

WEB EVALUATION

CARS – Credibility Accuracy Reasonableness Support - WORKSHEET

When using the internet for research you should evaluate the websites used. The CARS checklist (<http://www.virtualsalt.com/evalu8it.htm>) is outlined below. When evaluating a Website ask yourself the following questions and then use the ones that have the best evidence of: **CREDIBILITY, ACCURACY, REASONABLENESS and SUPPORT.**

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| CREDIBILITY | Goal: A source that is created by a person or organisation who knows the subject and who cares about its quality |
| Look at the URL <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is there a publishing or sponsoring organisation? Is the organisation an authority on the subject? What type of domain is it: <input type="checkbox"/> .edu ; <input type="checkbox"/> .com ; <input type="checkbox"/> .gov ; <input type="checkbox"/> .org ; Which country does it originate: : <input type="checkbox"/> .au (Australia); <input type="checkbox"/> .uk (United Kingdom); <input type="checkbox"/> none (United States); <input type="checkbox"/> other Check the Author <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the author listed? Is the author an authority on the subject? How do you know? Look up the author in Google Author: _____ Credentials: _____ | |
| ACCURACY | Goal: A source with information that is current, complete and correct. |
| Read through the site <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the site agree with other sources? Yes/NoDoes the site contradict itself? Yes/NoWhat is the date of publication or copyright? _____ Is this recent enough? Yes/NoWhen the site was last updated? _____ Is this recent enough? Yes/NoAre there spelling errors, grammar errors, dead links or other problems that indicate a lack of quality control? Yes/No _____ | |
| REASONABLENESS | Goal: A source that is truthful and unbiased. |
| Analyse the motivation of the site <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the author, host, publisher or sponsor have a bias? Yes/no _____What is the motivation or purpose for creating the site? The purpose of the page is: <input type="checkbox"/> inform facts data; <input type="checkbox"/> educate <input type="checkbox"/> explain; <input type="checkbox"/> persuade ; <input type="checkbox"/> sell ; <input type="checkbox"/> entice <input type="checkbox"/> share/disclose; <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |
| SUPPORT | Goal: A source with verifiable sources of information |
| Look for these indicators of quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">Are the sources listed? Yes/No Are they well documented? Yes/NoAre there links to other sites? Yes/No Do they work? Yes/NoIs there a way to contact the author or organisation? Email: _____ | |

Where should you look to find this information?

Ideally, information such as the author, host organization, and publication date will be easily located at either the top or bottom of the page or even on another page. However, you may need to dig deeper.

Look at the URL, "About" page; "Contact Us" page;

Tip: Save some work by creating your bibliographic citation while you evaluate. Many of the elements you need to cite a web page are the same ones you need to evaluate its quality. If more than a few of these are missing, the site is probably not a good one.