

Use CARRDSS to evaluate your sources

Use this to help you evaluate web sources.

CREDIBILITY: *The quality and capacity of a belief.*

Who is the author? Is there an email address to contact the author (not the webmaster)? Why do you trust him or her? **EXAMPLE:** *The author of this site is a 5th grade class, so I should use it with caution, if at all. Or, this Civil War site is by a UCLA professor of history, and it provides her email address, so I can trust it.*

ACCURACY: *Freedom from mistake or error.*

Can facts, statistics or other information be verified through other sources? Do there appear to be errors on the page (spelling, grammar, facts)? Based on your knowledge, does the information seem accurate? **EXAMPLE:** *Parts of this site are similar to what I already know about Mexico from my textbook, so I think I can trust this information. Or, I don't know anything about my topic yet, so I am not sure. Or, This site is different from what I learned before, so I should compare it with other sources before I use it.*

RELIABILITY: *The extent to which a source gives the same information as other sources.*

Does the site present an opinion, point of view, or bias? Is this opinion clearly stated? What is it? **EXAMPLE:** *This site is an anti-smoking, anti-tobacco site. In the "about us" section, it says the purpose is to teach teenagers not to smoke. I understand the opinion and it is fine for my research.*

RELEVANCE: *The relationship to the focused topic or question.*

Does this information help to answer my question? Is it in-depth? Is it too hard, too easy, or just right? Yes or no answers are fine for the first part, then rate the level of information.

DATE: *The time at which an information source is published or produced.*

When was the information created? Was it revised? Are these dates meaningful in terms of subject matter? **EXAMPLE:** *This site is from 2011 and is about Global Warming, so it is up to date. Or, This site is from 1999 and is about the Solar System, so I think it may be too old.*

SOURCE: A primary reference work or point of origin.

Does this site have a Works Cited or Bibliography? If there are links, do they still work? Do a link check to see what other sites are linking to this one by typing link:URL address .

SCOPE & PURPOSE: The range of information on a given topic and the reason behind its creation.

Does this source give a broad or narrow range of information on my topic? Is it material that can be easily read and understood?