

# INFORMATION LITERACY MODULE

## Unit 3: Evaluation of Information

# LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this learning experience you should be able to:

- Discuss the importance of evaluating information
- Evaluate located information using criteria such as currency, authority, accuracy, purpose, objectivity and writing style

# ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

These learning outcomes will be evident when:

- The importance of evaluating information is discussed
- Located information is evaluated using criteria such as currency, authority, accuracy, purpose, objectivity and writing style

# The importance of evaluating information sources



Not evaluating information  
has consequences

# WHY SHOULD YOU EVALUATE INFORMATION?

- It is an important part of the research process
- Not all information is reliable or true
- Not all information is suitable for inclusion in an assignment
- Not all information is reviewed by a panel of experts that ensures that the information is credible

# Evaluation criteria

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Currency
- Accuracy
- Authority



- Purpose
- Objectivity
- Writing style



# CURRENCY

The timeliness of information

- When was the information published, revised or updated?



# ACCURACY

The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the information

- Is the information supported by evidence?



# AUTHORITY

The credentials of the author

- Who is the author?
- Is the author qualified?
- Is there contact information?



# PURPOSE

The reason the information exists

- Is the purpose of the information to inform/teach/entertain or persuade?



# OBJECTIVITY

The extent to which information is biased or not

- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?



# WRITING STYLE

Refers to the style of writing

- Is the information systematically and clearly written?



# EVALUATION WORKSHEET



Tshwane University  
of Technology  
*We empower people*

**Library and Information Services**

Information literacy Training

## WORKSHEET TO EVALUATE INFORMATION SOURCES

When you have located information that matches the topic and requirements of your assignment, you must evaluate and judge the information sources. Not all sources of information are reliable. Never use unreliable sources, because it will negatively affect your assignment mark. A very useful way to determine the appropriateness and reliability of information, is to complete this worksheet for each source of information that you have located.

Criterion	Comments	Rating (1-10) <small>(1 = unreliable and 10 = excellent)</small>
Currency		
Authority		
Accuracy		
Purpose		
Objectivity		
Writing style		

# Demonstration on the evaluation of an information source



During the lecture a demonstration was given on how the evaluation criteria are applied to a specific information source

# Summary

# Summary

## WRITING STYLE

Refers to the style of writing

- Is it Systematically + clearly written



[https://www.google.com/search?q=author%3Dclarc+reflex+b&source=links&btn=c&sa=s&ved=0ahUKEwskKq4pySAANAAQAAcFCAQ\\_AuICsgOibw=1352&bih=610](https://www.google.com/search?q=author%3Dclarc+reflex+b&source=links&btn=c&sa=s&ved=0ahUKEwskKq4pySAANAAQAAcFCAQ_AuICsgOibw=1352&bih=610)

## IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATING INFORMATION

- Important part of the research process
- Not all information is reliable or true
- Not all information is suitable for assignment
- Not all information is reviewed by a panel of experts
- Critically evaluate all information

Your scepticism is a powerful tool

## CURRENCY

## The timeliness of information

- When was the information published, revised or updated?



[https://www.google.com/search?q=evalsite&client=frelb&sa=us&as=frms&btm=isc&sa=3&vad=0&u4Ew957337m7hUnA&AOH/230uYQ\\_AUIC5gC&sa=2352&h=420&tm=ih&q=5malacoon&...](https://www.google.com/search?q=evalsite&client=frelb&sa=us&as=frms&btm=isc&sa=3&vad=0&u4Ew957337m7hUnA&AOH/230uYQ_AUIC5gC&sa=2352&h=420&tm=ih&q=5malacoon&...)

## OBJECTIVITY

Extend to which information is biased or not

- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?



[https://www.google.com/search?q=realstate&client=firefox-b&source=docs&btn=iuch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEw1B7Dov5A4JhAcA00Yv23DwvQ\\_AUjC3g&biw=1352&bih=612#m=1&sch=quobjcttrvty&f](https://www.google.com/search?q=realstate&client=firefox-b&source=docs&btn=iuch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEw1B7Dov5A4JhAcA00Yv23DwvQ_AUjC3g&biw=1352&bih=612#m=1&sch=quobjcttrvty&f)

## PURPOSE

The reason the information exists

- Is the purpose of the information to inform/teach/entertain or persuade?

[illegible]

## ACCURACY

The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content

- Is the information supported by evidence?



Access at [https://www.google.com/search?q=evaluation+of+e-learning&source=images&btnG=Scholar&ved=0CtRQw=95120&ANuAqAGM7SDuPQ\\_AJCSg&btn=1352406-63370&scholar=16](https://www.google.com/search?q=evaluation+of+e-learning&source=images&btnG=Scholar&ved=0CtRQw=95120&ANuAqAGM7SDuPQ_AJCSg&btn=1352406-63370&scholar=16)

## AUTHORITY

The credentials of the author

- Who is the author?
- Is the author qualified?
- Is there contact information?



[https://www.google.com/search?q=authority&rlz=1c1f5f5b-ab&source=imod&btn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUK1W4KkAg9tHAKMMAZADHw:FCact2\\_Au1C5qCB&ine=1352&bih=410](https://www.google.com/search?q=authority&rlz=1c1f5f5b-ab&source=imod&btn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUK1W4KkAg9tHAKMMAZADHw:FCact2_Au1C5qCB&ine=1352&bih=410)

# Thank you