

Evaluating Information Sources

General Criteria to consider include:

- Authority
- Accuracy
- Objectivity
- Intended Audience
- Level of Information
- Date of Publication
- Scope/Depth/Breadth
- Quality of Publication
- Ease of Use
- Special Features

Reliability and Credibility	Book	Periodical article	Web site
Who is the author or creator?	Author affiliation statement in source	Author affiliation statement in source	Author affiliation statement in source
Is he/she the original author/creator?	Personal Web page	Personal Web page	Personal Web page
Is this person qualified to write this article/Web page?	Biography Resource Center	Biography Resource Center	Biography Resource Center
What are his/her credentials?	Biography & Genealogy Master Index	Biography & Genealogy Master Index	Biography & Genealogy Master Index
What is his/her occupation, position, education, experience?	Who's Who...	Who's Who...	Who's Who...
	Literature Resource Center	Literature Resource Center	Literature Resource Center
Does an institution (company, government, university, etc.) or Internet provider support or endorse this information?	Corporate or institutional Web page	Corporate or institutional Web page	Corporate or institutional Web page
What is the mission of the organization?	Associations Unlimited	Associations Unlimited	Associations Unlimited
Is it a national institution?			
What is its membership?			
When was the source created, published, or last updated?	Cited sources in bibliography	Cited sources in bibliography	Cited sources in bibliography
Are the facts accurate?	Inclusion in other bibliographies (citation index)	Inclusion in other bibliographies (citation index)	Associated links from site
How does this information compare with other sources in the field?	Book Review Index		
	Book Review Digest		

Perspective	Book	Periodical article	Web site
<p>Does the author/creator express a particular point of view?</p> <p>Does the author/creator have a bias?</p> <p>Are the author/creator's affiliations with particular organizations, institutions, associations, etc. reflected in the message or content?</p>	<p>Author affiliation statement in source</p> <p>Biography Resource Center</p> <p>Biography & Genealogy Master Index</p> <p>Who's Who...</p> <p>Literature Resource Center</p> <p>Personal Web page</p> <p>Corporate or institutional Web pages</p>	<p>Author affiliation statement in source</p> <p>Biography Resource Center</p> <p>Biography & Genealogy Master Index</p> <p>Who's Who...</p> <p>Literature Resource Center</p> <p>Personal Web page</p> <p>Corporate or institutional Web pages</p>	<p>Author affiliation statement in source</p> <p>Personal Web page</p> <p>Corporate or institutional Web pages</p> <p>Associated links from site</p>
<p>Does the publication/Web page in which the article appears or the associated web sites have a bias? [Ideological; subject discipline; etc.]</p> <p>Is the publication/Web page, or its parent site, directed toward a particular audience? [General public; scholars in a given field; etc.]</p> <p>Where is the publication/Web page published?</p> <p>When was the article/site written or created?</p>	<p>Writer's Market</p> <p>Literary Marketplace</p> <p>Corporate or institutional web</p>	<p>Magazines for Libraries</p> <p>Writer's Market</p> <p>Literary Marketplace</p> <p>Corporate or institutional Web pages</p>	<p>Associated links from site</p> <p>Corporate or institutional Web pages</p>

Purpose	Book	Periodical article	Web site
To what audience is the author writing?	Determined by your reading of the document	Determined by your reading of the document	Determined by your reading of the document
Is this reflected in writing style, vocabulary, or tone?			
Does the material inform? Explain? Persuade?			
Is there sufficient evidence?			
What conclusions are drawn?			

The following Works Cited Rubric for Grades 9-12 provides an example of using criteria for evaluating information resources.

Henry, Jacquie. *The Tangled Web – Holding the MP3 Generation Accountable*. Library Media Connection, March 2004,v.22.no.6, page 52.
<http://www.gananda.org/library/mshslibrary/rubric.htm>

Indiana University Kokomo Library
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