Evaluating Information:
Applying the CRAAP TEST

Before you use information you find during research, you need to determine if it accurate and reliable. The CRAAP Test is a list of questions to help you determine if the information you have is worthy of use in your projects. Please keep in mind that the following list of questions is not static or complete, and different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need. Questions with * indicate criteria for the Web.

Currency: The timeliness of the information.
- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?
- *Are the links functional?

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

Authority: The source of the information.
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?
- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
- *Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? (examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net)

Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational content.
- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem biased or is it free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

Purpose: The reason the information exists.
- What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?