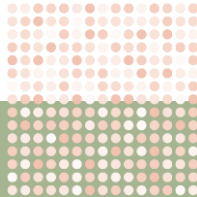




GLION SELF-HELP SERIES

Learning Support



Evaluating sources



Not all information is created equal. Evaluating your sources ensures that your research is based on credible, relevant, and high-quality information.



Why evaluate sources?

- Improve quality: Strong sources make your arguments more convincing
- Save time: Avoid unreliable or irrelevant material
- Maintain academic integrity: Using credible sources helps you avoid misinformation
- Support your grades: Many assignments are graded on the quality of sources you choose



Why Is It Important?

- Gives direction: Helps you choose relevant sources and methods
- Keeps you focused: Prevents your paper from becoming too broad or too narrow
- Clarifies your purpose: Makes it easier to explain your project to others
- Guides your argument: Leads to a clear thesis or conclusion





Step-by-Step: How to Evaluate Sources

1 Check the Author

- Who wrote it? Are they an expert (professor, researcher, industry professional)?
- Are they affiliated with a reputable institution or organization?
- Have they published on this topic before?

2 Look at the Date

- Is the information recent enough for your topic?
- For fast-moving fields (e.g., technology, hospitality trends), prefer sources from the last 5–7 years
- For historical or theoretical topics, older sources may still be valuable

3 Assess the Purpose & Audience

- Why was the source written — to inform, sell, persuade, entertain?
- Is it intended for scholars (peer-reviewed journal), professionals, or the general public?

4 Evaluate the Evidence

- Does the author use data, case studies, or references to back up claims?
- Are multiple perspectives considered?
- Is the argument logical and free from major bias?

5 Check the Publication

- Was it published in a peer-reviewed journal, reputable magazine, or by a university press?
- Be careful with open websites, blogs, or opinion pieces — verify their reliability

6 Verify with Other Sources

- Cross-check key facts or statistics in more than one source
- See if other scholars cite this work



Useful frameworks

CRAAP Test

Currency	Is it up to date?
Relevance	Does it match your research question?
Authority	Is the author qualified?
Accuracy	Is the information supported by evidence?
Purpose	Is it objective, or does it have bias?

PAIR Framework:

Purpose	Why does this source exist?
Authority	Who created it and why are they credible?
Information Quality	Are the facts accurate and well-supported?
Relevance	Does it answer your research question?

More information on the
Library website here:





Example

Source:

Nguyen, T., & Lee, H. (2022). Sustainable practices in boutique hotels: A customer perspective. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 30(4), 567–582.

Evaluation:

Author: Both authors are hospitality professors with multiple publications on sustainability

Date: Recent (2022) — relevant to current industry practices

Purpose: Scholarly article, peer-reviewed, objective

Evidence: Based on survey of 450 guests, with robust statistical analysis

Relevance: Directly supports my research question on sustainability in hospitality

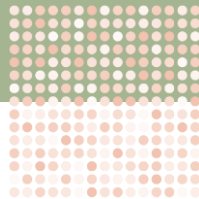




Tips & Tricks

- Prioritize peer-reviewed journals over popular media for academic work
- Use library databases (EBSCO, ProQuest, JSTOR) to find credible material
- Be cautious with AI tools: They can help you find ideas, but always check the original source for accuracy
- Don't ignore bias: A source can still be useful if you recognize and explain its perspective.





Contact us

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