C.R.A.A.P. Test

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 additional criteria for web sources.

Currency
How recent is the information?
- Is it current enough for your topic?
- Has it been published in the last $x$ years? ($x$ will vary, depending on your topic.)
- If you have a historical research topic, was it published around the date of the original event?
- ** Do the links work?
- ** Has it been updated recently?

Relevance
Does the information address your needs?
- Are references or sources for data or quotations included?
- Where does the information come from and does it apply to your topic?
- Is it a primary or secondary source?

Authority
What is the source of the information?
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are their credentials and are they provided?
- What is their reputation or expertise? Are they qualified to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
- ** What is the domain ending (e.g., .com, .org, .gov, .edu)?
- ** Are there any advertisements or other distractions?

Accuracy
Is the information reliable, truthful, and correct?
- Is it accurate? Is it supported by evidence?
- Is the information balanced or biased?
- Was it peer-reviewed?
- Can you verify the information from another reliable source?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?

Purpose / Point-of-View
Why does the information exist?
- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- Is it fact or opinion?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is this a first-hand account of an event or research?
- If controversial, are all sides of the issue fairly represented?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?
- ** Could the site be ironic, like a satire or a spoof?