EVALUATING INFORMATION RESOURCES

In the process of conducting research, the most prominent resources one finds are books, periodical articles, and web resources. Library-related databases provide access to resources that meet the evaluation criteria used by professionals who select resources for inclusion. It is up to you to evaluate the appropriateness of all resource for your research purposes.

Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Although criteria will differ somewhat depending on the type of source you are evaluating, several criteria that are generally used for all resources include:</th>
<th>Additional criteria that could be used include:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority / Credibility / Publishing Body</td>
<td>Currency / Timeliness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accuracy / Verifiability / Quality</td>
<td>Scope / Depth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bias / Objectivity / Point of View</td>
<td>Intended Audience</td>
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“How to” Evaluation Web sites

The following websites include overviews of criteria. Take note of the url/web address to see where the page was produced.

- **Evaluating Internet Sources: Tips and Tricks for Evaluating Web Sites** (UIUC Libraries)
  Provides many helpful questions for evaluating a web site and cautions you to “Be sure and look at the criteria in multiple categories prior to making a decision regarding the academic quality of a source.”

- **Evaluating Internet Resources** (Georgetown University Libraries)
  This succinct guide provides questions to ask on key evaluation criteria like those noted above.

- **Evaluating Resources** (UC Berkley Libraries)
  This guide takes an overall approach to identifying criteria for evaluating all types of resources.

- **Evaluating Web Pages: Questions to Consider: Categories** (Cornell University Libraries)
  This page provides guidelines for four major categories and how to pull it all together.

- **Evaluating Internet Sources** (Johns Hopkins University Libraries)
  This section of a larger guide on evaluating resources focuses on the Internet. Take a look at the other sections for additional criteria.