**Currency**: the timeliness of the information

* When was the information published or posted?
* Has the information been revised or updated?
* Is the information current or out-of date for your topic?
* Are the links functional?

**Relevance**: the importance of the information for your needs

* Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
* Who is the intended audience?
* Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
* Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
* Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

**Authority**: the source of the information

* Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
* Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?
* What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?
* What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
* Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?
* Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
* examples: .com (commercial), .edu (educational), .gov (U.S. government),

.org (nonprofit organization), or .net (network)

**Accuracy**: the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content, and

* Where does the information come from?
* Is the information supported by evidence?
* Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
* Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
* Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion?
* Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

**Purpose**: the reason the information exists

* What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?
* Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
* Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?
* Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
* Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Score 1-10 | Specific comment |
| Currency |  |  |
| Relevance |  |  |
| Authority |  |  |
| Accuracy |  |  |
| Purpose |  |  |
| Total |  |  |
| Source no. |  |  |

By scoring each category on a scale from 1 to 10 (1 = worst, 10=best possible) you can give each site a grade on a 50 point scale for how high-quality it is!

45 - 50 Excellent | 40 - 44 Good | 35 - 39 Average | 30 - 34 Borderline Acceptable | Below 30 - Unacceptable