WHAT IS CRAAP?

A GUIDE TO EVALUATING WEB SOURCES

CURRENCY

HOW OLD OR NEW 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/sponsor?
  - Associations, agencies, affiliations, titles, credentials

★ Is the author qualified to write on this particular topic?

★ 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 for more information about the author or organization.

Look at the domain for clues:

.com	commercial business, online retailer, for-profit
.edu	educational institutions, universities, schools
.gov	government body (Fed, state, local)
.org	organization not gov't affiliated, not-for-profit
.net	networking tech originally, now a "catch-all"

ACCURACY

IS THE INFORMATION ACCURATE AND UNBIASED?

★ 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/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
  - Is the purpose to Inform? Persuade? Sell? Entertain

★ Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?

★ Does the point of view appear objective & impartial?

★ What can the mission statement tell you?