RESOURCE EVALUATION CHECKLIST: The A.S.P.E.C.T. System

Use this checklist as a reminder as you evaluate your own sources.

Title of source: ____________________________________________________________

Type of source: □ book □ magazine/journal article □ web site □ video □ other: ________

URL (if web site): ___________________________________________________________________

A: Authority

□ Is there an author’s name?
□ Can you locate author’s credentials?
□ Evidence of author expertise in subject?
□ Similar works by this author?
□ Personal recommendations for this author?
□ Publisher’s credentials and reputation?
□ Similar works from this publisher?

S: Sources

□ Is information presented as fact? If yes...
□ Does the author provide documentation? (Bibliography, Footnotes, etc.)
□ If documentation/sources are included, are they from credible sources?

P: Purpose

□ Was this source written to inform and educate?
□ Does the source argue a perspective or specific opinion?
□ Is the source intended to entertain? To sell?
□ Is the content aimed at a general audience, or is it written for readers with expertise in the subject?
□ Is the source too basic, too technical, too advanced?
□ Is the source just right for your research needs?

E: Evenness

□ Does the author recognize other points of view?
□ Is the information presented objective?
□ If the source is biased, does the author acknowledge the bias?

C: Coverage

□ Is the information new? Does it support what you have found in other sources?
□ Is the source comprehensive or inclusive enough for your needs?
□ Does this source provide information that is relevant to your needs?

T: Timeliness

□ When was the source published?
□ Is the date appropriate for your topic?

ASPECT info evaluation checklist is from the Clark College IRIS 4-2 Evaluating modules
(http://www.clark.edu/Library/iris/evaluate/evaluate_home.shtml)