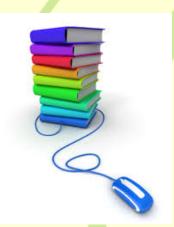
Evaluating Information



Evaluating information is necessary to determine the quality, accuracy, and relevancy of the information. This process entails examining the content and the source.



Accuracy or credibility

- Is the information provided based on proven facts?
- Is it published in a scholarly or peerreviewed publication?
- Have you found similar information in a scholarly or peer-reviewed publication?



Author or authority

- •Who is the author?
- •Is she or he affiliated with a reputable university or organization?
- •What is the author's educational background or experience?
- •What is their area of expertise?
- •Has the author published in scholarly or peer reviewed publications?
- Does the author/Web Master provide contact information?

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Coverage or relevance

- Does the information covered meet your information needs?
- •Is the coverage basic or comprehensive?
- •Is there an "About Us" link that explains subject coverage?
- •How relevant is it to your research interests?

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Currency

- When was the information published?
- When was the Web site was last updated.
- Is timeliness important to your information need?

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Objectivity or bias

- How objective or biased is the information?
- What do you know about who is publishing this information?
- Is there a political, social or commercial agenda?
- Does the information try to inform or persuade?
- How balanced is the presentation on opposing perspectives?
- What is the tone of language used (angry, balanced, educated)?

Sources or documentation

- •Is there a list of references or works cited?
- •is there a bibliography?
- •Is there information provided to support statements of fact?
- •Can you contact the author or Web Master to ask for, and receive, the sources used?



Publication and Web site design

- •How well designed is the Web site?
- •Is the information clearly focused?
- •How easy to use is the information??
- •How easy is it to find information within the publication or Web site?
- Are the bibliographic references and links accurate, current and relevant?
- •Are the Contact addresses for the author(s) and Web Master(s) available from the site?

Web Pages - URL

- .org: organizational Internet sites
- .int: international institutions.
- **.gov:** government site on the Internet.
- .com: commercial Internet sites
- **.firm:** Internet site for a business.
- .net: Internet administrative sites
- .edu or .ac: educational Internet sites



Thank you

