

## How to evaluate information sources:

*“Do your sources of information SCOAR?”*

**Scholarly Purpose:** The appropriateness of the information for academic research.

- Who is the intended audience of the information—people in academic, specialists in the field, the general public, consumers, various special interest groups?
- Is the information too elementary or superficial for college-level research?
- Is your source published by a college or university press, scholarly organization, professional association or other academic publisher?

**Currency:** The timeliness of the information.

- Does the source have a recent date of publication?
- Was the information presented in the source gathered recently or was the research conducted recently?

**Objectivity:** The balanced, unbiased nature of the information.

- Is the information presented in a balanced fashion or is it one-sided or biased?
- Does the author provide evidence to support his or her assertions?
- Are alternative points of view or theories presented?

**Authority:** The knowledge and credibility of the source of the information.

- Is a description of the author’s educational background or credentials given?
- Are there noticeable errors of fact or grammar in the text that would lead one to question the credibility of the author?
- Is there a bibliography of sources that the author used in his or her research?

**Relevancy:** The applicability of the information to the research topic.

- How closely does the information relate to your research topic?
- Are the specific aspects of your research topic addressed in the source?