Evaluating information with RADAR

Whether you’re using the library catalogue, a database, or a search engine, it’s important to evaluate the information that you find. Consider an information source’s relevance, authority, date, accuracy, and reason in order to help you determine whether it is appropriate for your needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Questions to Consider</th>
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| **Relevance** | • Does it relate to your topic?  
• Does it help you answer a question or solve a problem?  
• Could it help in forming an argument?  
• What does it add to your work?  
• Is it the right “type” of source for your assignment? |
| **Authority** | • Is it clear who wrote the material?  
• Do they have the appropriate qualifications or experience to be an expert on the topic?  
• Is the publisher recognized or reputable? |
| **Date** | • When was the information written or last updated?  
• Is it current enough for your topic? |
| **Accuracy** | • Is the information free of grammatical, spelling, and other errors?  
• Are sources of any factual information listed in a clear and complete manner so that they can be verified? |
| **Reason** | • Why does the source exist? Is it meant to inform? Or is it meant to entertain? Persuade? Sell a product or an idea?  
• Does the point of view appear to be objective and impartial?  
• What biases does the author have?  
• Does the source acknowledge other perspectives? |