Screening Guidelines for Evidence-Based Research and Practice

Below is a tool developed to help you critically appraise material you may be considering when developing an evidence-based project. The information is not exhaustive; should you have questions, please contact your training liaison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Level</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Relevance</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Highly Reliable | ▪ Material is from a professional peer-reviewed  
  ○ Journal  
  ○ Book  
  ○ Government document  
  ○ Research Group | ▪ Considered an expert in the field  
  ▪ Governmental organization  
  ▪ Highly respected in the community he/she represents | ▪ Published within the past 5 years  
  ▪ If from a website, published within the past 2 years. If the last update cannot be located, the site’s home page has been updated in the past year | ▪ Seminal work in the field  
  ▪ Information provides a clear study design, including methodology, results, and limitations  
  ▪ Information presented is supported by other credible sources and references are cited  
  ▪ Information is presented without bias  
  ▪ Information presented is ethically compliant with professional standards | ▪ Study population is reflective of the intended clients’:  
  ○ Age, Gender, Race/ethnicity, Culture/ Beliefs/ Norms, Socio-economic status, Environment, Clinical setting  
  ▪ Information is applicable to:  
    ○ the intended trainees, clients, communities  
    ○ the respective work setting  
  ▪ Information clearly identifies practice implications and areas for future research  
  ▪ Culturally competent and the results are transferrable |
| Reliable | ▪ Material is from a non-peer reviewed  
  ○ Website  
  ○ Book  
  ○ Research Group | ▪ Educational institution  
  ▪ Governmental organization  
  ▪ Professional Organization  
  ▪ Community Organization  
  ▪ Personally associated with the community they represent | ▪ Material is one that has shaped the area of interest to which other articles/ experts refer  
  ▪ If from a website, published within the past 2 years. If the last update cannot be located, the site’s home page has been updated in the past year | ▪ Seminal work in the field  
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<th>Reliable with Caution</th>
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<td>▪ Material is from a non-peer reviewed material</td>
<td>▪ Advocacy Group has had recent contact with the community he/she represents</td>
<td>▪ Published within last 5 years</td>
<td>▪ Information is presented in a clear and focused manner</td>
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<td>▪ Area of expertise matches the material’s content</td>
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How to Cite Literature - The academy requests that APA format be used in all curriculum and training materials.

**Power point presentation:** References should be identified at the bottom of the slide and again in a separate slide found at the end of the presentation.

**Handouts:** Include a separate page identified as “References”. Below are examples of how commonly used materials would be cited in APA format. For further assistance please see [http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm](http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm)

- **In text (or bottom of ppt slide):** One item: (Holosko, 2006) or Two referenced items: (Holosko, 2006; Schaffer & Borduin, 2005) or Three referenced items: (Holosko, Schaffer & Borduin, 2005)
- **Interview**
  Pence-Wilson, Donna. Personal interview. 29 March 2009.

Adapted From:
[cachildwelfareclearinghouse.org](http://cachildwelfareclearinghouse.org)