

Don't Get Faked Out... Give a CRAAP! (for real)

Ok, let's get serious. With all that's out there on the internet, it's hard to know what's fake and what's real. That's where WE come in!

Use this simple acronym to help you spot reliable, trustworthy, credible information...and to know what's well, you know, the other stuff.

C

CURRENCY

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?

R

RELEVANCE

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

A

AUTHORITY

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?

A

ACCURACY

- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or referred?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

P

PURPOSE

- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Do the authors/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?



Emma S. Clark
Memorial Library
"The Heart of the Three Villages Community"

This easy to remember acronym is based on the **American Library Association's** guidelines for evaluating information. Developed by librarians at Meriam Library – California State University, Chico.