

Evaluate Information Checklist

Library databases and books are an excellent source for reputable, credible information. If you are unsure how to access or use them, ask your librarian. Whether you use books, the internet, or scholarly journals in our databases, completing this checklist will help to ensure your information needs are met. This is often called the C.R.A.A.P. test and answering each question about your source will help you make sure that you have credible information for your assignment.

1. CURRENCY- Some topics can be more time-sensitive than others.

- a. How old or new is your source?

- b. What year was it published?

- c. Is the source current enough for your topic or assignment?

2. RELEVANCE- depending on your research needs, some information sources may be more relevant to you.

- a. How well does the source fit your information need?

- b. Does the source provide that is useful in answering your research question?

- c. Does the information support the point of view you need for your research question/ your own point of view?

3. AUTHORITY- authors of scholarly work should have knowledge about the topic or a sense or expertise to analyze and study the topic.

- a. Who wrote or created your source?

- b. Are they affiliated with a university or organization?

- c. What is the name of the university or organization?

- d. What are the author's credentials? (MD, PhD, RN, etc...)

4. ACCURACY- stated expertise and works cited, as well as where the source was posted help determine how reliable the source is.

- a. How reliable or truthful is the content of the source?

- b. What sources are listed?

- c. Do you notice any grammatical errors?

5. PURPOSE- many scholarly sources have been created for a reason, whether it is to persuade, to inform, or even to sell something.

- a. Why does the source and its information exist?

- b. What is the source's purpose? To inform? To persuade? To answer a research question? To provide an overview? To sell something?

- c. Who is the source written for? General public? Professionals? Researchers? Students? Professors?

How Scholarly is your source?