

The C.A.R.S. Checklist for Evaluating Internet Sources

You should evaluate every web site you use for research or for personal information. The **CARS** checklist for evaluating internet sources is listed below.

Ask yourself the following questions about each site and try to use only those that have the best evidence of credibility, accuracy, reasonableness, and support.

Website Evaluation Checklist		
Title of the website:		
URL:		
Credibility: A source that is created by a person or group who knows the subject and who cares about how it is presented.	Yes	No
• Is the creator/author name listed?	_____	_____
• Does the creator list information telling you that they are experts in that information?	_____	_____
• Does the website have an .edu, .org, or .gov ending in its URL?	_____	_____
Accuracy: A source with information that is current, complete, and correct.		
• Based on the reading you have already done on the subject does the information on the site seem accurate?	_____	_____
• Is the website free of spelling errors, grammatical errors, dead links, or other problems?	_____	_____
Reasonableness: a source that is truthful and unbiased.		
• Does the website avoid advertising that does not seem appropriate?	_____	_____
• Does it present both sides of an issue, or is it one opinion only?	_____	_____
• Do you trust the author that has created the website?	_____	_____
Support: A source with verifiable sources of information.		
• Is there a bibliography or sources listed?	_____	_____

Things to look out for:

- Domain Name (.gov, .edu, .com) can tell you about the creator of the website.
- “About Us” or “Contact Us” can lead you to more information about the creator of the website.

Information for worksheet provided by www.literacyta.com