

C.R.A.P. Test

Evaluating Research Sources

Currency

Is the information recent enough for your topic?

- Has it been published in the last x years? (x will vary, depending on your topic)
- If you have a historical research topic, was it published around the date of the original event?

Reliability/Relevance

Where does the information come from, and does the information apply to your topic?

- Is it a primary or secondary source?
- Are methods or references provided?
- Who published the information?
- Was it peer-reviewed?
- Does all of the information apply to your topic, or only part of it?
- Is the information general or detailed?
- Is the information balanced or biased?

Authority

Who authored this information?

- Was it a single person or several people?
- Was it a corporation or organization?
- Are their credentials provided?
- What is their reputation or expertise?

Purpose/Point-of-View

What was the intent of the author, and how is the author connected to the information?

- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information intended to inform, persuade, sell, entertain, ...?
- Is this a first-hand account of an event or research?
- Does the author have a vested interest in the topic?

Additional Questions for Online Sources:

- What is the domain (*i.e.* .com, .org, .gov, .edu)?
- Who is the site publisher or sponsor, and is this information easy to find?
- Has it been updated recently?
- Are there any advertisements or other distractions?
- Could the site be ironic, like a satire or a spoof?