## Evaluating Print & Web Sources: Questions to Ask

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Print Sources (Books, Journals, Magazines, Newspapers)</th>
<th>Websites (Additional Considerations)</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Authority—Is the Author or Sponsoring Organization Reputable? | • Who is the author, publisher, or responsible organization?  
  • Are qualifications or credentials of the responsible party stated?  
  • Is the author a specialist in the field?  
  • Has the author won awards or special recognition? | • What is the domain of the Web address?  
  .k12—kindergarten thru high school;  
  .edu—educational;  
  .gov—government;  
  .org—organization;  
  .com—commercial;  
  .net—network;  
  or other  
  • Is this a subscription database for which fees are paid, or free information?  
  • Does the site require passwords or membership to access the information? |
| Content—How Complete, Accurate and Relevant is the Content? | • Are facts and statistics backed by verifiable research or studies?  
  • Is the information relevant to your research topic?  
  • Does the information seem complete, reliable, and accurate? | • Does the information seem reasonable or verifiable?  
  • Does the information mirror or match other information sources, including print? |
| Currency—Is the Information Appropriately Current?        | • When was the information published?  
  • What is the copyright date?                             | • Is the site maintained and updated frequently?  
  • Is a posting date listed?                                |
| Organization—How is the Content Organized?               | • Is there a bibliography indicating what research was done?  
  • Does the book include a Table of Contents and Index?    | • Is there a help feature or way to easily search the site?  
  • Are hyperlinks to additional information included?      |
| Purpose—What is the underlying purpose for the work?     | • Does the author present both sides of the issue or clearly state point of view?  
  • Is the information biased?  
  • Is the information written for professionals, students, or the general population? | • Is a particular idea or belief being promoted?  
  • Is a product being sold?  
  • Is the website sponsored by an organization known for a particular viewpoint? |

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