



Evaluating Internet Sources:

The characteristics of a quality website include:

- Information about the author, including contact details and professional credentials.
- A trusted domain name such as .gov or .uk.
- An indication that the information is current, so evidence of the date of creation or last revision.
- No spelling or grammatical errors.
- Professional appearance without advertisements.
- A balanced approach without an obviously biased agenda.
- Easy navigation, fast page loading and no broken links.
- Citations or references to other work that may be referred to in the website.

When using information from websites, the key questions to ask include:

- Who has written the website and what are their professional credentials?
- Does the website include contact details?
- When the website was written or last revised?
- Does it have a reliable or known domain name, such as .gov or .uk?
- Is the site well written, free from spelling and grammatical errors?
- Does the content seem biased compared to other material that you've read?
- Is this website international or UK based, e.g. <http://www.health.gov.au>?
- Is the information factual, supported by evidence?
- Is the information at an appropriate academic level?

The information above is often presented in more detail as the CRAAP test by American universities.

Currency

Relevance

Authority

Accuracy

Purpose

Have a look at the example below from The University of Rhode Island, or Google 'CRAAP' test!

- <http://uri.libguides.com/start/craap>

Access LEAP Online at: www.bolton.ac.uk/leaponline