

Information Source Evaluation Matrix

Always evaluate your information

	1	2	3	4	5	Mark
Who? – is the author	Author background is unknown	Some evidence author works in this area but few articles	Evidence of some publications in this area by author	Author has several published works in this area	Author is a known authority in this area	
Score						
What? – is the relevance of points made	Content and arguments of little or no relevance to the task	Only of peripheral/little relevance to task being undertaken	Some of the content is relevant to task requirements	Several points made are of relevance to task	Content and arguments closely match your needs	
Score						
Where? – context for points made	Situation to which author applies points is different to that of the task	Minimal similarity between author's context and the task context	Author's situation and that of the task have some similarity	Reasonable similarity between author's and task context	Author's context and that of the task very similar	
Score						
When? – was the source published	Date is unknown or older than 20 years old	Old reference – between 10 and 20 years old	Reference is between 5 to 10 years old	Recent reference is 2 to 5 years old	Up-to-date source – published in last two years	
Score						
Why? – author's reason/purpose for writing the article	No apparent motivation seen in article	Newspaper (or online) article opinion – not evidenced	Trade magazine/ commercial paper – might have some bias	Book source/ conference paper or subject interest forum/ blog	Academic journal paper – peer reviewed	
Score						
Source/Reference:						Total marks

Task/Question:

All about the Information Source Evaluation Matrix

- The Information Source Evaluation Matrix is a tool to help you assess the value of journal articles, books, websites, images, and any other form of information within the context of a specific task i.e. an assignment.
- Use each criterion to assess the value of information held within the source you are evaluating.
- Award a score of 1-5 against each criterion, where **1 is low** (information not so valuable, reliable or relevant) to **5 (high: information very valuable, reliable and relevant)**. Mark the matrix with these scores in the end column for each criterion.
- Add up all of the scores for each criterion and write the total score in the total marks box at the bottom right hand corner of the matrix.
- A high score (max 25) indicates a very useful, reliable and relevant piece of information; a low score indicates one of lesser value or relevance.
- Record the reference of the source in the section provided at the bottom of the matrix. You may also wish to record the task or question for which this source of information is to be used to help remind you of the context (a) when you assess the information source and (b) when you look back at the matrix and consider whether or not to use this source of information.

Feedback on Information Source Evaluation Matrix usage

Course:

Level of study:

Date:

1. Did you like using the Information Source Evaluation Matrix? **Yes/No**
2. Did you find it useful? **Yes/No**
3. Would you use it again? **Yes/No**
4. Write two statements outlining what you found useful in the use of the Information Source Evaluation Matrix.
5. Write two ways in which the Information Source Evaluation Matrix could be improved.

Please complete this feedback sheet and return it to Kaye Towlson, Senior Assistant Librarian, Kimberlin Library, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester LE1 9BH or hand it in at the Support Office on the ground floor of the Kimberlin Library.

Thank you for completing and returning this feedback form.

The development of the Information Source Evaluation Matrix is part of a current Information and Computer Sciences, Higher Education Academy Subject Centre funded research project at De Montfort University.

Your feedback will be of great assistance to this research project.

Any queries concerning the matrix or the project please contact Kaye Towlson (kbt@dmu.ac.uk), Senior Assistant Librarian, Kimberlin Library, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester LE1 9BH.

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