When you search for information, you're going to find lots of it . . . but is it good information? You will have to determine that for yourself, and the **CRAAP Test** can help. The **CRAAP Test** is a list of questions to help you evaluate the information you find. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need.

**Key:** ■ indicates criteria is for Web

### Evaluation Criteria

**Currency:** *The timeliness of the information.*  
- When was the information published or posted?  
- Has the information been revised or updated?  
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?  
- ■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)?  
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?  
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

**Authority:** *The source of the information.*  
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?  
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?  
- Is the author qualified 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?  

**Accuracy:** *The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the 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 unbiased and free of emotion?  
- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

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