

# Evaluating Information: Apply the CRAAP test!

<b>C</b>	<b>Currency - the timeliness of the information.</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>Relevance - how the information fits your needs.</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Authority - the source of the information.</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Accuracy - is the information correct and reliable?</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Purpose - the reason the information exists.</b>

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](mailto:ask@tadl.org)  
(Reference Desk)

Find phone numbers and  
hours for all TADL  
libraries at [tadl.org](http://tadl.org) or  
call [231.932.8500](tel: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/OgehS>