

Currency - The timeliness of the information

When was the information published or updated?

Is the information up-to-date?

Does your topic require current information or will older sources work as well?

Are the links functional?

Relevance - The importance of the information for your needs

Does the information relate to your topic or answer your questions?

Is this information for academic purposes?

Who is the intended audience? Is this at an appropriate reading level for you?

Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

Accuracy - The reliability and correctness of the content

Where does the information come from? Is it free of spelling and grammar errors?

Is the information supported by evidence?

Can you verify this information in another source or from personal knowledge?

Does the author have a bias?

Authority – The source of the information

Who is the author? Are they qualified to write about this topic?

What does the URL tell you about this topic? (Is it an .edu, .gov, etc?)

Is there contact information for the author or publisher?

Purpose — The reason the information exists

What is the purpose of this information? Is it to teach? To sell you something? To entertain?

Does the point of view seem objective and without bias?

Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda?