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➢ Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (*e.g.*, technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)?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.