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?
- Is the information current enough for your research topic, or is it too outdated?
- Are the links functional?

**Relevance:** *The importance of the information for your needs.*
- Does the information relate to your topic and help answer your research question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (neither too basic nor too advanced) for your needs?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before deciding to use this one?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your college research paper?

**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 this topic?
- Is there contact information (like a publisher or email address) provided?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

**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 and 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 teach, inform, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Was the research paid for by an organization that stands to benefit from the claim?
- 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?

*Note: The symbol ▪ is used for questions that address website evaluation.*