When you search for information, you're going to find lots of it . . . but is it accurate and reliable? You will have to determine this for yourself, and the **CRAAP Test** can help. The **CRAAP Test** is a list of questions to determine if the information you have is reliable. Please keep in mind that the following list is not static or complete. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need. So, what are you waiting for? Is your website credible and useful, or is it a bunch of . . .?!

**Key:** *indicates criteria for Web only

## Evaluation Criteria

### Currency: The timeliness of the information.
- When was the information published or posted? Why does this matter for your question?
- Has the information been revised or updated? Can you provide the date?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic? How can you tell?
- Are the links functional? *

### Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? How?
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper? Why? How much?
- Who is the intended audience? Children? Adults? Professionals?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)? How can you tell?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?

### Authority: The source of the information.
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? Write down at least one author’s name.
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations? Why does that matter?
- What are the author’s qualifications to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address? What are their contact details?
- What does the URL or domain reveal about the author or source? *Examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net *
Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational content.
- Where does the information come from? Qualitative or quantitative research? Interviews? Personal knowledge?
- Is the information supported by evidence? Give some examples.
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed? How do you know?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from your own personal knowledge? How?
- Is there a list of references? What does that tell you?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion? Provide some examples.
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors? What does that tell you?

Purpose: The reason the information exists.
- What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade? How can you tell? What clues did you find?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purposes clear? How?
- Is the information fact? Opinion? Propaganda? How can you tell?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? How can you tell?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases? Does it make a difference? Why?