When you search for information you’re going to find lots of it . . . but is it accurate and reliable? You will have to determine that for yourself, and the CRAAP Test can help. The CRAAP Test is a list of questions to help you evaluation the information you find. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need.

Evaluation Criteria

**Currency: The timeliness of the information.**
- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?
(Online) Are the links functional?

**Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.**
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e., not too elementary or advanced for your need)?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

**Authority: The source of the information.**
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
(Online) Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

**Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational 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 or tone seem biased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

**Purpose: The reason the information exists.**
- What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

adapted from Meriam Library at CSU, Chico