

RADAR Test

Evaluating Research Information Sources Checklist

Area covered/Description	Questions	Option (✓)	
		Yes	No
Rationale (Books, articles, and web pages are made to serve a purpose. Some sources may be frivolous or commercial in nature, providing inaccurate, false, or biased information.	(A) Why did the author or publisher make this information available? Finding:		
	(B) Is the material obvious and/or extreme bias or prejudice?		
	(C) Are there alternative points of view presented in the material?		
	(D) Does the author omit any important facts or data that might disprove their claim?		
	(E) Does the author use strong emotional language?		
Authority (judging the credibility of the author's assertions)	(A) What are the author's credentials? Finding:		
	(B) Is the author affiliated with an educational institution or a prominent organization?		
	(C) Can you find information about the author in reference books or on the Internet? ★		
	(D) Do other books or articles on the same research topic cite the author?		
	(E) Is the publisher of the information source reputable? ★		
Date (The currency of information searched – obsolete, recent or new research)	(A) When was the information published or last updated? ★ Finding:		
	(B) Have newer articles been published on your topic?		
	(C) Are links or references to other sources up-to-date? ★		
	(D) Is your topic in an area that changes rapidly, like technology or science?		
	(E) Is the information obsolete? ★		
Accuracy (Reviewing the credibility of information)	(A) Are there statements you know appear to be false?		
	(B) Was the information reviewed by editors or subject experts before it was published?		
	(C) Do the citations and references support the author's claim? Are the references correctly cited? ★		

	(D) What do other people have to say on the topic? Is there general agreement among subject experts?		
	(E) If applicable, is there a description of the research method used? Does the method seem appropriate and well-executed?		
	(F) Was item published by a peer-reviewed journal, academic press, or other reliable publisher?		
Relevance (To support your research topic)	(A) Does the information answer your research question?		
	(B) Does the information meet the stated requirements for the assignment?		
	(C) Is the information too technical or too simplified for you to use? (*Delete where necessary)		
	(D) Who is the intended audience?		
	(E) Does the source add something new to your knowledge of the topic?		
	(F) Is the information focused on the geographical location you are interested in?		

Symbol: ☆ (Evaluating the online source)

References:

1. Association of College & Research Libraries, *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* (Chicago, 2000).
2. Association of College & Research Libraries, *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*. (Chicago, 2015).
3. Blakeslee, S. (2004). The CRAAP test. *LOEX Quarterly*, 31(3), 4.
4. Mandalios, J. (2013). RADAR: An approach for helping students evaluate Internet sources. *Journal of Information Science*, 39(4), 470-479.