

Use the CRAAP test to evaluate websites before using them in research:

C

CURRENCY

- When was it published?
- When was it last updated?
- Are older sources appropriate to your topic?
- Are the links functioning?

R

RELEVANCE

- Does it relate to your topic?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is it written at your reading level?
- Have you considered other sources before deciding on this one?

A

AUTHORITY

- Who is the author? The publisher?
- Did anyone sponsor this publication? Who?
- What makes the author qualified in this topic?
- What does the URL tell you? (.gov, .edu, .org)

A

ACCURACY

- Where is the information coming from?
- Is it supported by evidence?
- Has it been reviewed by others in the field?
- Can you verify the information elsewhere?
- Is it unbiased and free of emotion?
- Is it free of spelling or grammar errors?

P

PURPOSE

- Is it intended to teach, sell, entertain, inform, persuade?
- Are the author's intentions clear?
- Is the point of view objective and impartial?
- Are there underlying biases (political, cultural, ideological, religious, institutional, etc.)?