# Evaluating Information - Applying the CRAAP Test

*Meriam Library — California State University, Chico*

When you search for information, you're going to find lots of it . . . but is it good information? 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 evaluate 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?
* Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
* **WEB ONLY:** 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 needs)?
* 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?
* 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? examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

**Accuracy: *The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the 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 unbiased and free of emotion? Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

**Purpose: *The reason the information exists.***

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