Evaluating Web Sites: the CRAAP Test

The CRAAP Test is a list of questions you should ask yourself in order to determine if the information on a web site is reliable.

Currency: The timeliness of the web page

☐ If relevant, when was the information gathered?
☐ When was it posted?
☐ When was it last revised?
☐ Are links functional and up-to-date?
☐ Is there evidence of newly added information or links?

Relevance: The uniqueness of the content and its importance for your needs

☐ Is the information presented in-depth or is it just a broad overview?
☐ Is the information unique?
☐ Is it available elsewhere, in print or electronic format?
☐ Could you find the same or better information in another source?
☐ Who is the intended audience? Is this easily determined?
☐ Does the site provide the information you need?
☐ Your overall assessment is important. Would you be comfortable using this source for a class paper?

Accuracy: the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content

☐ Where does the information come from?
☐ Are their citations or links to other work that supports their content?
☐ Can you verify any of the information in independent sources or from your own knowledge?
☐ Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
☐ Are there spelling, grammar, or other typos?
☐ Are there dead links?

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**Authority: The source of the web page**

- Who is the author/creator/sponsor?
- Are author’s credentials listed? If Yes, list them:
- Is the author affiliated with an organization? If Yes, what is it?
- Look at the URL (the web address http://....)
  - Is it a personal page? Does the URL include the ~ symbol or a % sign or /members?
  - What type of organization is it? .org, .gov/.mil, .edu., com, foreign (ca, jp, de, uk)
- Is there any contact information listed?
- Has the author published works in traditional formats? (Search in library databases, Google, etc.)
- Who links to it --- Google search with this format: link:www.abbie.com

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

- Are possible biases clearly stated?
- Does the language or tone seem biased?
- Is advertising content vs. informational content easily distinguishable?
- Are editorials clearly labeled?
- Is the purpose to: inform? teach? entertain? persuade? sell? promote an opinion?
- Are the images inflammatory, violent or shocking?
- Are there links to other viewpoints?
- What does the domain name/URL reveal about the source of the information, if anything? (.com .edu .gov .org )

*Modified version of CRAAP Test created by Meriam Library at California State University, Chico.*