Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test Meriam Library 📖 California State University, Chico

When you search for information, you're going to find lots of it . . . but is it good information? You will have to determine that for yourself, and the **CRAAP Test** can help. The **CRAAP Test** is a list of questions to help you evaluate the information you find. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need.

Evaluation Criteria

*C*urrency: *The timeliness of the information.*
• When was the information published or posted?
• Has the information been revised or updated?
• Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well? ■Are the links functional?

*R*elevance: *The importance of the information for your needs.*
• Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
• Who is the intended audience?
• Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)? • Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
• Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

*A*uthority: *The source of the information.*
• Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
• What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
• Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
• Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
 ■Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: **.com .edu .gov .org .net**

*A*ccuracy: *The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.* • Where does the information come from?
• Is the information supported by evidence?
• Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
• Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge? • Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
• Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

*P*urpose: *The reason the information exists.*
• What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
• Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
• Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
• Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
• Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?

Key: ■indicates criteria is for Web