

Chatfield (2018)'s six concepts support effective evaluation of sources. When evaluating a source, there are questions that can be asked to explore each concept.

Authenticity: What is the origin of the source? Is this source trustworthy? Why did the author write this? Is the view objective?

Authority: Who wrote this? What is their role in this field? How experienced are they? Can I consider them an expert? Does their writing seem accurate?

Bias: Is the source trying to advance a particular view? Does the source include only partial evidence without explaining the full picture? What is the source trying to persuade me to believe?

Currency: When was this research written? Can I consider this current? Can I trust this is up to date or should I search for further sources?

Relevance: How is this research connected to my assignment? Does the information clearly connect with the main argument or contributing arguments I want to give? Is it strong evidence or should I research further?

Replication: Are these results repeated in other research? Has the source cited figures from another source? Is there a claimed fact that is being independently observed by others?

1. (i) Explore the six concepts and note the ones that you usually consider when evaluating sources of information.
(ii) From the concepts which you do not usually consider, explain which ones you are most likely to start using in the future and why?

2. Choose a source that you have used recently for one of your university assignments. Evaluate it using these six sources and make notes in answer to the questions.

3. Present your ideas to other students in the class.