

Currency Authority Relevance Reliability - You need to verify! (C.A.R.R.Y. for success!)

Currency: The timeliness of the information.	GOOD		BAD
Can you locate a date when the page(s) were written / created / updated? (Publication date, not copyright date!)	yes		no
When was the information published or posted? Has the information been revised or updated?	recent	Date: _____	Not recent
Does the website (and update dates) appear to update automatically without human review?	no	maybe?	yes
Is the information current enough for your topic? (Social issues, science and technology need more current resources. Consider your needs carefully.)	yes	maybe?	no
Are links functional, relevant to the topic, and up-to-date?	yes	maybe?	no
Authority: The source of the information. (Check the "About" section for additional details)	GOOD		BAD
Information presented in Blogs, Wiki's, and by web consolidators who borrow or pay for content to promote advertising are not acceptable resources for college level work. Does your resource fall into any of these categories?	no		yes
Does the site itself (publisher / sponsor) indicate credibility and authority on your topic? Check Website name and URL for additional clues	yes	maybe	no
Is the information provided fact or opinion?	fact		opinion
Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? Who is the intended audience?	To inform		unclear
Can you determine who the author/creator is? Full name?	yes		no
Are the author's credentials, background and organizational affiliations given on the page or in hyperlink? Does the author appear qualified to write on this topic?	yes	maybe	no
Is there a way to contact the person or publisher / sponsor (organization) responsible for the site?	yes		no
Are there advertisements, comments, sponsored links, or other items on the page that may signify questions regarding the authority of the information.	Very few ads	Comments / sponsored links	Lots of ads
Is advertising content easily distinguishable from informational content?	yes		no
Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.	GOOD		BAD
What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?	Inform, teach		entertain, persuade
Can this be considered a primary source or is it more descriptive, interpretive, or analytical (secondary) or designed more to entertain or promote certain viewpoints?	primary, secondary		entertain, promote
Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?	yes	some	very few
Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? Is it suitable for your research?	Yes, well		A little
Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?	yes	ok	not really
Are you sure this is the best source for this information or could you find the same or better information in another source?	best		Others may be better
Reliability: The correctness, accuracy, and truthfulness and of the content.	GOOD		BAD
Is the information provided supported by evidence? Are sources cited in some way?	yes	partially	not really
Has this article been published in print or edited and reviewed by other experts prior to publication?	yes	unsure	no
Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge? Does this seem like the best representation of the information available? Be wary of information that cannot be verified elsewhere.	yes	unsure	no
Does the language or tone seem balanced and free of emotion or biased toward a specific viewpoint? Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?	balanced objective		A little biased
What is the funding source? Who is paying for / hosting the website? Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?	objective		biased
Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?	no	some	yes
Knowing that the quality of your sources is important, would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?	Yes		Not really