)	Information, Communication, Downloading, Transaction
Constantinides (2004)	Usability, Interactivity, Trust, Aesthetics, Marketing mix
Hong and Kim (2004)	Robustness dimension: Internal reliability, External security for structural robustness Utility dimension: Useful contents, Usable navigation Aesthetic appeal dimension: System interface attractiveness, Communication interface attractiveness
Hassan and Li (2005)	Screen, Appearance, Content, Accessibility, Navigation, Media Use, Interactivity, Consistency
Yenisey, Ozok, and Salvendy (2005)	Perceived operational factors, perceived policy-related factors
Cyr, Bonanni, Bowes, and Ilsever (2005)	Menu layout, Access to product information, Professional design, Logical presentation of product info, Screen design, Navigation, Sequencing, Presentation of product attributes, Product availability
Bart, Shankar, Sultan, and Urban (2005)	Privacy, Security, Navigation and presentation, Brand strength, Advice, Order fulfillment, Community features, Absence of errors
Wulf, Schillewaert, Muylle, and Rangarajan (2005)	Content, Organization, Technology

TABLE 3
SUMMARY OF KEY FACTORS USED IN E-QUALITY STUDIES

Tourism	
Study	Key Factors
Jeong and Lambert (1999)	Perceived usefulness, Perceived ease of use, Perceived accessibility
Kaynama and Black (2000)	Content, Accessibility, Navigation, Design and Presentation, Responsiveness and Feedback, Background information, Personalization and Customization
Jeong and Lambert (2001)	Perceived Usefulness, Perceived Ease of Use, Perceived Accessibility
Lee and Kim (2002)	Ease of Use, Information Quality, Responsiveness, Personalization, Reputation, Security, Availability
Chung and Law (2003)	Facilities information, Customer contact information, Reservation information, Surrounding area information, Management of websites
Kim and Lee (2004)	Dimensions of web service quality of online travel agencies: Structure and Ease of use, Information content, Responsiveness and Personalization, Reputation and security, usefulness Dimensions of web service quality of online travel suppliers: Information content, Structures and ease of use, Reputation and security, Usefulness
O'Connor (2004)	Notice, Choice, Onward transfer, Access, Security, Enforcement
Shchiglik and Barnes (2004)	Easy to navigate, Attractive appearance, Projects a sense of competency, Accurate, Timely, Reliable information, Good reputation, Safe to transact, Personal data security, Will deliver as promised
Sigala and Sakellariadis (2004)	Task Fit, Interactivity, Trust, Responsiveness, Design appeal, Intuitiveness, Visual appeal, Innovativeness, Flow-emotional appeal, Integrated communications, Business process, Viable substitute
Yen (2005)	Efficiency, Ease of use, Performance, Perceived control, Convenience
Non-Tourism	
Study	Key Factors
Zeithaml, Parasuraman, and Malhotra (2000)	Perceived convenience: Access, Ease of Navigation, Efficiency, Flexibility
Donthu (2001)	Perceived control: Reliability, Personalization, Security/privacy Site-related factors: Ease of Use, Aesthetic Design, Processing Speed, Security Vendor-related factors: Competitive Value, Clarity of Ordering, Corporate and Brand Equity, Product Uniqueness, Product Quality, Assurance
Barnes, Liu, and Vidgen (2001)	Information quality, Website navigation/appearance, User empathy
Yoo and Donthu (2001)	Ease of use, Aesthetic design, Processing speed, Security
Yang (2001)	Reliability, Responsiveness, Access, Ease of use, Attentiveness, Credibility, Security
Jun and Cai (2001)	Product Quality: Product variety Customer Service Quality: Reliability, Responsiveness, Competence, Courtesy, Credibility, Access, Communication, Understanding the customer, Collaboration, Continuous improvement Online Systems Quality: Contents, Accuracy, Ease of use, Timeliness, Aesthetics, Security
Zhang and von Dran (2001)	Information content (accurate, appropriate detail level of information)
Yang and Jun (2002)	Internet Purchaser: Reliability, Access, Ease of Use-Personalization, Security, Credibility Non-Purchaser: Security, Responsiveness, Ease of Use, Availability-Reliability, Personalization, Access
Zeithaml, Parasuraman, and Malhotra (2002)	Efficiency, Reliability, Fulfillment, Privacy, Responsiveness, Compensation, Contact
Barnes and Vidgen (2002)	Usability, Information, Service interaction

(continued)

TABLE 3 (CONTINUED)

