AUTHORITY IS CONSTRUCTED & CONTEXTUAL

Information resources reflect their creators' expertise and credibility

- evaluated based on the information need and the context in which the information will be used
- contextual in that the information need may help to determine the level of authority required
- constructed in that various communities may recognize different types of authority

IN PRACTICE

FIRST
Define different types of authority, such as subject expertise, societal position, or special experience

Then
Use research tools and indicators of authority to determine the credibility of sources, understanding the elements that might temper this credibility

FINALLY
Recognize that information may be perceived differently based on the format in which it is packaged