Is this Website Credible?

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Really?

*Critical thinking about information: Ask the Helmke Library*

Finding information is not the challenge; finding **credible, authoritative** information is the challenge.

**Is this website credible?**

Judge for yourself using the **CRAAP criteria**; analyze the site’s: **Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy** and **Purpose**

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**The CRAAP Criteria**

**Currency**
- The timeliness of the information: when was the information published or posted?
- Has it been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?
- Are the links up-to-date?

**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 simple or too advanced)?
- Have you checked a variety of sources?

**Authority**
- The source of the information: who is the author / publisher / source / sponsor?
- Are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations stated?
- What are the author’s qualifications related to the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?
- What does the URL reveal about the author or source? Consider .com, .edu, .gov .org, .net

**Accuracy**
- The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content: where does the information come from? Is it supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed by others with the appropriate expertise?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem biased or emotional?
- Are there spelling, grammar or other typographical errors?

**Purpose**
- The reason the information exists: what is the purpose for presenting this 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 any obvious political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

Adapted with permission from the CRAAP Test developed at the Meriam Library, California State University, Chico, and posted at [http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/evalsites.html](http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/evalsites.html)