

Evaluating Information Checklist

Authority:

- Is the author named?
- Does the author have the appropriate credentials for the subject?
- Is the publisher reputable?
- Are the author and publisher free from any questionable affiliations?

Accuracy:

- Does the information correspond to information found in other sources?
- Has the information passed some type of review process?
- Does the information include citations or references to the original sources?

Currency:

- Is the information current as it relates to the subject?
- If the information is on the web, has it been updated fairly recently?

Purpose/Objectivity:

- Was the information written to inform?
- Does the information consist of facts rather than opinions?
- Is the information free from bias?
- Is the information presented from multiple perspectives?

Special Considerations for Websites

- Is the domain .gov or .edu?
- Is the URL free from any symbols indicating a member or user webpage (Ex. ~ or %)?
- Has the website been updated recently?
- Is there a way to contact the people who manage the website?
- Does the website have few or no ads?
- Is the website free from spelling or grammatical errors?
- Is the overall website devoted to a single subject or discipline (Ex. **NOT** www.Ask.com)?
- Can you view the information without paying a fee or downloading any special software?