

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 peer-reviewed 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



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