



Library resources including books and articles found in print and in databases are evaluated by publishers and subject experts. In contrast to this, ANYONE can publish-his/her opinions and ideas on the Internet.

Did you **know** there are approximately one trillion websites on the Internet and **NO** standards exist to ensure what you find is reliable or accurate?

You must evaluate resources you find both on the Internet and in print. The checklist below will help to identify resources to use for research assignments.

ABCD's of Evaluating Resources

Author/Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the author or sponsoring organization? • Who is the publisher? • Is there contact information? • Are the author's credentials provided? • Is biographical information given?
Bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was the work written? • Does the author or sponsor have an agenda? • Is there an <i>About</i> link? • Is the site personal, commercial, governmental, organizational, or educational? (.com, .gov, .org, .edu) • Who is the target audience? • Is the information intended to inform, explain, sell, promote, or persuade?
Content/Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currency: what is the publication date or last revision? • Is the source comprehensive, brief, or unique? • Is the material presented as original or secondary? • What level is the presentation? (elementary, HS, college) • Does the author support the information with works cited or links to other sources?
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the website user-friendly? • What kinds of images are used? • Is the navigation menu well-labeled? • Are there spelling or grammar errors? • Do the pages appear uncluttered? • Are there ads or pop-ups on the page? • Are links working?