

## DIGITAL RESOURCE EVALUATION

When using the internet to find answers to your questions or solutions to your problems, make sure you know **how to recognize** useful and helpful resources. If you use any of the information you find, make sure you give credit to the author appropriately. When you decide to use any of the information you found online, make sure it is relevant, it is a fact not an opinion, it is up to date, and it is important for your arguments. Use your **RADAR**<sup>1</sup> to demonstrate you can think critically, evaluate and make judgements.

<b>R</b> <sub>elevance</sub>	
<b>Information must be relevant for it to matter to your research. If there is zero relevance, keep looking!</b>	
Useful questions: "Does this information answer my research question?", "Is this information related to my topic?", "What is the intended audience of this information?" ...	
<b>A</b> <sub>uthority</sub>	
<b>It is important to determine how credible the author is.</b>	
Useful questions: "Who is the author?", "Can I find the name of the author / publisher anywhere on the page I am looking at?", "Is the author a (recognised / famous / well-known) specialist?", "Is the author associated with an institution / a business? Is it a reputable one?", "Is contact information provided?" ...	
<b>D</b> <sub>ate</sub>	
<b>Some information becomes outdated very quickly, but "old" does not necessarily mean "bad".</b>	
Useful questions: "When was this information created / updated?", "Do I need the most up-to-date information?", "If the information is older, is it still extremely important? Is it a landmark study?" ...	
<b>A</b> <sub>ppearance</sub>	
<b>How the information is presented can often indicate how reputable or scholarly the source is.</b>	
Useful questions: "Are there a lot of advertisements on the page?", "Is the information presented in an academic manner?", "Are there references to support the article? Is there a bibliography, footnotes, etc?" ...	
<b>R</b> <sub>eason</sub>	
<b>Understanding why the information is created is critical to evaluating its quality.</b>	
Useful questions: "Why is this information available?", "Was this information created to inform, sell, educate, entertain, or persuade?", "Are the author's intentions for publishing this information clear?", "Is this a research study, a blog, a wiki, or a forum?" ...	

**TIP 1:** Print this page and keep it close when browsing the internet in search for information. **Every time you open a new tab, look at this page.** Everyone tends to become side-tracked when browsing, so it is important to stay focused and on task to avoid wasting **precious time**.

**TIP 2:** If you decide to use information from a webpage, **always** copy the web address (the "http...") in a document titled **"Bibliography\_(Project Name)"**. You can use it for your project.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Mandalios, Jane. (2013). RADAR: An approach for helping students evaluate Internet sources. Journal of Information Science. 39. 470-478. 10.1177/0165551513478889.