Hi I’m Kimberly Wirth, a librarian at the Porter Henderson Library. Today we’re going to talk about using the CRAAP Test to evaluate information for its reliability.
What is the C.R.A.A.P. Test?

CRAAP is an acronym for currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose. These make up a set of criteria to evaluate information which helps us make informed decisions on which sources to use in our assignments, on the job, and in our personal search for knowledge.

**Currency**

Currency: ask yourself if the source is as up-to-date as you need it to be. For example, if you were doing research on cancer treatments you’d probably want the most up-to-date research. For this, you would want to check the publication or copyright date.
In books, you can tell from the copyright page.

U-Search is another handy place to find dates of publication for books, articles, videos, and so on.
Websites

- Date is usually either at the top or bottom of the webpage
- If no date is provided...question its currency!

On websites look at the top or bottom of the webpage. If no date is given, you should really question the site’s currency and its suitability for your research.

Relevance

What is the C.R.A.A.P. TEST?

Relevance – does it answer your questions
- Does the information relate to your topic?
- Does it answer your research question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information too technical or too simple?

Question the importance of the information and how it impacts your research topic

Relevance: look at the content of the item and determine whether it discusses any part of your research question. If it does, then evaluate the intended audience to make sure it matches your information need. For example, a children’s book about a historical event will not be a good resource for a college paper about the same event.
Authority: in questioning the reliability of information, ask yourself why should you trust what the author wrote? One way to do this is to find some biographical information and determine whether the author has the credentials to speak substantially on the topic. Here are some common places you can locate author credentials:

In scholarly articles, credentials can be at the top of the article...
Newspapers, magazines, and websites may not give information about an author. When this happens, you should think carefully about whether you want to put any stock into what they're saying.
Accuracy: take a look at the content and think about where the information came from. See if claims made by the author are supported by evidence, is the article peer-reviewed, and can you verify the information.

Information about the accuracy of an item can be found in its text. Citations show us where the information came from; other information or evidence can be found in the text or presented in a visual graphic, and Reference lists show us where to find the information.
Purpose

What is the C.R.A.A.P. TEST?

**Purpose** – why was it written/created
- Does it inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- Do the authors make their purpose clear?
- Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Or, is there evidence of bias?

**Question the reason the information exists**

Purpose: it is important to understand why the source you are looking at was created. Does the author make the purpose clear? Look at the content, is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda? Is it impartial or is there evidence of bias?

Recap

**To recap:**
- The C.R.A.A.P. Test helps us evaluate information for its reliability
- **Currency** and **Relevance** helps us determine if the source is a **good match for our research question**
- **Authority** helps us determine if the **author is qualified to write on the topic**
- **Accuracy and Purpose** helps us determine if the source is **reliable and suitable for our assignment**

Remember

**Currency and Relevance** helps us match the source to our research need

**Authority** helps us select sources written by qualified experts in the field
Accuracy and Purpose help us assess the reliability and suitability of the source. That is how the CRAAP Test helps us evaluate information.

Questions

This concludes the video on evaluating information with the CRAAP Test.