

## CARSS GUIDE TO EVALUATING INFORMATION QUALITY

CREDIBILITY	ACCURACY	REASONABLENESS	SUPPORT	SUITABILITY
<b>Is this source believable and trustworthy?</b>	<b>Is the information correct and current?</b>	<b>Is the information fair and objective?</b>	<b>Is the information verifiable?</b>	<b>Does the information meet your specific needs?</b>
Author's credentials, education, employer; memberships; contact info	Timely OR timeless; how quickly the field changes	Balanced, reasoned argument; evidence for all sides	Sources cited Bibliography, further readings, etc.	Check Table of Contents for topics covered
Quality control Peer review process; Corporate authorization "official website"	Comprehensive; detailed	Calm tone that doesn't inflame emotions and cloud judgment	What <i>kind</i> of sources were used?	Tone, language and level of detail
Summaries or abstracts	Factual	Objective, unbiased, free from conflict of interest	Corroboration , fact-checking and triangulation	Presumed background knowledge
Critical reviews	Audience & purpose	Moderateness: how likely, possible, or probable are the claims based on your knowledge of the world	External consistency – compare what familiar in new source with what is familiar in other sources	Assignment criteria
<b>Warning Signals</b> Spelling and grammatical errors; anonymous; poor reviews	<b>Warning Signals</b> Undated; out-dated, or auto-dated; vague; sweeping generalizations	<b>Warning Signals</b> One-sided; over-the-top language; improbable claims; conflict of interest	<b>Warning Signals</b> Numbers/statistics not credited; no other sources confirm facts/statements	<b>Warning Signals</b> Too many new terms
<b>GOAL: a source that supplies good evidence that you can trust</b>	<b>GOAL: a source that is correct today and that gives the whole truth</b>	<b>GOAL: a source that engages the subject thoughtfully and reasonably</b>	<b>GOAL: a source that provides convincing evidence for its claims and uses verifiable data</b>	<b>GOAL: a source that you can understand and that meets the specifications of your project</b>

Source: Harris, R. (2010, November 22). Evaluating Internet research sources. Retrieved from <http://www.virtualsalt.com/evalu8it.htm>