

Evaluation Criteria

The various criteria listed below apply to all information sources. The Berkeley list pays the most attention to electronic resources, but all the lists include criteria that apply regardless of the information resources format. Some resources exist in both electronic and traditional formats and each may require consideration of a slightly different set of evaluation criteria.

Cornell University Library (New York)

- Author
- Date of Publication
- Edition or Revision
- Publisher
- Title of Journal
- Intended Audience
- Objective Reasoning
- Coverage
- Writing Style
- Evaluative Reviews

UC Berkeley Library

- What can the URL tell you?
- Who wrote the page? Is he, she, or the authoring institution a qualified authority?
- Is it dated? Current, timely?
- Is information cited authentic?
- Does the page have overall integrity and reliability as a source?
- What's the bias?
- Could the page or site be ironic, like a satire or a spoof?
- If you have questions or reservations, how can you satisfy them?

Johns Hopkins University

- Authorship
- Publishing body
- Point of view or bias
- Referral to other sources
- Verifiability
- Currency
- How to distinguish propaganda, misinformation and disinformation
- The mechanics of determining authorship, publishing body, and currency on the Internet

Cornell University

- Accuracy
- Authority
- Currency
- Objectivity
- Coverage

Babson College

- Stated criteria for inclusion of information
- Authority of author or creator
- Comparability with related sources
- Stability of information
- Appropriateness of format
- Software/hardware/multimedia requirements

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