Checklist for Evaluating Sources

AUTHORITY

Yes	>	Are the author's qualifications, such as education, occupation or position listed?		
Don't Know Does the publication include a reference list or bibliography showing that the author has researched the topic? Yes No Don't Know If the author is a corporate/commercial entity, organization, educational institution, or government body, does it have a reputation for being knowledgeable about the subject? Yes No Don't Know CURRENCY Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)? Yes No Don't Know Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic? Yes No Don't Know If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? Yes No Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE Is the major purpose of this information to inform? Yes No		□ Yes		
 Does the publication include a reference list or bibliography showing that the author has researched the topic?		□ No		
researched the topic? Yes No Don't Know If the author is a corporate/commercial entity, organization, educational institution, or government body, does it have a reputation for being knowledgeable about the subject? Yes No Don't Know CURRENCY Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)? Yes No Don't Know Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic? Yes No Don't Know If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? Yes No Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE Is the major purpose of this information to inform? Yes No		☐ Don't Know		
Yes	>	Does the publication include a reference list or bibliography showing that the author has		
No		researched the topic?		
Don't Know If the author is a corporate/commercial entity, organization, educational institution, or government body, does it have a reputation for being knowledgeable about the subject? Yes No Don't Know CURRENCY Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)? Yes No Don't Know Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic? Yes No Don't Know If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? Yes No Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE Is the major purpose of this information to inform? Yes No		☐ Yes		
 If the author is a corporate/commercial entity, organization, educational institution, or government body, does it have a reputation for being knowledgeable about the subject?		□ No		
government body, does it have a reputation for being knowledgeable about the subject? Yes		☐ Don't Know		
Yes	>	If the author is a corporate/commercial entity, organization, educational institution, or		
CURRENCY ➤ Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)? Yes		government body, does it have a reputation for being knowledgeable about the subject?		
CURRENCY Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)? Yes No Don't Know Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic? Yes No Don't Know If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? Yes No Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE Is the major purpose of this information to inform? Yes No		☐ Yes		
CURRENCY Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)? Yes No Don't Know Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic? Yes No Don't Know If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? Yes No Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE Is the major purpose of this information to inform? Yes No No		□ No		
 ▶ Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)?		☐ Don't Know		
 ▶ Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)?	CURRE	NCY		
purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)? Yes	COMME			
 Yes No Don't Know Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic? Yes No Don't Know If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? Yes No Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE Is the major purpose of this information to inform? Yes No 	>	Based on the date of publication, will the facts or opinions provided be outdated for your		
 No □ Don't Know Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic?		purposes (e.g., technology/medical fields, political/social movements, etc.)?		
 □ Don't Know ➤ Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic?		☐ Yes		
 ▶ Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide the most current information on your topic?		□ No		
the most current information on your topic? Yes No Don't Know If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? Yes No Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE Is the major purpose of this information to inform? Yes No		☐ Don't Know		
 Yes No Don't Know If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? Yes No Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE ▶ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? Yes No 	>	Will other sources, such as newspaper/journal articles or information published online, provide		
□ No □ Don't Know ➤ If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? □ Yes □ No □ Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE ➤ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? □ Yes □ No		the most current information on your topic?		
 □ Don't Know ➤ If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised? □ Yes □ No □ Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE ➤ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? □ Yes □ No 		☐ Yes		
 ➤ If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised?		□ No		
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE ➤ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? ☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Don't Know		
□ No □ Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE ➤ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? □ Yes □ No	>	If this is a Web resource, can you tell when it was published or last revised?		
Don't Know PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE ➤ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? □ Yes □ No		☐ Yes		
PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE ➤ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? □ Yes □ No		— ···		
 ➢ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? ☐ Yes ☐ No 		□ Don't Know		
 ➢ Is the major purpose of this information to inform? ☐ Yes ☐ No 				
☐ Yes ☐ No	PURPO	SE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE		
☐ Yes ☐ No	>	Is the major purpose of this information to <i>inform</i> ?		
□ No	•			
		□ Don't Know		

>	Would you say that the information provided is biased, or limited to one point of view?			
		Yes		
		No		
		Don't Know		
>	Is the purpose to persuade? If so, does the author leave out important facts or opposing			
	viewpoints?			
		Yes		
		No		
		Don't Know		
>	Does the resource appear to be written for an academic audience or one that is knowledgeable			
	about the subject area?			
		Yes		
		No		
		Don't Know		
	Does this resource seem to have been written for a general audience with no special expertise			
	on the topic?			
		Yes		
		No		
		Don't Know		
CONCL	USIONS			
Rasad o	nn tha in	formation you have collected above, do you have any reservations about using this		
resourc		ionnation you have concered above, do you have any reservations about using this		
resourc	.C:			
		Yes		
		No		
Overall	thic nu	blication is suitable for use as a resource for my numbers		
Overall	, uns pu	blication is suitable for use as a resource for my purposes.		
		Yes		
		No		

Adapted from University of Massachusetts Libraries Evaluating Sources Checklist.