**A.S.A.P. means fast!**
Don’t waste your time with information you can’t trust. Use this fast, easy way to evaluate information.

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**A is for Author**

Sometimes it’s not easy to find author credentials. But if credibility is essential, take time to learn about the author. Credentials can include: education, expertise, reputation, and other works by the author.

**S is for Sources**

If there aren’t any sources, it’s not a research article. But it could still be credible. Popular sources (newspapers and magazines) rarely cite sources. Look for other clues to determine the credibility.

A list of sources is a clue that the article is credible, and can also lead you to more information. You should also look at the quality of the sources and the number of sources.

**A is for Age**

Is the information the right age for your needs? Is it too old? How current is current enough? The answer is: it depends.

Rules of Thumb
- 5 years, maximum: medicine, health, technology, science
- 10-20 years: history, literature, art

**P is for Publisher**

Look for publisher credentials in every source you use.

Journals, Magazines, Books
- Look up the name of the publisher in a search engine to find the publisher. Do they publish other things on the same subject?

Websites
- Examine the site for information about the publisher, or sponsor, of the site. Often in “About Us.”

Many publishers, especially university presses, specialize in academic titles. Examples:
- Oxford University Press
- University of Utah Press
- Blackwell Publishers