



Evaluating Your Sources Checklist

Author

- ☐ Who is the author of the work?
- ☐ What do you know about the author? Are credentials provided?
- ☐ What else has this author published?
- ☐ How long have they been publishing?
- ☐ Is this their special subject, or are there others?
- ☐ Does s/he publish in journals or magazines or both? Books?
- ☐ Does this author's works appear only on Web pages?

Content

Currency

- ☐ When was the work published?
- ☐ Do you need the latest information or historical data?
- ☐ Do you know when the information was *created* and/or updated?

Coverage

- ☐ Does the work attempt to be comprehensive or is it selective?
- ☐ In the context of the question(s) you are asking, is it primary (original, un-interpreted information) or secondary (interpretive, summary, analytic)?
- ☐ Does the work raise questions it doesn't answer?

Accuracy

- ☐ Does the work contain data that needs checking elsewhere?
- ☐ Is the source of data used indicated somewhere in the work

Purpose

- ☐ Who is the intended audience for this work?
- ☐ Is the work trying to *persuade* or to *inform*?
- ☐ Does it use language that is emotional or neutral?
- ☐ Does it try to be comprehensive or present only one point-of-view?
- ☐ Is it scholarly, intended for an academic or professional audience?
- ☐ Is it aimed at the general public?