Introduction to library resources

6. Evaluating Resources
When evaluating resources, consider the four Rs:

- Recent
- Reliable
- Readable
- Relevant
Recent – Is the information				Timely and up-to-date?

Out-of –date?
When was the **book** published?

When was the **journal article** published?

When was the **website** last updated?
Reliable – Who wrote it?

Is it written by an expert in the area?

Avoid internet sites that don’t have an author.

What information are you given regarding the author’s qualifications and experience?
What is the information based on?

Is there a bibliography listing the sources used? Do these references pass the 4 Rs test?

If you are using a web page, are there links to source material, or a bibliography included?
Is there any bias?

Is the information sponsored by a lobby group or multi-corporation?
Who is the publisher?

Scholarly publications are generally published by:

- A university press
- Commercial publisher of scholarly publications
- Government
- Professional body
- Research institution or centre
What type of journal is it?

Scholarly

- Articles written by experts
- Reviewed prior to publication
- Peer-reviewed
- Contains bibliography

Popular

- Women’s Weekly
- Popular mechanics
Who is the target audience?

Is the language too technical?

Is the information too basic?
Does the information:

• Give an overview of the topic

• Cover the topic completely or cover a particular aspect of the topic

• Support /refute an argument?