### Evaluating Print & Web Sources: Questions to Ask

<table>
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<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Print Sources (Books, Journals, Magazines, Newspapers)</th>
<th>Websites (Additional Considerations)</th>
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</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? |