

Is Your **Web Site** Credible?

TIPS:

- When you search for information on the Web, you're going to find lots of it... but is it credible? Judge this for yourself using the **CRAAP** test. **CRAAP** is an acronym that reminds you to ask questions about the information's **Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy** and **Purpose**. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need. So ask yourself, is your Web site credible? or is it a bunch of...?!
- Check out [*Is Your Journal Scholarly?*](#) and [*Is Your Book Scholarly?*](#)

| The CRAAP test for web sites | |
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| <p>Currency <i>The timeliness of the information</i></p> | <p>When was the information published or posted?</p> <p>Has the information been revised or updated?</p> <p>Is the information current or out of date for your topic?</p> <p>Are the links up-to-date?</p> |
| <p>Relevance <i>The importance of the information for your needs</i></p> | <p>Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?</p> <p>Who is the intended audience?</p> <p>Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e., not too simple or too advanced)?</p> <p>Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?</p> |
| <p>Authority <i>The source of the information</i></p> | <p>Who is the author / publisher / source / sponsor?</p> <p>Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?</p> <p>What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?</p> <p>Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?</p> <p>What does the URL reveal about the author or source? Consider .com .edu .gov .org .net</p> |

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| <p>Accuracy <i>The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content</i></p> | <p>Where does the information come from?</p> <p>Is the information supported by evidence?</p> <p>Has the information been reviewed or refereed by others with the appropriate expertise?</p> <p>Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?</p> <p>Does the language or tone seem biased or emotional?</p> <p>Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?</p> |
| <p>Purpose <i>The reason the information exists</i></p> | <p>What is the purpose for presenting this information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?</p> <p>Do the authors / sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?</p> <p>Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?</p> <p>Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?</p> <p>Are there any obvious political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?</p> |

Adapted with permission from the CRAAP Test developed at the Meriam Library, California State University, Chico, and posted at <http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/evalsites.html>.

Created by: Tiff Adkins, adkinst@ipfw.edu

Maintained by: Information Services and Instruction

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