

Locate, Evaluate & Use Information: A Guide to Evaluating Sources

Southern Wesleyan University, Rickman Library <http://www.swu.edu/library>

Directions: Use this rubric to determine if a source is suitable for research.

<p>Currency: <i>The timeliness of the information.</i></p> <p>0 No date given.</p> <p>1 [Internet] The date given is three years old; no revisions have been made.</p> <p>2 [Internet] The site has been created and updated within the past 3 years.</p> <p>3 [Internet] The site was created or updated within the past six months. All sources are current.</p>	<p>Relevance: <i>The importance of the information.</i></p> <p>0 Unrelated to the topic or audience.</p> <p>1 Somewhat related to the topic, but not useful or appropriate to the audience.</p> <p>2 Related to the topic, possibly as an overview or background information; related to audience.</p> <p>3 Complete and related to the topic, related to its intended audience.</p>
<p>Authority: <i>The source of the information.</i></p> <p>0 Not named.</p> <p>1 Named, but poorly written.</p> <p>2 Named, but credentials and contact info incomplete.</p> <p>3 Name and credentials are given and indicate expertise in the field. Contact information has also been included.</p>	<p>Accuracy: <i>The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.</i></p> <p>0 Incorrect; biased opinions stated as fact.</p> <p>1 Out-of-date and contradicts other sources.</p> <p>2 Information was accurate, but undocumented.</p> <p>3 Information is reliable, error-free, and correctly cited.</p>
<p>Purpose: <i>The reason the information exists.</i></p> <p>0 Personal, whiny, argumentative.</p> <p>1 Sell, persuade, promote.</p> <p>2 Factual, but some personal opinions.</p> <p>3 Supports scholarly research with factual information.</p>	<p>Add up the score you gave your source from <u>each</u> box.</p> <p>Total:</p>

Based on the total score, determine if the source is suitable for research.

- 0 – 3 =** Not usable.
- 4 – 7 =** Highly questionable source.
- 8 – 10 =** Useful for ideas, but not for a research paper.
- 11 – 13 =** Good source for a paper or academic project, but confirm with other sources.
- 14 – 15 =** Excellent source to cite in a research paper or project.

This rubric is based on the CRAAP test http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/eval_websites.pdf.