Study	Non-Tourism	Key Factors
Francis and White (2002)	Web Store functional, Product Attribute description, Ownership Conditions, Delivered Products, Customer Service, Security	
Olsina and Rossi (2002)	Usability, Functionality, Reliability, Efficiency	
Loiacono, Watson, and Goodhue (2002)	Ease of Use, Usefulness, Entertainment, Complementary relationships	
Janda, Trocchia, and Gwinner (2002)	Performance, Access, Security, Sensation, Information	
Aladwani and Palvia (2002)	Specific content, Content quality, Appearance, Technical adequacy	
Madu and Madu (2002)	Performance, Web site features, Structure, Aesthetics, Reliability, Storage capability, Serviceability, Security, System integrity, Trust, Responsiveness, Product/service quality differentiation and customization, Web store policies, Reputation, Assurance, Empathy	
Zeithaml (2002)	Core E-SQ: Efficiency, Fulfillment, Reliability, Privacy; Recovery E-SQ: Compensation, Contact	
Van Riel, Semeijn, and Janssen (2003)	User interface, Reliability, Security, Customization, Responsiveness	
Yang, Peterson, and Cai (2003)	Responsiveness, Credibility, Ease of use, reliability, convenience, Communication, access, Competence, courtesy, personalization	
Douglas, Muir, and Meehan (2003)	Presentation, Content, Accessibility, Reliability, Customer Support, Security	
Wolfenbarger and Gilly (2003)	Website design, Fulfillment, Reliability, Privacy/security, Customer service	
Barnes and Vidgen (2003)	Usability, Information quality, Service interaction, Overall	
Santos (2003)	Incubative dimension: Ease of use, Appearance, Linkage, Structure and layout, Content Active dimension: Reliability, Efficiency, Support, Communication, Security, Incentives	
Gounaris and Dimitriadis (2003)	Customer care and risk reduction benefit: Concern of the user, Ease to communicate with service personnel, Security of transactions, Responds promptly to queries and e-mails, Security for personal information Information benefit: Reliable information, Complete information, Covering personal interests, Security, Up-to-date information, Information matching personality & lifestyle Interaction facilitation benefit: technology, design, speed, functionality	
Wang and Tang (2003)	Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance, Empathy	
Mich, Franch, and Gaio (2003)	Identity, Content, Services, Location, Management, Usability, Feasibility	
Buckley (2003)	User-focused: Ease of learning, Efficiency of use, Memorability, User-drop out, Error frequency and severity User satisfaction: Measured by SERVQUAL, Perceptions of privacy Outcomes based measures: Yield & income by site/per customer, Customer loyalty & drop-off rates	
Cai and Jun (2003)	Web site/design/content, Trustworthiness, Prompt/reliable service, Communication:	
Negash, Ryan, and Igbaria (2003)	Information quality (Informativeness and entertainment), System quality (Interactivity and access), Service quality (Tangibles, Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance, Empathy)	
Surjadaja, Ghosh, and Antony (2003)	Responsiveness, Site effectiveness and functionality, Real-time assistance, Fulfillment, External communication, Interactivity, Up-to-date information, Systems integration, Personalization, Navigability, Accessibility, Convenience, Security, Trusted service, Return process, Supply chain integration, Internal communication, Customization, Service recovery, Price.	

TABLE 3 (CONTINUED)

