Evaluating resources

When evaluating a resource, there are two aspects to consider: The source and the content. In both cases, remember the **CPR**!

Source

Credentials
- What is the educational background of the author?
- With which organization is the author affiliated?
- What are the author's other publications? Are they peer-reviewed?

Purpose
- What is the intent of the author? Is he or she trying to sell you something, convince you of a particular point of view?

Reliability, reputation
- Is the organization / publisher academic?
- Is the publication peer-reviewed?
- Is the organization / publisher associated with a particular point of view?
- What type of organization is it?
  Governmental, non-governmental, media, educational, commercial, interest group?

Content

Currency
  Is the information recent?
  This is important in some cases, less so in others.

Purpose
- Is it to inform or entertain? Is it an opinion piece?
- Is it a literature review?
- Does it disseminate research results?

Relevance
- Is the information presented relevant to your topic?
- Is it the right academic level for your research?

Last but not least: **Accuracy**

Is the content accurate? Are statements and facts backed by references? Academic work, whether published in a book, an article or on a website, should always include references.

Don't forget:

No plagiarism!

- Don't copy/paste

- R&R (Read and reformulate)

- **Cite your sources!**

- Don't forget to include a bibliography.

Need further guidance?

Don't hesitate to turn to the library for assistance;

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Useful ressources

Here are the resources I used to prepare this training session. Check them out; you will find them very useful.

Concordia's Library "how to" guides:
http://library.concordia.ca/help/howto/?guid=write

Université de Montréal : Déterminer la fiabilité de l'information (in French)
http://guides.bib.umontreal.ca/disciplines/74-Determiner-la-fiabilite-de-l-information?tab=276

Infosphere (Université du Québec à Montréal) (in French)
http://www.bibliotheques.uqam.ca/infosphere