Use the CRAAP Test to Evaluate Sources

Whether you search the web, the library site, or the library databases, you’re going to find a lot of information . . . but how do you know if it’s accurate for your needs or even a reliable source? You will have to determine this for yourself, and the CRAAP Test can help! The CRAAP Test is a list of questions you can ask yourself in order to determine if your source is reliable and appropriate for research. Please keep in mind that the following list of questions is not static nor exhaustive. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need. If you have doubts, ask your librarian for help!

**Currency: The timeliness of the content.**
When was the information gathered? If searching online, when was it posted?
When the document was last revised? Are all links functional and up-to-date?

**Relevance/Coverage: The uniqueness of the content and its importance for your needs.**
What is the depth and breadth of the information presented? Does it cover all vital context?
Is the information unique? Is it available elsewhere, or referencing another source?
Could you find the same or better information in another source? For example, a reference encyclopedia?
Who is the intended audience? Is this easily determined?
If searching online, does the site provide the information you need?

**Authority: The source of the content.**
Who is the author/creator/sponsor?
Are the author’s credentials listed?
Is the author a teacher or student of the topic?
Does the author have a reputation? Google them!
Is there contact information, such as an e-mail address?
Has the author published works in traditional formats, or only online?
Is the author affiliated with an organization?
Does this organization appear to support or sponsor the page? Is there a conflict of interest?
What does the domain name/URL reveal about the source of the information, if anything?

**Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational content.**
Where does the information come from?
Are the original sources of information listed? Did the author provide a references list or bibliography?
Can you verify any of the information in independent sources?
Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
Does the language or tone seem biased?
Are there spelling, grammar, or other typo-graphical errors?

**Purpose/Objectivity: The presence of bias or prejudice/The reason the web site exists.**
Are possible biases clearly stated?
Is advertising content vs. informational content easily distinguishable?
Are editorials clearly labeled?
What does the domain name/URL reveal, if anything? .com .edu .gov .org .net