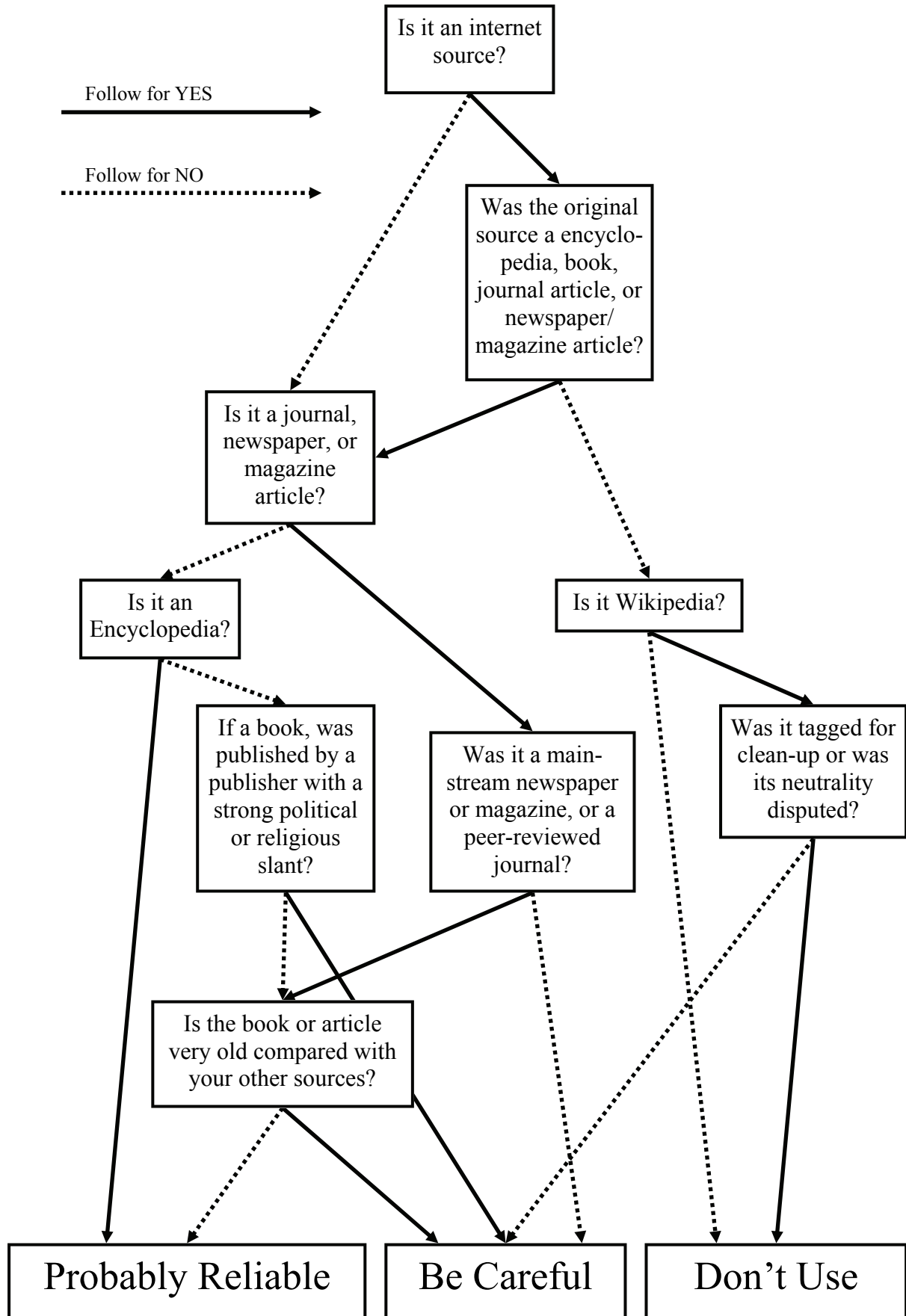


Secondary Sources



Primary Sources: questions to ask

- Who is the author?
 - Is the author unknown?
 - If so, did the author conceal his/her identity?
 - Was the author contemporary to the subject matter described?
 - Is the author representative of the general population?
- What type of document is it?
 - a public declaration?
 - a religious text?
 - the record of a financial transaction?
 - a personal letter or private document?
- Who was the audience?
 - Was the target audience the general public?
 - Was this document personal/private and/or supposed to be secret?
- What was the author's motive?
 - Is the author trying to change our opinion?
 - Is the author issuing commands?
- What are the author's biases?
 - What personal stake does the author have with the issues discussed?
 - How might the author's religion or other deeply held beliefs color his or her view?
 - How might the author's gender or class color his/her view?