

EVALUATING INFORMATION SOURCES : THE CRAAP TEST

Currency: The timeliness of the information

- ♦ When was the information published or posted?
- ♦ Is the information current enough for you topic, or is it out-of-date?
- ♦ Are the links functional?
- ♦ When was the information last reviewed / revised?

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs

- ♦ Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or too advanced for your needs)?
- ♦ How comprehensive or in-depth is the discussion of the topic?
- ♦ Has an Australian perspective or content been provided?

Authority: The source of the information

- ♦ Have the author's credentials or organisational affiliations been identified?
- ♦ Who is the owner / sponsor of the Website? What are their credentials?
- ♦ Is there contact information provided, such as an email address or mailing address?
- ♦ What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
- ♦ Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? For example: .com, .edu, .org, .net, .au, .asn.au, .gov.au

Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the information content

- ♦ Have the author's sources been clearly cited so that you can easily find (and check) them?
- ♦ Is the information available in other resources (e.g. encyclopedias, scholarly journals, etc.), so it can be double-checked?
- ♦ Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free from emotion?
- ♦ Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

Purpose: The reason the information exists

- ♦ What is the purpose of the information? to inform? sell? entertain? persuade?
- ♦ Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- ♦ Is advertising content clearly labelled?
- ♦ Does the point of view appear objective, unbiased and impartial?