

This guide is designed to show you how you can recognize *high quality* information in traditional print resources.

Author	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is/are the author(s)? • What are his/her credentials? • How much does she/he write in their area of research? • How well known is she/he in their area of research? • How often does her/his work appear in other references or sources?
Content	<p>Although a book may not be completely on your topic; your topic may be covered in one chapter, or one part of a book or proceedings.</p> <p>To evaluate content begin by asking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What indication is there that all aspects of the topic is covered? • What indication is there that the topic is covered in depth? • What biases, if any, can you detect? • How thoroughly does the publication update other sources, support other resources, or add new information? • How is the information consistent, or not, with other sources? • What information, if any, is missing? • How thorough are the bibliographic references/sources? • How thorough is the table of contents and index? <p>If at first you don't find your topic discussed, try searching for it by synonyms in the index.</p>
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the publication intended for? Academics/scholars/University students? Persons in the profession? General public? etc... • Is the source too elementary, too technical, too advanced, or just right for your research needs?
Date of Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the date of the publication? • Is your source of information older or dated? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some older publications are good at presenting a historical perspective which may be especially important for some disciplines or topics. ○ Some research though dated may be considered 'classics' in a field of study, or represent a summary of everything known to date about a particular topic ○ Such research might represent the starting point of a new discipline, or the jumping off point of a new way of looking at a problem.
Edition or Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a newer edition or revision of the publication? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be aware that multiple editions or a book may exist. Further or recent editions will include revisions, changes in information, updates in knowledge that may be important to know for your research.
Publisher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the publisher? Commercial? Government? Professional association? University? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep in mind a reputable publisher does not guarantee quality!

Lastly, ask yourself if you would be comfortable citing this book or journal article in a *research* paper.