



Using the C.R.A.P. test to evaluate sources

In your online enquiries or research, you will most likely use a variety of resources. You will need to evaluate all of them to determine whether or not they are reliable and relevant. You can use the C.R.A.P. test to help you decide.

C.R.A.P. Test

Currency: Is the information recent enough for your topic? Was it published in the last ____ years or around the time of an original event?

Relevancy: Does the information apply to your topic?

- Is it a primary or secondary source?
- How much of the information applies to your topic?
- Is the information general or detailed, balanced or biased?

Authority: Who authored this information? Are they a trustworthy source of information?

- Was it a single person or several people?
- Was it a corporation or organisation?
- Are their credentials provided?
- Are methods/references provided?
- Was it peer-reviewed?

Purpose: Why was this written?

- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information intended to inform, persuade, sell, entertain?
- Is this a first-hand account of an event or research?
- Does the author have a vested interest in the topic?

The above are questions to consider - you do not need to answer every question about every source. Just remember to think about it before believing or using it.

Source: Mercer University Library: libraries.mercer.edu/research-tools-help/citation-tools-help/evaluating-sources