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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highly Reliable</td>
<td>▪ Material is from a professional peer-reviewed&lt;br&gt; o Journal&lt;br&gt; o Book&lt;br&gt; o Government document&lt;br&gt; o Research Group</td>
<td>▪ Considered an expert in the field&lt;br&gt; ▪ Governmental organization&lt;br&gt; ▪ Highly respected in the community he/she represents</td>
<td>▪ Published within the past 5 years&lt;br&gt; ▪ 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</td>
<td>▪ Seminal work in the field&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information provides a clear study design, including methodology, results, and limitations&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information presented is supported by other credible sources and references are cited&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information is presented without bias&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information presented is ethically compliant with professional standards</td>
<td>▪ Study population is reflective of the intended clients’:&lt;br&gt; o Age, Gender, Race/ethnicity, Culture/ Beliefs/ Norms, Socio-economic status, Environment, Clinical setting&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information is applicable to:&lt;br&gt; o the intended trainees, clients, communities&lt;br&gt; o the respective work setting&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information clearly identifies practice implications and areas for future research&lt;br&gt; ▪ Culturally competent and the results are transferrable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliable</td>
<td>▪ Material is from a non-peer reviewed&lt;br&gt; o Website&lt;br&gt; o Book&lt;br&gt; o Research Group</td>
<td>▪ Educational institution&lt;br&gt; ▪ Governmental organization&lt;br&gt; ▪ Professional Organization&lt;br&gt; ▪ Community Organization&lt;br&gt; ▪ Personally associated with the community they represent</td>
<td>▪ Material is one that has shaped the area of interest to which other articles/ experts refer&lt;br&gt; ▪ 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</td>
<td>▪ Seminal work in the field&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information provides a clear study design, including methodology, results, and limitations&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information presented is supported by other credible sources and references are cited&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information is presented without bias&lt;br&gt; ▪ Information presented is ethically compliant with professional standards</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Reliable with Caution | Material is from a non-peer reviewed source:  
  - Website  
  - Book  
  - Journal  
  - Professional newsletter  
  - Documentary | Advocacy Group  
  - Area of expertise matches the material’s content  
  - Has had recent contact with the community he/she represents  
  - Was recommended by a credible source | Published within last 5 years  
  - Date cannot be determined | Information is presented in a clear and focused manner  
  - The author’s intention is clear (beware of potential biases)  
  - Information presented is supported by other credible sources and references are cited  
  - Information presented is ethically compliant with professional standards | Study population is reflective of the intended clients’ demographics:  
  - 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 |

**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)
- **Periodical/ Journal Article:**
- **Interview**
  Pence-Wilson, Donna. Personal interview. 29 March 2009.

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

