





Criteria for the Evaluation of Resources

The  indicates questions that apply specifically to Internet sources found in the research process. The other questions should be applied to any type of resource regardless of format.

Purpose:

- What is the purpose of the material?
- Who is the intended audience based on content, tone and style?
- Does this correspond to your needs?

Source:

- What is the authority or expertise of the individual or group that created this work?
- Is the author the original creator of the information (primary source)?
- Does s/he indicate his/her occupation, years of experience, position, or education?
-  -Who mounted the information (author/producer)?
-  -What institution (company, government, university, etc.) or Internet provider supports this information?
-  -Is contact information for the author or producer included in the document?


Content:


- Accuracy
 - Does the material exhibit a bias or slant?
 - Are sources clearly stated and given appropriate credit whether original or borrowed?
- Comprehensiveness
 - What is the depth of coverage? Does it cover a specific time period or aspect of the topic, or does it strive to be comprehensive?
 - Are there additional print and electronic sources to complement the information?

-Currency

--What is the publication date of the work?

--What is the latest edition available?

--When was the material last updated?

--Is the material on the page current?

-Links

--Are the links relevant and appropriate?

--Are the links given the best available?

Style and Functionality:


-Is the material laid out clearly and logically with well organized subsections?

-Is the writing style appropriate for the intended audience?


-Is there an index?

-Is the extent of the index appropriate to the size and depth of the resource?


-How detailed is the Table of Contents?

-Is the site easy to navigate?

--Does it have clearly labeled *Back*, *Go To Top* icons/links?

--Are there internal indexing links on lengthy pages?

-Do the links to remote sites all work?

-Does it have searching capabilities if the site is extensive?

-What is the quality of graphics, illustrations or multimedia?