Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test
(adapted from the Meriam Library at California State University, Chico)

When you search for information, you’re going to find lots of it...but is it all good information? You will have to determine that for yourself, and the CRAAP Test can help. Different criteria in the CRAAP test will vary in importance depending on your situation or need.

**Currency: The timeliness of the information.**
- When was the information published or posted?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well? What impact does that date have on your research?
- Format impacts timeliness – books and journal articles take longer than a website or newspaper
  - Newest edition of book? Was the website updated? → copyright doesn’t infer this

**Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.**
- Does the info relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Is it appropriate for your assignment? Is it the right format, year, etc.
  - Who is the intended audience? Can you understand it? Too basic or advanced?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this in your assignment? → Can you justify this to your prof?

**Authority: The source of the information.**
- Who is the author/publisher?
- What are their credentials or organizational affiliations? → How do you find this out?
- Is the author qualified to write on this topic? Are they an expert (degree/experience)?
- URL & Impact of social media → # of likes or shares is not a valid indicator or authority of accuracy

**Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content.**
- Citations? → Are they any good? Timeliness, relevance, etc.;
- Has the info been reviewed, refereed, and peer-reviewed?
- Can you verify the information in another source?

**Purpose: The reason the information exists.**
- What is the purpose of the information? Inform, teach, sell, entertain, persuade?
- Is the info fact or opinion?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?
  - You also need to identify your own bias