

Evaluation of Web pages and sites: Questions for the CRAAP test

CURRENCY/ TIMELINESS: When the information was published and the importance the date as it relates to the topic.

- Is currency important for your topic? Is it a science, technology, or health-related topic?
- When was the Web page originally published, last updated or revised?
- Are all of the links on the page functional? Can you determine if there is new information on the page?

RELEVANCE/ COVERAGE OF THE TOPIC: The degree to which the information fulfills your information need.

- How relevant to your topic is the information? How on-topic is it?
- Can you find the same or better information in another source?
- Is it the type of information needed? (i.e. background, detailed history, statistics, primary source)
- Is there enough information or do you need to find additional information on your topic?

AUTHORITY: Who is providing this information and are they a reliable source.

- Who is responsibility for the information on the page (the author, creator, sponsor?)
- Are there any author credentials given? Can you determine the author's age, level of expertise, etc. Are they experts on the subject? "Google" the author or site sponsor's name to find out more.
- If there is a group or organization (called a corporate author) creating the page, establish the group's authority. "Google" the name. Are they a well-known, reputable organization for this subject? Learn about the organization on their home page. Look for "About Us" on the home page.

ACCURACY: The truthfulness and correctness of the information.

- Where did the information on the page come from? Did the sponsor/author of the page create the information? If not, the original source should be cited on the page.
- Are there cited sources or links to the original source of the information?
- Can you verify any of the information in other independent sources or from your own knowledge?

PURPOSE: The reason the Web page/site exists, and the point of view of the author/sponsor.

- Is the page promoting something that might cause biases? (such as opinions, products, ideas)
- Is the information based on facts or is it opinion? If opinion, is it based upon logical thinking? Is the author using good evidence for their opinion?
- What is the purpose of the Web site sponsoring this page? Is the domain for the site a .org (an organization), .edu (an educational site), .gov (a federal government site), .mil (a military site), .com (a commercial site), .net (a web-sponsoring site), .TV (a television site)... to name the most well-known domains. Other domains describe state government sites (North Carolina government sites: state.nc.us) and sites from other countries that use the country abbreviation as the domain.