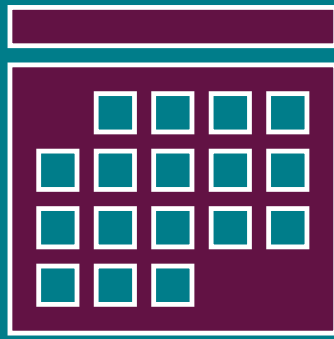# What is CRAAPO?
A Guide to Evaluating Web Sources

CURRENCY
How old is the information?

- When was the information posted or last updated?
- Are the links working? If not, that means no one is maintaining the website.
- What is the copyright or publication date?

RELEVANCY
Does it have the information you need?

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is it too simple or too advanced for your purpose?

AUTHORITY
Is the author of the information qualified and trustworthy?

- Who is the author, publisher, source, or sponsor?
  - Look for associations, agencies, affiliations, titles, credentials, etc.
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address, for further investigation?
- Read the About Us, Our Mission, and FAQ sections of a site
- Google the author or website for more information about the author or organization

Look at the domain for clues:

.com commercial business, online retailer, for-profit company

.edu educational institutions, universities, schools

.gov government body (fed, state, or local)

.org organization that is not gov't affiliated, not-for profits

.net networking tech originally, now a "catch-all"

ACCURACY
Is the information accurate, unbiased, and reliable?

- Is it supported by evidence you can check and verify yourself?
- Is it objective and free of emotion?
- Are there errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation?

PURPOSE
Why was the information created and shared?

- Do the authors or sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the purpose to inform? To teach? To persuade? To sell? To entertain?

OBJECTIVITY
Is the information free from bias and prejudice?

- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Is the information fact? Opinion? Propaganda?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?