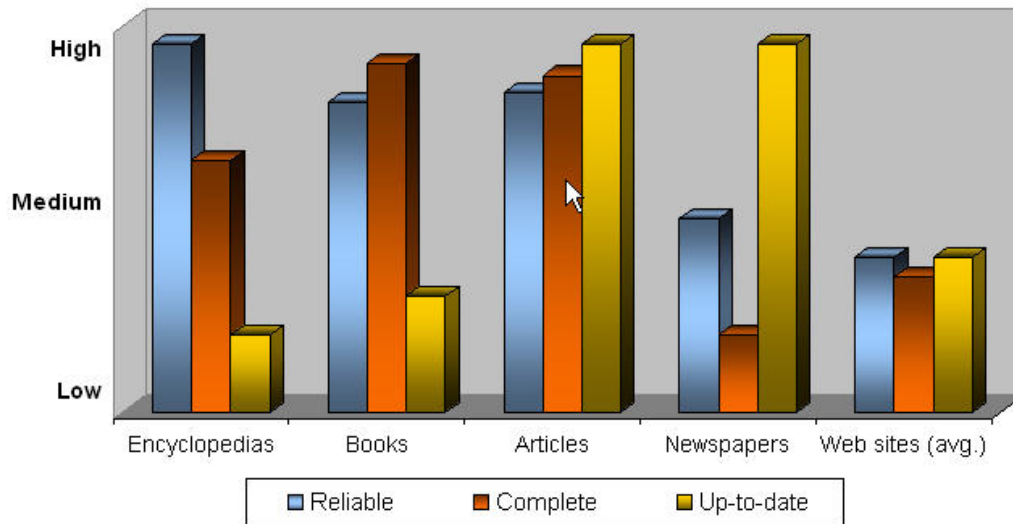


Evaluating Sources



Questions to ask yourself when judging information:

Encyclopedias

- Is the topic covered in depth?
- Are the author's credentials listed?
- How long ago was the entry written?

Books

- Does the book focus on my topic?
- Is the author an expert on my topic?
- How long ago was the book written?

Articles from magazines and journals

- Was the article written to inform or to entertain?
- Is the journal peer reviewed?
- Does the article contain facts that I can use in my report?
- Are any other useful sources cited in the article?

Newspapers

- Is the topic covered in depth?
- Are sources cited for the facts presented in the article?
- Did the newspaper publish any more stories about this topic?

World Wide Web

- Was this web site designed to inform or entertain?
- What is the source of the information?
- Is the source reliable?
- Does the source have any obvious bias?
- Is the web site updated regularly?

Source:

GaleSchools Research Tools: Judging Information. http://www.galeschools.com/research_tools/ovrc/judge_information.htm (accessed February 6, 2007).