**Source Credibility Framework**

Figure 1. Source credibility paradigms

**Source**

**When?**

**Who?**

**Where?**

**How?**

**Value?**

**When?**

* It is important to consider the time a source was published.
* Over time the credibility of theories will change therefore what was regarded as influential before may now be dated.
* When examining an older source, examine more recent research to establish relevance of findings.

**Who?**

* It is essential that you research the author to measure their authority and knowledge of the subject area.
* Before reading the source explore:
* Is the author a subject matter expert? If not, are they qualified to discuss the area they are reporting?
* Does the source contain details of the author’s credentials/qualifications?
* **If you find an author is not an expert the accuracy or quality of what they discussed will be questionable.**

**Where?**

* Where a source is published can determine its quality.

Questions:

* Is the source published in a well-established peer reviewed journal?
* If the source is not published in a peer-reviewed journal, how good is its publication location?

**Resources such as Wikipedia may be a useful first source for information but do not constitute high quality publications.**

**How?**

This is related to the methodology used for the research.

****

**Value**

For what can this research be used?

Is there anything specific about this research?

What implications does it have on current and future practice and/or theory?

How transferable is the research?

Figure 2. Source credibility marking grid

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Credibility component** | **Comment** | **Score** |
| When? |  |  |
| Who? |  |  |
| Where? |  |  |
| How? |  |  |
| Value |  |  |