

Evaluating Information Sources

The CRAAP TEST

C

Currency: The timeliness of the information

- When was the information published, posted or updated?
- Is the information current enough for your topic, or is it out-of-date?
- Are the links functional?
- When was the information last reviewed.

R

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs

- Is the information at an appropriate level? (i.e. not too elementary or advanced)
- How comprehensive or in-depth is the information about your topic?

A

Authority: The source of the information

- Have the author's credentials or organisation been identified?
- Who is the owner / sponsor of the website? What are their credentials?
- Is there contact information provided, such as an email or mailing address?
- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
examples: .com, .edu, .org, .net, .gov

A

Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness and accuracy of the information

- Have the author's sources been clearly cited so they can be found and checked?
- Is the information available in other resources (e.g. encyclopedias) so it can be double checked?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free from emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar or other typographical errors?

P

Purpose: The reason the information exists

- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, educate, entertain or persuade?
- Do the authors make their intentions clear?
- Is advertising content clearly labelled?
- Does the point of view appear objective, unbiased and impartial?