

SIFT / Lateral Reading Strategy Ideas

Different methods of investigation will make more sense for different types of sources. Here are some examples of ways you might want to use lateral reading to further investigate a source:

<p>Websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look up the author (or organization) behind the website on Wikipedia and Google to find out more about them from other credible sources. What is their reputation?• Does the information the website gives in its “about us” page match with what other credible sources are saying about it?• Can you verify the credentials of the author (if one is listed) in another source? Does the author have verifiable expertise in the subject they are writing about?• Use the ICAAN Whois lookup to see if you can find out who owns the website (https://lookup.icann.org/). Is there an owner listed that you can find information about? Could the ownership indicate a potential bias?	<p>Books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look up the author to verify their credentials in another source. Does the author have verifiable expertise in the subject they are writing about?• Look up the publisher and find out more about their reputation. Do they generally publish scholarly or popular books? Is there any information about how easy or difficult it is to get published?• If the book is self-published, is there evidence of it having been professionally edited?• Find published (not customer written) book reviews if possible. What do critics say about the book? Do they point out any potential problems with it? Do they recommend it?
<p>Magazine / Newspaper articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look for information about the magazine or newspaper on Wikipedia and Google. What is the history of the publication, and what is its reputation?• Can you find out about the editorial process of the publication? Does it have editors, fact-checkers, other review processes in place?• Can you verify the credentials of the author(s) of the article? What are their areas of expertise?	<p>Academic Journal articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look for information about the Journal on Wikipedia and Google. What can you find out about its reputation?• Can you verify the credentials of the authors of the article in another source?• How easy or difficult is it to get published in this journal? Can you find the acceptance rate?• What is the journal’s peer review process? If there isn’t a peer review process in place, how are articles chosen for publication?• Who is the journal’s editor and who is on the editorial board? Can you verify their expertise in other sources?