Checklist for Evaluating Sources

**AUTHORITY**

- Are the author's qualifications, such as education, occupation or position listed?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don’t Know

- Does the publication include a reference list or bibliography showing that the author has researched the topic?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don’t Know

- If the author is a corporate/commercial entity, organization, educational institution, or government body, does it have a reputation for being knowledgeable about the subject?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don’t Know

**CURRENCY**

- Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don’t Know

- Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don’t Know

- If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don’t Know

**PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE**

- Is the major purpose of this information to *inform*?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don’t Know
Would you say that the information provided is biased, or limited to one point of view?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t Know

Is the purpose to persuade? If so, does the author leave out important facts or opposing viewpoints?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t Know

Does the resource appear to be written for an academic audience or one that is knowledgeable about the subject area?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t Know

Does this resource seem to have been written for a general audience with no special expertise on the topic?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t Know

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information you have collected above, do you have any reservations about using this resource?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Overall, this publication is suitable for use as a resource for my purposes.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Adapted from University of Massachusetts Libraries Evaluating Sources Checklist.