

# INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

## Evaluating Internet Sources Worksheet

**Evaluation criteria** is a list of questions to help you critically assess information you find on the Internet that you are considering using for your assignments, projects, and research.

### Evaluation Criteria

**RELEVANCE:** *The importance of the information for your needs.*

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

**AUTHORITY:** *The source of the information.*

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: **.com .edu .gov .org .net .ca**

**DATE:** *The timeliness of the information.*

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
- Are the links functional?

**APPEARANCE:** *The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.*

- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

**REASON:** *The reason the information exists.*

- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases

# INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

## Evaluating Internet Sources Worksheet

### The RADAR Worksheet

Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate, and then rank each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent). Add up the scores and use the rating scale to help you evaluate the worthiness of the site for your coursework.

<p><b>Relevance:</b> <i>the importance of the information for your needs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Who is the intended audience?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the information at an appropriate reading and technical level for your assignment?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Would you be comfortable using this source for a course at college?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Authority:</b> <i>the source of the information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? (non-profit, personal blog, company page, educational institution, media outlet government site or document)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>DATE:</b> <i>the timeliness of the information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When was the information published or posted?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has the information been revised or updated?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are the links functional?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Appearance:</b> <i>the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where does the information come from?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the information supported by evidence?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has the information been reviewed or refereed?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can you verify any of the information in another source?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reason:</b> <i>the reason the information exists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What is the purpose of the information?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Scoring</b></p> <p><b>45 - 50 Excellent   40 - 44 Good   35 - 39 Borderline   30 - 34 Not acceptable   Below 30 Do NOT use</b></p>	