

Watch the CARBS in what research feeds to you.**Is it Current?**

Having current information is particularly important for any information related to science, social science, politics, or technology. Be sure to check the publication dates.

Is it Authoritative?

Authoritative work is often cited by other writers. You may see the work mentioned in encyclopedias or listed in the references of another academic journal article. Check the following:

- Is the author named? What are his/her credentials?
- With whom is he/she associated?
- Is the author named in other reliable sources as an authority?

Is it Reliable?

Academic journals, peer reviewed journals, reputable reference books, and books published by university presses or publishers who specialize in scholarly work is often considered reliable.

- Who is the publisher?
- How is it funded?

Is its tone Balanced?

Look for bias by examining

- Word choices
- Overall tone
- Sponsors: Who paid for this research? What might be that group's agenda?
- Internet tags: .com = commercial, .org = organization (usually non-profit), .edu = education, .gov = government

Is it well Supported?

Examine the claims that the author makes. Ask the following:

- What evidence backs that claim?
- Are the findings based on statistical significance?
- Does the analysis show a logical link between the claim & the evidence?