Authority is Constructed and Contextual

Think critically about information – whether it’s from a blog post, a book, or a peer-reviewed journal article. Ask questions about the author(s), the purpose, and the context of the information. Recognize the value of diverse ideas and world views.

How do you determine the credibility of a source?

What makes a source authoritative?

What points of view might be missing?

Whose voice does the information represent?

Information resources reflect their creators’ expertise and credibility, and are evaluated based on the information need and the context in which the information will be used. Authority is constructed in that various communities may recognize different types of authority. It is contextual in that the information need may help to determine the level of authority required.

(ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, 2015)

UNC Wilmington
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