

# Evaluating Sources

Clark State Library <http://lib2.clarkstate.edu/>  
OhioLINK <http://www.ohiolink.edu/>

## Accurate?

- Facts can be verified in another source.
- Are statements propaganda or misinformation?
- Website sponsored by advertisers?
- Website promotes a personal viewpoint?

## Current?

- Books take many years to publish. Journal articles usually are more up-to-date. Articles in OhioLINK databases are updated daily.
- Older information gives historical background.
- Check the date of Website's latest update.

## Authoritative?

- Author is identified as an expert in the field in reviews by other experts with strong academic backgrounds.
- Articles in scholarly journals are subject to "peer review" and have more academic credibility.
- Internet resources may not have a named author.
- Sites with .gov, .edu or .org may be more factual, but may reflect the opinions of an organization or individual.

## What is the scope or content?

- Check the table of contents, index, bibliography or footnotes for detailed information about your topic.
- Print resources without indexes, bibliographies or footnotes often reflect the author's opinion and are not supported by other researchers.
- Scholarly journals contain footnotes and bibliographies.
- Websites often do not have bibliographies or footnotes.

## Originality/Publisher's Reputation?

- Print and online resources offer new editions that do not always have new information.
- For print materials look for academic publishers such as McGraw-Hill, Prentice-Hall, Academic Press or a university press.
- Articles in the OhioLINK online databases often provide a link to additional information about the publisher as well as additional information about the scope of journal titles.

**Ask A Librarian. We're here to help!**

# In the library, in print: Materials On Reserve (check at the circulation desk)

*Bedford Handbook*  
PE1408 .H277 2006

*Thinking Critically [video]*  
BF441 .T456 2000

*OhioLINK It!*  
Pamphlet at circulation desk

## Circulating books

NOTE: related materials can be found in the library near these items.

*Current Issues and Enduring Questions: a Guide to Critical Thinking & Argument*  
BC177 .C86 2002

*Critical Thinking: Step by Step*  
BC177 .C64 1998

*Invitation to Critical Thinking*  
BC177 .B35 1989

## Websites

Librarian's Internet Index

<http://lii.org/>

Enter search: critical thinking

Sheridan Library, Johns Hopkins University

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/index.html>

# MLA Citation Style at a glance

Clark State Library <http://lib2.clarkstate.edu/>

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## Books

Authors Last name, First name. Title of Book. Place of publication: Publisher, date of publication.

Example:

Posner, Helaine. Kiki Smith. New York: Monacelli Press, 2005.

## Magazines

Author's Last name, First name. "Article Title." Magazine Title day Month year: page numbers.

Example:

Levy, Steven. "The Future of Reading." Newsweek 26 November 2007: 56-64.

## Journals

Author's Last name, First name. "Article Title." Journal Title volume:issue [note: only include issue when the journal is not continuously paginated throughout the year] (year): page numbers.

Example:

Nistor, A.P. and J. Lowenberg-DeBoer. "Drainage water management impact on farm profitability." Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 62 (2007): 443-446.

## Articles from a database

Author's Last name, First name. "Article Title." Journal Title volume:issue [if required] (year): page numbers or length of article. Name of Database. Name of Library. Day Month year accessed <web address of database or search page>.

Example:

Marshall, Ann, Vicki Burns, and Judi Briden. "Know Your Students." Library Journal 132:18 (2007): 26-29. Academic Search Complete. Clark State Community College Library. 26 November 2007 <lib2.clarkstate.edu/library/referene.html>.

## Websites

Author [individual, company, association, etc.] of website, if given. Title of Website. Day Month year site was last updated, if given. Group responsible/Publisher, if given. Day Month year accessed. <web address>.

Example:

Ohio.gov. 23 November 2007. State of Ohio. 26 November 2007. <www.ohio.gov>.