

Evaluation of AFDB

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E-Learning For Educators - SU10-963C

I investigated the AFDB site <<http://zapatopi.net/afdb/>> and deemed that it was **not legitimate**. Using the [IMSA Evaluation Wizard](#),

Author: We don't know the author's true level of experience, his occupation, or educational background because in each of these categories, he has supplied nonsensical information. As for his reputation among others in the field, a study by grad students at MIT purportedly debunked the efficacy of the aluminum beanie, but the validity of the study site itself is also suspicious. (See <http://people.csail.mit.edu/rahimi/helmet/>).

Publisher: The author is his own publisher. There is no reference to a larger publishing entity. However, a *Whois* search for root domain <http://zapatopi.net> revealed a discrepancy between the author's stated name (Lyle Zapato) and his domain registration name (Kevin Fraites). The registered phone number is also a fake. Domain registrant details, retrieved from <http://domaintools.com>, are as follows:

Kevin Fraites
Metazoan w/ bilateral symmetry
7101 35th St. NW
Gig Harbor, WA 9833US +1.1234567890

Objectivity: The author's perspective on the topic is both limited and over-simplified. He offers no empirical or other scientific evidence to support his claims, preferring an emotional rather than reasoned appeal. The site is clearly meant to be funny, and it is full of exaggeration. Quote: "Since you should trust no one, always construct your AFDB yourself to avoid the risk of subversion and mental enslavement."

Links From: Most of the links on the homepage lead to similarly nonsensical contents that supposedly support the author's claims but lack any scientific basis. Most links are internal and point to other pages the author has created within the site under evaluation. External links such as http://www.weeklyworldinquisitor.com/tinfoil_beanie_ban.html and http://greg.org/archive/2007/10/07/the_satelloons_of_project_echo_must_find_satelloons.html are lacking in verifiable credibility.

Date: No date of publication can be found, although this does not affect the reliability of the information.

Accuracy: The author's attention to spelling and grammatical accuracy is quite good with the exception of self-created words that don't exist in a dictionary. The intent is to entertain; few if any of the "facts" presented can be verified by independent sites.

Evidence: In his FAQ section < <http://zapatopi.net/faq/>>, the author provides two email addresses. But if you have read this report thus far, you would know his information cannot be checked, and that he is not who he claims to be.

Links To: A *Links To* query revealed pages both from the site in question and from different sites. Few if any of the different sites were recognizable as being trustworthy; many seemed to be personal sites that either debunked the author's claims or were "crackpots of a feather" sites that offered similarly far-fetched claims or comments.

Summary: If you are looking for scientific evidence that aluminum foil will protect your brain from subversive elements, look somewhere else. This site is purely for entertainment.