

Evaluating Print Sources of Information (Books, periodicals, pamphlets, etc.

Evaluating print sources is also important. Print sources can have misinformation or biased information. Use the following criteria to help determine the value of information in print.

1. Accuracy

- Are there other sources that verify the information?
- Are other sources cited in the work you are using?

2. Arrangement/Relevance

- Is it easy to use? Does it have a table of contents, a preface, an introduction, an index, and a bibliography?
- Does it have appendices?
- Does the information answer your question?

3. Authority

- What are the credentials of the author, publisher, editor and other contributors?
- Are they experts in the field of the information you are examining?
- What is the education, reputation, and background of the author, publisher, and editor?

4. Completeness/Objectivity

- Is the purpose clearly stated in the preface? Are there limitations?
- Are all sides of a subject presented?
- What is the time period?

5. Timeliness

- What is the date of the information provided in the book or article?
- Has the work been revised or updated?
- Has the information changed? How important is currency for your subject?

For More Information on Evaluating Information go to:

- Association of College and Research Libraries Teaching Undergrads Web Evaluation
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crinews/backissues1998/julyaugust6/teachingundergrads.htm>
- Cornell University Olin & Uris Libraries
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/reserearch/skill26.htm>
- Wolfgram Memorial Library Evaluating Web Resources
<http://www2.widener.edu/Wolfgram-Memorial-Library/webevaluation/webevau.htm>

Hartnell College Library
Reference Department 831-759-6078/755-6872
www.hartnell.edu/library/