EVALUATING INFORMATION SOURCES
Use the following criteria to distinguish the quality information from the CRAAP

Currency = timeliness

- When was the information published or posted?
- Have the links in a Web site or the citations in a bibliography been revised or updated?
- Does the topic require current information or will older sources work?
- Are the links on a website functional?

Relevancy = importance for your needs

- Is the information provided on target for your specific information needs?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the content appropriate for a college-level paper (not too elementary or advanced)?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

Authority = source

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? Is contact information provided?
- What are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified in the subject covered?
- What are the goals/values of the sponsoring institution? Is it legitimate, reputable?
- Does the website URL reveal anything about the source (.com, .edu, .gov, .org, .net)? Is it an official or personal site? (a ~ in the URL often indicates a personal website)

Accuracy = reliability, truthfulness, correctness

- Where does the information come from? Is it reprinted/excerpted from another source?
- Could the information be verified in other sources or supported by evidence?
- Is there a bibliography that indicates the author’s sources of information?
- Is the author’s methodology presented?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?

Purpose = reason for existence

- What is the purpose of the information (to inform, teach, sell, entertain, persuade, express a point of view)?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions clear?
- Does the information seem based in fact or opinion?
- Is the point of view objective and impartial or is the language exaggerated and inflammatory?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

Content based on Applying the CRAAP Test by Meriam Library, California State, Chico