Evaluating Information: Apply the CRAAP test!

The CRAAP Test is an evaluation method designed by librarian Sarah Blakeslee at the Meriam Library California State University, Chico. CRAAP stands for Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose.

Currency - The timeliness of the information.
- When was the information published or posted? Has it been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
- Are the links functional?

Relevance - The importance of the information for your needs.
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?

Authority - The source of the information.
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?

Accuracy - The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content.
- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

Purpose - The reason the information exists.
- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?

Remember, you can always ask a librarian to help you!

ask@tadl.org
(Reference Desk)

Find phone numbers and hours for all TADL libraries at tadl.org or call 231.932.8500.

Take a look at the URL!
Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
.com = Commercial sites
.edu = Educational institutions
.gov = Government
.org = Non-profit organizations
.mil = Military
.net = Network

More on investigating urls
https://t.ly/0gehS