Study	Non-Tourism	Key Factors
Long and McMellon (2004)	Tangibility, Physical evidence of service, Assurance, Trust & confidence, Reliability, Performance & dependability, Purchase process, Ordering, shipping, packaging, Responsiveness, Individual attention	
Field, Heim, and Sinha (2004)	Website design, Fulfillment/reliability, Security/privacy, Customer service	
Parasuraman, Zeithaml, and Malhotra (2004) Chen and Yen (2004)	E-S-QUAL: Efficiency, Fulfillment, System availability, Privacy E-RecS-QUAL: Responsiveness, Compensation, Contact Playfulness, Choice, Connectedness, Information collection, Reciprocal communication	
Iwaardena, Wiele, Ball, and Millen (2004) Kim and Stoel (2004)	Tangibles, Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance, Empathy Informational fit-to-task, Tailored communication, Completeness, Relative advantage, Visual appeal, Innovativeness Emotional appeal, Consistent image, Easy to understand, Intuitive operations, Response time, Trust	
Jayawardhena (2004)	Web interface (Navigation, Updated, Visually attractive, Relevant information, Interactive), Interaction, Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance, Empathy	
Hernon and Calvert (2005)	Ease of Use, Web Site Aesthetics, Linkage, Collections, Reliability, Support, Security/Privacy/Trust, Ease of Access, Flexibility, Customization/Personalization	
Schaik and Ling (2005)	Perceived ease of use, Disorientation, flow-involvement, flow-control, Aesthetic quality	
Davori, Mazzoni, and Corradini (2005)	Basis functionality, Advanced functionality, Usability, Accessibility, Efficiency, Maintainability and Compliance	
Lee and Lin (2005)	Web site design, Reliability, Responsiveness, Trust, Personalization	
Ma, Pearson, and Tadisina (2005)	Availability, Security, Application features, Ease of use, Reliability, Empathy, Responsiveness, Assurance, Flexibility	
Parasuraman, Zeithaml, and Malhotra (2005)	E-S-QUAL scale: Efficiency, Fulfillment, System availability, and Privacy E-RecS-QUAL: Responsiveness, Compensation, Contact	
Guertin and Nantel (2005)	Ease of use, Quantity & quality of information, Privacy & security, Design & aesthetics, Personalization & interactivity, Variety & uniqueness	
Yang, Cai, Zhou, and Zhou (2005)	Usability, Usefulness of content, Adequacy of information, Accessibility, Interaction	
Zhang and Prybutok (2005)	Navigation, Sufficient information, Visual Appeal, Guarantee policy, Prompt service, Up-to-date information	
Collier and Bienstock. (2006)	Process dimension: Functionality, Information accuracy, Design, Privacy, Ease of use Outcome dimension: Order accuracy, Order condition, Timeliness Recovery dimension: Interactive fairness, Procedural fairness, Outcome fairness	
Kim, Kim, and Lennon (2006)	Efficiency, Fulfillment, System availability, Privacy, Responsiveness, Contact, Personalization, Information, Graphic style	
Barnes and Vidgen (2006)	Usability, Design, Information, Trust, and Empathy	
Bauer, Falk, and Hammerschmidt (2006)	Functionality/design, Enjoyment, Process, Reliability, Responsiveness	
Petre, Minocha, and Roberts (2006)	Match existing shopping experiences, Support the customer interface experience, Give cues to enhance trustworthiness, Provide quality information, Provide a reliable customer service	
Éthier, Hadaya, Talbot, and Cadieux, (2006)	Functionality, Visual appeal, Navigation, Information, Contact	
Waite (2006)	Access, Usability, Navigation, Aesthetics, Security	
Rowley (2006)	Site features, Security, Communication, Reliability, Customer support, Responsiveness, Information, Accessibility, Delivery, Personalization	

TABLE 4
SUMMARY OF KEY FACTORS USED IN E-SATISFACTION STUDIES

Tourism	
Study	Key Factors
Chang and Weaver (2002)	Assurance, Flexibility, Reputation, Security, Accuracy, Detailed confirmation information
Mills and Morrison (2003)	Interface: Access, Loading, Appearance, Navigation, Interactivity, Search, Security Perceived Quality: Incentives, Feedback, Information, Reliability Perceived Value: Involvement, Shopping convenience, Transaction utility, Price
Weber, Murphy, Schegg, and Murphy (2005)	User Interface: Access, Ease of navigation, Design, Speed On-line resource: Form and organization of content, Product/service information Customer confidence: Security, Privacy, Brand Relationship service: E-customer service, Interactivity/e-mail, Customization, Incentives Perceived value: Price, Convenience
Kao, Louvieris, Powell-Perry, and Buhalis (2005)	Web Information quality: Relevance, Understandability, Reliability, Adequacy, Scope, Usefulness Web System Quality: Access, Usability, Entertainment, Hyperlinks, Navigation, Interactivity
Non-Tourism	
Study	Key Factors
Szymanski and Hise (2000)	Convenience, Site Design, Financial Security, Merchandising
Wang, Tang, and Tang, (2001)	Customer support, Security, Ease of use, Digital products/services, Transaction and payment, Information content, Innovation
Devaraj, Fan, and Kohli (2002)	Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) Constructs: Usefulness, Ease of use Transaction Cost Analysis (TCA) Constructs: Time, Ease, Price savings SERVQUAL Constructs: Empathy, Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance
McKinney, Yoon, and Zahedi (2002)	Web Information quality: Relevance, Understandability, Reliability, Adequacy, Scope, Usefulness Web System Quality: Access, Usability, Entertainment, Hyperlinks, Navigation, Interactivity
Wang and Huarng (2002)	General feedback on web site design, Competitive price of the product, Merchandise availability, Merchandise condition, On-time delivery, Merchandise return policy, Customer support, E-mail confirmation on customer order, Promotion activities
Shim, Shin, and Nottingham (2002)	Convenience of site use Simplicity of site design (access to information and customer-service policies)
Bansal, McDougall, Dikolli, and Sedatole (2004)	Ease of Use, Information availability, Product selection, Customer service, Price, Transaction duration, Shipping and handling
Evanschitzky, Iyer, Hesse, and Ahlert (2004)	Convenience, Product offerings, Product information, Site design, Financial security
Yang and Peterson (2004)	Ease of use, Customer service, Order fulfillment, Security/Privacy, Product portfolio
Wu and Padgett (2004)	Accuracy, Ability to customize, Net coverage, Homepage testing, Ease of use, Layout, Speed, Popularity
Muylle, Moenaert, and Despontin (2004)	Layout, Information (relevancy, accuracy, comprehensibility, comprehensiveness), Connection (ease of use, entry guidance, structure, hyperlink connotation, speed), Language customization
Schaupp and Belanger (2005)	Trust, Delivery, Usability, Product customization, Product quality, Security
Chong and Wong (2005)	Information quality, Customer services, System quality, Service policy, Seller Trustworthiness, Item offering, Item quality, Convenience, Community

