Evaluating Information: Applying the CRAAP Test

Currency: The timeliness of the information	• When was the information published or posted? • Has the information 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? • Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e., not too elementary or advanced for your needs)? • Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use? • Would you be comfortable citing this source?
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? • Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? Examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

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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 referenced? • 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?

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