Checklist Evaluating Information

Below you will find a number of questions you can ask when evaluating information.

**General (Books etc.)**
- Who is the author/creator?
- What is their profession and are they connected to an institute? If so, which one?
- Where was the item published and what does that signify? (Reliable/unreliable, scholarly/non-specialist, purpose for publication)
- Who is the publication’s intended audience?
- When was it published and is that relevant?
- What is the context in which you want to use the publication?

**Journal article (general +)**
- Has the article been cited? By whom and how often? *(Tip: Use Google Scholar)*
- Is it a peer-reviewed journal? *(Tip: Gebruik Ulrichsweb and the journal’s website)*

**Newspaper (general +)**
- What sort of newspaper is it?
- Does it have a political alignment?
- Is a free newspaper or a subscription newspaper?
- Is it a daily newspaper or a weekly newspaper?
- Who is the owner of the newspaper? What does the identity of the owner signify about the reliability of the newspaper?
- What is the situation with regards to the freedom of the press in the paper’s country of origin? *(Tip: Use Wikipedia, Ulrichsweb, Google and the newspaper’s website)*

**Website (general +)**
- Is the owner of the website actually who they claim to be?
- Is there a way to communicate with the editorial staff of the website (email, Twitter, Facebook, telephone, etc.)?
- Is the blog run in a private capacity?