

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING SOURCES

| Authority: Who is responsible for the work and what are their qualifications? | | |
|---|---|--|
| Books | Articles | Web Sites |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the author identified? • Is there biographical information about the author? • What are the author's credentials? • Who is the publisher? Is it a university press, a commercial publisher, a trade association, the government, or is it self-published? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the author identified? • Is there biographical information about the author? • What are the author's credentials? • In what type of periodical does the article appear? Is it a scholarly journal, a trade journal, a popular magazine? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the author identified? • Is there biographical information about the author? • What are the author's credentials? • Where is the document published? (Check URL) • Is the site sponsored by an institution? |

| Accuracy: Are sources of information and factual data listed? | | |
|--|--|--|
| Books | Articles | Web Sites |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the author's research methods? • Does the author cite other research (footnotes and bibliography)? • Have other scholars cited this work? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the author's research methods? • Does the author cite other research (footnotes and bibliography)? • Have other scholars cited this work? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the author's research methods? • Does the author cite other research (footnotes and bibliography)? • Have other scholars cited this work? |

| Objectivity: Are biases clearly stated? | | |
|--|---|--|
| Books | Articles | Web Sites |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the intended audience? • Was the book written to inform? Persuade? Teach? Entertain? • Is there a preface or introduction to identify objectives? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the intended audience? • What are the biases of the periodical in which it is published? • What are the author's affiliations? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the intended audience? • What are the goals and objectives of the author? • Is the purpose of the site to inform, explain, <i>advertise</i> or <i>persuade</i>? • Is the information biased? |

| Currency: Is the information current and does it matter? | | |
|--|--|---|
| Books | Articles | Web Sites |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the copyright date? • How current are the sources listed in the bibliography? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was the article published? • How current are the sources listed in the bibliography? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was the site created? • When was it last updated? • Do links still work? |