

# Evaluating Print Resources

Everyone has a bias, and all sources of information reflect the author's perspective on a topic, but what makes the information credible? Before accepting information as truth, consider the following factors that will help you examine resources in terms of your own research needs:

## Authorship

- ❑ What are the author's credentials which gives credibility in this field?
- ❑ What is his/her area of expertise?
- ❑ Is the author affiliated with an organization or institution?
- ❑ If possible, try to determine the author's bias or perspective on the topic.
- ❑ Has he/she been cited in sources by others in the field?
- ❑ Biographical resources and information in the publication itself, may help you determine the author's credentials.

## Publisher/Journal

- ❑ Identify the publisher and try to determine whether it is a reputable or scholarly publisher.
- ❑ If the information is in a serial, determine whether it is a scholarly journal or a popular magazine: who is the intended audience?; are sources of information cited?; are credentials of authors given?

## Date of publication

- ❑ When was the resource published?
- ❑ Do resources for your particular topic need to be current?
- ❑ Is the information contained in the resource current?

## Content

- ❑ Try to determine the purpose of the information and evidence of bias, its intended audience, its suitability for your purposes, and its comprehensiveness.
- ❑ Check for accuracy: can the information provided be verified elsewhere?
- ❑ Note whether the information is supported by evidence and appears to be valid.

## Writing Style

- ❑ How readable is the text?
- ❑ What is the purpose of the resource?
- ❑ Is it to entertain, to inform, or to promote a viewpoint?
- ❑ Is the information clearly presented?