

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 +)

- Who owns the website? Find out through <http://whois.domaintools.com/>
- 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?