
Using the CRAAP Test to Evaluate Web Sites*

When you search the internet, you're going to find lots of information; but can you trust it? The following questions will help you determine if the information you find is worth using.

Currency: *The timeliness of the web page.*

- When was the information created?
- Was it revised/updated recently?
- Do the links work? Do you have to download special software to view it?

Relevance/Coverage: *The uniqueness of the content and its importance for your needs.*

- Is the information clearly stated?
- Is the information comprehensive?
- Can you find the same information in another source; like an encyclopedia?
- Who is the audience? Students? Researchers?

Authority: *The source of the web page.*

- Who is the author/creator/sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials and/or contact information listed?
- Are they affiliated with an organization?
- What does the domain name/URL reveal about the source of the information?
For example: .com (commercial) .edu (education) .gov (government) .org (domain can be purchased by anyone, especially non-profit organizations [watch out for bias]) .net (domain can be purchased by anyone)

Accuracy: *The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational content.*

- Where does the information come from? Are the original sources listed?
- Can you verify any of the information using other sources or from your own knowledge?
- Has the information been reviewed or verified by an expert?

Purpose/Objectivity: *The presence of bias or prejudice/The reason the web site exists.*

- Are they trying to convince you of their opinion?
- Can you tell the difference between advertising content and informational content?
- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform? teach? persuade?

*Adapted from California State University at Chico--Merriam Library