

CREDIBILITY & VALIDITY

WITHIN SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

10 SIGNS OF A CREDIBLE DOCUMENT

1. Reliable Publisher - This may seem obvious however, it is important to ensure that your document has come from a well known source such as; a scholarly journal, academic publisher, or a publisher affiliated with a university.

2. Researchable Author - The author(s) of a credible document is typically researchable. Citation Databases can provide information about an author, such as how many times they have been cited and other works they have written. Usually, the more the better.

3. Relevant Research - Scientific research is constantly evolving therefore it is important that the research you're reading is up-to-date.

4. Proper Audience - Many documents are available under the guise of scientific research, so it is critical that you understand credible documents are written for other experts within the field.

5. Length of Study - It takes time to conduct research, particularly qualitative research. Make sure the research you are reading had sufficient time to reach it's conclusions.

6. Scope - Qualitative researchers often employ this methodology within their research in order to convey credibility. It's the use of multiple viewpoints in order to instill accuracy within the interpretation of results.

7. Disclosure - Another tactic used within qualitative research to impart credibility. Researchers disclose their ideologies to the participants, providing them with the researcher's expectations of the study. You can usually find disclosures with the writer's bio or at the beginning or end of the paper.

8. Triangulation - A quantitative approach to obtaining data. Researchers use multiple tests in order to reach the same conclusions. This helps to reinforce the hypothesis, lending credibility to the study.

9. Negative Evidence - This strategy, more often used in quantitative research, is when researchers look for non-confirming results. All results are good results, even if they do not support the hypothesis.

10. Peer Review - An audit of the research by other, non-affiliated, experts within the field. Any research not subjected to the peer review process should not be considered credible.