Evaluating Information Sources Worksheet

Use this form to evaluate the sources you find. Respond to the following questions as appropriate for each of your sources. Give specific examples to justify your answer.

1. Is the material relevant to the topic being explored?

2. Is the language or vocabulary at an appropriate level?

3. Is the material popular or scholarly? Which best suits your research needs?

4. Is the date of publication appropriate to the topic?

5. What are the author’s qualifications (if given)?
6. Did the author use primary or secondary sources? Give examples. How was the information obtained (surveys, experiments, personal knowledge, etc.)?

7. What is the author’s purpose in writing the material? To inform? To persuade?

8. Is there bias in the material, or is the author objective? Does the author consider more than one point of view?

9. Are the author’s conclusions supported? How?

10. Is there a bibliography? If so, how many entries are included?

11. Add other comments you would like to make about this source’s suitability for your topic. Would it be useful as initial background information? As a major point? As a conclusion? Be specific in your response.