# CARRDS Defined

Use this to help you fill out the CARRDS web evaluation sheet on the back. \*\*Note: CARRDS is ONLY for free Internet sites, NOT for subscription databases like ProQuest or SIRS.

**CREDIBILITY**:

Who is the author? Is there an email address to contact the author (not the webmaster)? Why do you trust him or her? Example: *The author of this site is a 5th grade class, and so I should use it with caution, if at all*. Or, *this Civil War site is by a UCLA professor of History, and it provides her email address, so I can trust it*.

**ACCURACY**:

Based on your knowledge, does the information seem accurate? Example: *Parts of this site are similar to what I already know about Mexico from my textbook, so I think I can trust the information.* Or*, I don’t know anything about my topic yet so I*

*am not sure*, Or*, This site is different from what I learned before, so I should compare it with other sources before I use it*.

**RELIABILITY**:

Does the site present an opinion, point of view, bias? Is this opinion clearly stated? What is it? Example*: this site is an anti-smoking, anti-tobacco site. In the “about us” section it says that the purpose of the site is to teach teenagers not to smoke*. *I understand the opinion and it is fine for my research*.

**RELEVANCE**:

Does this information help to answer my question? Is it in-depth? Is it too hard, too easy, or just right? Yes or no answers are fine for the first part, then rate the level of the information.

**DATE**:

When was the information created? Was it revised? Are these dates meaningful in terms of subject matter? Example: *This site is from 2006 and is about Global Warming, so it is up to date*. Or, *This site is from 1999 and is about the solar system, so I think it may be too old*.

**SOURCES**:

Does the site have a Works Cited or Bibliography? If they are links, do they still work? Yes or No answers are fine. Elaborate if needed.

**OVERALL THIS SITE IS (Circle One):**

**Very Useful Somewhat Useful Not Good**

**If this is your answer,**

**find a different site!**

URL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title of Site\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Use CARRDS to Evaluate Your Sources

Read the definitions and instructions on the reverse (or previous page). If you still need help, ask a librarian!

**CREDIBILITY**:

**ACCURACY**:

**RELIABILITY**:

**RELEVANCE**:

**DATE**:

**SOURCES**:

**OVERALL THIS SITE IS (Circle One):**

**Very Useful Somewhat Useful Not Good**

Adapted from: Springfield Township High School Virtual Library http://mciu.org/~spjvweb/jvles.html