

## C.A.R.S. CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING SOURCES

**Resource Title and Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CREDIBILITY – How do you know the information and author are authentic and reliable?</b>	
• What is the publishing or sponsoring organization?	
• What are the author’s credentials?	
• Is the author/producer an authority on the subject?	
• What is the author/producer’s contact information?	

<b>ACCURACY - How do you know the information is up-to-date, factual, detailed, and comprehensive?</b>	
• What is the date of publication or copyright?	
• Does the information on the site agree with other sources?	
• Does the information contradict itself?	
• How is the information relevant to your research needs?	

<b>REASONABLENESS – How do you know the information is fair, objective, moderate, and consistent?</b>	
• What bias does the author, host or sponsor appear to have?	
• In what way is the information provided balanced?	

<b>SUPPORT – How reliable, accurate, reasonable and well-supported are the sources for your resource?</b>	
• How many sources support the resource? Can you find them easily?	
• Pick one source and evaluate it with the CARS list. How credible, accurate, reasonable, and well-supported does it seem?	

**Additional factors to consider:**

<b>DESIGN &amp; STYLE</b>	
• Is the page layout visually pleasing?	
• How do the images enhance the message?	
• Is the language readable and understandable?	
• Are the grammar and spelling correct?	

<b>ELECTRONIC SOURCES</b>	
• What is the purpose of the site? Is it clearly stated?	
• When was the site last updated?	
• Who is the intended audience of the site?	
• Are links provided to more information? What percentage of the links still work?	