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED)

Non-Tourism	
Study	Key factors
Posselt and Gerstner (2005)	Pre sale variables: Ease, Selection, Clarity, Price, Look, Ship-fee, Ship-options, Charge Post sale variable: Availability, Tracking, On-time, Expectation, Support
Jiang and Rosenbloom (2005)	At check out satisfaction: Ease of ordering, Product information, Web site performance, Product selection, Shipping and handling After-delivery satisfaction: Product met expectations, On-time delivery, Customer support, Order tracking
Rodgers, Negash, and Suk (2005)	Information quality: Informativeness, Entertainment System quality: Interactivity, Access Service quality: Tangibility, Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance, Empathy
Zviran, Glezer, and Avni (2005)	Information and presentation, Search, Information completeness, Personalization, Error handling
Park and Kim (2006)	User interface quality, Product information quality, Service information quality, Security perception

**TABLE 5
SUMMARY OF KEY FACTORS USED IN E-LOYALTY STUDIES**

Tourism	
Study	Key factors
Miller (2004)	Customization, Contact interactivity, Care-Community, Cultivation-Choice, Character, Trust

Non-Tourism	
Study	Key Factors
Gommans, Krishnan, and Scheffold (2001)	Website & Technology, Value proposition, Customer service, Trust & Security, Brand building
Srinivasan, Anderson, and Ponnnavolu (2002)	Customization, Contact Interaction, Cultivation, Care, Community, Choice, Character, Convenience
Gefen (2002)	Tangibles, Empathy, Reliability, Responsiveness, Assurance, Trust, Perceived risk with vendor, Cost to switch
Anderson and Srinivasan (2003)	Trust, Perceived value
Taylor and Hunter (2003)	No Web site-specific factors
Devaraj, Fan, and Kohli (2003)	Efficiency (Time, Ease of use, Effort), Value (Price, Quality), Interaction (Information, Safety, Load time, Navigation)
Luarn and Lin (2003)	Trust, Perceived value, Customer satisfaction
Lee and Sohn (2004)	Price premium, Web page design, Ease of use, Switching cost, Trust
Thatcher and George (2004)	Commitment, Trust, Social Involvement
Allagui and Temessek (2004)	Core services/supporting services, Web site design, Customization, E-satisfaction
Ribbink, van Riel, Liljander, and Streukens (2004)	Assurance, Ease of use, E-scape, Responsiveness, Customization, E-Trust, E-Satisfaction
Chiou (2004)	Attributive service satisfaction, Perceived value, Perceived trust, Future ISP expectancy
Semeijn, van Riel, van Birgelen, and Streukens (2005)	Assurance, Navigation, E-scape, Accuracy, Responsiveness, Customization, Fulfillment, Satisfaction
Gounaris, Dimitriadis, and Stathakopoulos (2005)	Information, User friendliness, Interaction/Adaptation, Aesthetics
Balabanis, Reynolds, and Simintiras (2005)	Convenience, Emotional, Speed, Familiarity, Unawareness, Parity
Flavian, Guinaliu, and Gurrea (2006)	Trust, Usability, Satisfaction
Lin and Wang (2006)	Perceived value, Trust, Customer satisfaction, Habit
Wang and Liao (2007)	Content quality, Appearance, Service quality, Ease of use

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