

THE CRAAP TEST

EVALUATING SOURCES - PRINT & WEB

C

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- Is the information current enough for your topic, or is it out-of-date?
- Are the links functional?
- When has the information been last reviewed / revised?

R

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)?
- How comprehensive or in-depth is the discussion of the topic?
- Has Canadian perspective or content been provided?

A

Authority: The source of the information

- Have the author's credentials or organizational affiliations been identified?
- Who is the owner / sponsor of the Website? What are their credentials?
- Is there contact information provided, such as an email address 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, .ca, .gc.ca, .gov.ab.ca

A

Accuracy: The reliability and correctness of the informational content

- Have the author's sources been clearly cited so that you can easily find (and check) them?
- Is the information available in other resources (e.g. encyclopaedias, scholarly journals, etc.), so it can be double-checked?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

P

Purpose: The reason the information exists

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

Adapted from: The University of the Fraser Valley (2009). *Evaluating information: The CRAAP test*. Retrieved from <http://www.ufv.ca/library/tutorials/craaptest.htm>