



Do your sources pass the CRAAP test?

With the vast quantity of information available on the web, it can be difficult to make decisions about what is trustworthy content and what is not. The CRAAP test provides a checklist of things to consider when deciding if the online source you are using is of sufficient quality.

The acronym denotes five key categories for evaluating sources:

CURRENCY

RELEVANCE

AUTHORITY

ACCURACY

PURPOSE ?

Currency: what is the timeliness of the information?

- Was the information published recently?
- Can you find a date when the page(s) were written/created/updated?
- Is the information sufficiently up to date for the topic you are researching?

Reliability: is the information to be trusted?

- Does the website contain information that is based on fact or is it an opinion piece?
- If this is an opinion piece, is the information presented fairly or is there an apparent bias or agenda?
- If the information is fact-based, are references provided and are these accurate and reliable?
- If there are links provided to further information, do they work?

Authority: who has produced the information?

- Who has written the information?
- Do they provide a name and contact information?
- How qualified are they to speak on the topic? i.e. are they an academic or expert in the field? Are they associated with any academic institution or professional body?

Accuracy: is this information correct?

- Is the information accurate and supported by relevant sources?
- Has this source been peer-reviewed?
- Can you verify the information from another source that you trust?
- How well written is the piece in terms of grammar, spelling and punctuation?
- Is the author known and readily contactable?



Purpose: why has the information been provided?

- What is the intention for putting the information out there? i.e. is it for the purposes of teaching and learning, is it for the purposes of selling something? Is it an organisation with a specific agenda? (e.g. religious, political, activist group)
- What kind of domain name does the web page have (.edu, .org, .com, etc.)? this can give some indication of its purpose or agenda.
- Who has the information been written for? i.e. who is the intended audience?