

IS THIS GOOD INFORMATION?

Evaluating Websites: The CARSS Test

When conducting research, it is important to make sure your information is **credible** (true). One way to ensure your resources are credible is to use the databases provided on the **media home page*** to do your research.

If you use the general internet to conduct research, apply the **CARSS** criteria below to determine the credibility of the website you are using. If you answer “no” to many of the questions, the website may **not** be a credible source.

	Yes	No
Current: The timeliness of the information.		
Is the information current for your topic?		
Has the information been revised or updated?		
Are the links functional?		
Appropriate: The importance of the information for your needs.		
Does the information seem relevant and appropriate for your topic?		
Is the page easy to understand and use?		
Is the page well organized?		
Does the page load in a reasonable amount of time?		
Is the page free from (excessive amounts of) advertising?		
Reason: Why the information exists.		
Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?		
Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?		
Does the page lead you to other good information (links)?		
Source: The credibility of the information.		
Does the page have a sponsoring agency or reputable expert?		
Is there an author with credentials or organizational affiliations given?		
Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?		
Is the domain of the web site .edu, .org, or .gov?		
Support: The reliability and correctness of the informational content.		
Does the information come from a reliable source?		
Is the information supported by evidence?		
Has the information been reviewed or refereed?		
Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?		
Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?		
Is the writing free from spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?		

If you answered “yes” to many of the questions above, you **probably** have a credible source. However, always be sure to follow the research guidelines established by your teacher. If you are still unsure, ask a media specialist for a second opinion.