

Evaluating Internet Resources

Dr. Xiaorong Shao
Associate Professor/Information Literacy Librarian
Appalachian State University

Why?

- ✓ The World Wide Web offers information and data from all over the world. Because so much information is available and because that information can appear to be fairly “anonymous”, it is necessary to develop skills to evaluate what you find.
 - When you use a research or academic library, the books, journals and other resources have already been evaluated by scholars, publishers and librarians. Every resource you find has been evaluated in one way or another before you ever see it.
 - A lot of great information can be found online, but it's trickier to know what is good and creditable information and what is not, since anyone can write a web page or post any information on the Internet.

Objective

- ✓ In this session, I will try to discuss the **criteria for evaluating information found on the Internet** to help you find more creditable and legitimate information on the Internet.
- ✓ To make it easier for you to remember the criteria, an acronym is used here: **C. R. A. A. P**

What?

C. R.A.A.P. test:

- ▶ Currency
 - ▶ Relevance
 - ▶ Authority
 - ▶ Accuracy
 - ▶ Purpose
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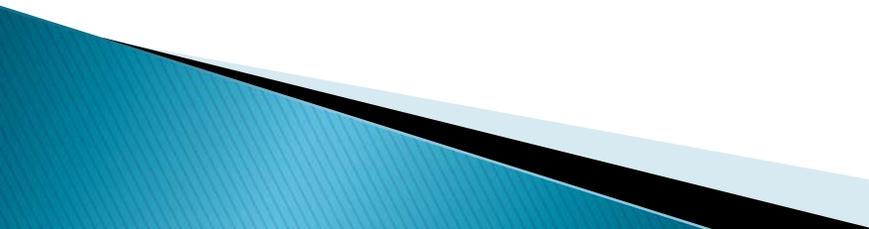
Currency

- ▶ Is the page dated?
- ▶ Can you find when was the last update?
- ▶ Are the links current and do they point to existing pages?

Relevance

- ▶ Does the source contain the information you need?
 - ▶ Does it include the terminology/key words/subject terms relate to the focus of your research?
 - ▶ Who is the intended audience based on the writing style ?
 - General public
 - College students
 - Professionals in a specific trade or research field
 - other
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Authority

- ▶ Who published the document and is it separated from the Webmaster?
 - ▶ Are the author(s) credentials or affiliations listed?
 - ▶ Check the document URL (domain): What institution or organization published this document? Where?
 - ▶ Is the information presented in the document cited correctly in a bibliography or reference list?
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Accuracy

- ▶ Who wrote the page and can you contact him or her?
 - ▶ Is the information reliable and error-free?
 - ▶ Is there an editor or someone who verifies the information?
 - ▶ Is the page free of spelling mistakes or other obvious problems?
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Purpose

- ▶ What is the purpose of the information source and why was it produced?
 - To inform?
 - To educate?
 - To entertain?
 - To sell?
 - To share personal opinions for propaganda?
 - ▶ What is the tone of writing: formal or informal?
 - ▶ Is the page free of advertisements or sponsored links?
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Video links for CRAAP Test

You may want to watch three video clips in the following website to learn more about the C.R.A.A.P. test:

- [Evaluating Sources](#)
- [Evaluating Websites](#)
- [C.R.A.A.P. Test in Action](#)

<http://ehslibraryguide.weebly.com/craap-test.html>

Apply **C.R.A.A.P.** test to the following websites and see if you want to use the information found on those websites for your final paper:

- ▶ EPA <http://www3.epa.gov/>
- ▶ Ministry of Environment Protection:
<http://www.zhb.gov.cn/>
- ▶ Southern California Chinese American Environmental Protection Association (SCCAEPA):
<http://sccaepa.org/>
- ▶ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):
<http://www.unep.org/>
- ▶ Grist: <http://grist.org/>
- ▶ RealClimate: <http://www.realclimate.org/>
- ▶ Gallup: <http://www.gallup.com/home.aspx>