Evaluating Information

Use the following CRAAP test questions to help you evaluate information.

**Currency** – How current does the information need to be for your topic? When was it published or posted? When was it last updated? Do the links work?

**Relevance** – Does the information relate to your topic? What question does it help answer? Who is the intended audience? Is the information written at an appropriate level?

**Authority** – Who is the author, publisher, or 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? .com is for commercial purposes (includes advertisements), .edu is education, .gov is government, .org is organization, and .net is network.

**Accuracy** – Where did the information come from? What kinds of evidence or examples are used to support the claims? Is the information peer-reviewed or refereed? Can you verify the information from another source? Are there spelling or grammar errors?

**Purpose** – What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, entertain, persuade, or sell? Is it fact, opinion, or propaganda? What kind of bias does it have?

Evaluate everything you read—whether in print, on the web, or in the databases—before you use it as evidence in your paper.