Using the CRAAP* Test to Evaluate Information

There is a lot of information available to you today. How do you tell what is good and what is not? The CRAAP test can help. Below is a list of questions to ask about an information source to see how reliable it is. Not all of the questions will apply to any particular source, but you can get an overall idea of reliability by applying the CRAAP test.

C*urrency: How timely is the information?*
> When was the information published?
> Has it been revised or updated since then?
> Is it current enough for your uses, or is it out of date?
> Are there functional links to other information on this topic?

R*elevance: Does the information fit your needs?*
> Does the information address your question?
> What audience is the information intended to reach?
> Is the information at an appropriate level for your needs?

A*uthority: What is the source of the information?*
> Who wrote or published the information?
> What are the author's credentials or affiliations?
> Is the author qualified to write on this subject?
> Is the author or publisher's contact information given?
> Does the URL reveal anything about the source of the information?
>> (.edu=educational; .gov=governmental; .com=commercial, etc.)

A*ccuracy: Is the information correct?*
> Where did the author get his/her information?
> Is the information supported by evidence?
> Has the information been reviewed by an expert?
> Can the information be verified in an independent source?
> Are there spelling, grammatical, or other errors?

P*urpose: Why does this information exist?*
> What is the reason the information was published?
> (to inform, teach, persuade, entertain, sell, etc.)
> Are the author's intentions clear?
> Is the information fact or opinion?
> Are there biases?
>> (political, cultural, religious, personal, etc.)

*CRAAP Test developed by the Meriam Library, California State University at Chico