

C.A.R.S. CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING SOURCES

Resource Title and Author: _____

CREDIBILITY – How do you know the information and author are authentic and reliable?	
• What is the publishing or sponsoring organization?	
• What are the author’s credentials?	
• Is the author/producer an authority on the subject?	
• What is the author/producer’s contact information?	

ACCURACY - How do you know the information is up-to-date, factual, detailed, and comprehensive?	
• What is the date of publication or copyright?	
• Does the information on the site agree with other sources?	
• Does the information contradict itself?	
• How is the information relevant to your research needs?	

REASONABLENESS – How do you know the information is fair, objective, moderate, and consistent?	
• What bias does the author, host or sponsor appear to have?	
• In what way is the information provided balanced?	

SUPPORT – How reliable, accurate, reasonable and well-supported are the sources for your resource?	
• How many sources support the resource? Can you find them easily?	
• Pick one source and evaluate it with the CARS list. How credible, accurate, reasonable, and well-supported does it seem?	

Additional factors to consider:

DESIGN & STYLE	
• Is the page layout visually pleasing?	
• How do the images enhance the message?	
• Is the language readable and understandable?	
• Are the grammar and spelling correct?	

ELECTRONIC SOURCES	
• What is the purpose of the site? Is it clearly stated?	
• When was the site last updated?	
• Who is the intended audience of the site?	
• Are links provided to more information? What percentage of the links still work?	