# Information Source Evaluation Matrix

Always evaluate your information

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

Task/Question:

Leigh, Mathers and Towlson (2009)
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course:</th>
<th>Level of study:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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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www.library.dmu.ac.uk