

# The CRAAP Test: Evaluating Information Sources

## **Currency: The timeliness of the information**

- When was the information published or posted?
- Is the information current enough for your topic, or is it out-of-date?
- When was the information last updated or revised?
- Are the links functional, or is the site not being kept up-to-date?
- Has the information since been refuted by other journals or publications?

## **Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs**

- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or too advanced for your needs?)
- Is it an in-depth examination or a quick summary?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?
- Who is the intended audience? (i.e. the general public, researchers or experts, industry)

## **Authority: The source of the information**

- Who is the author, and can you identify their credentials or affiliations? Are they an expert in this topic? Have you Googled their name?
- Who is the owner/sponsor of the website? What are their credentials and what do others say about them? (Google it!)
- Is there actual contact info provided, (email, mailing address, or phone?)
- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?

## **Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the information**

- Have the author's sources been clearly cited so that you can easily find (and check) them?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source?
- Does the language seem unbiased, objective, or free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typo errors?

## **Purpose: The reason the information exists**

- What is the purpose of the information? (to inform, to teach, to sell, to persuade, to entertain, etc)
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is advertising content clearly labeled?
- Are there political, ideological, religious, institutional, or personal biases?
- Does the source use inflammatory or dramatic language, images, or graphic styles?