

Information Reliability Test

Reliability Criterion	Questions to Ask
<i>Current:</i> Is the information up-to-date?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was the information published or posted? • Has the information been revised or updated? • Are the links functional? • Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
<i>Relevant:</i> Does the information answer your focus research question?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? • Who is the intended audience? • Is it a primary or secondary source? • Is the information at the appropriate level (i.e., not too elementary or advanced for your needs)? • Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use? • Would you be comfortable citing this source?
<i>Credible:</i> Is the source of the information reputable and reliable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the author, publisher, source, or sponsor? • Is the author identified by name? • What are the author's credentials and organizational affiliations? • Can you uncover any information about the author if you do a search? • Can you find this author cited by other sources? • Is the author qualified to write on this topic? • Can the author be contacted via email or phone if you have questions? • Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
<i>Accurate:</i> Is the content reliable, honest, and correct?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does the information come from? • Is the information supported by evidence (and does it cite original sources)? • Has the information been reviewed or refereed? • Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge? • Are there facts or ideas you know to be false or in conflict with other information you found in your research? • Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion? • Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors? • Is the site free of advertising?
<i>Perspective:</i> What is the point of view or purpose of the information? Is it presented objectively?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade? • Do the authors or sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? • Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda? • Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? • Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases? • Are alternate points of view represented?

Adapted from the CRAAP Test, developed by the Meriam Library at California State University, Chico (www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/eval_websites.pdf)

Figure 7.4 Information Reliability Test