## C.R.A.P: Guide to Source Evaluation

### Currency
- Does the date matter for your topic?
- How recent is the information in the source?
- Can you locate a date when the resource was written/created/updated?
- Based on *your topic*, is this information current enough?

### Relevance
- What kinds of information are included in the resource?
- Does this source really answer your information need?
- What is the depth of coverage? Could you find better information in an encyclopedia? (If the answer is yes, find another source.)
- Who is the audience? Researchers? Children? People who are easily misled?

### Authority
- Can you determine who the author/creator is?
- What are their credentials (education, affiliation, experience, etc.)?
- Who is the publisher/sponsor of the work/site?
- Is this publisher/sponsor reputable?
- Are citations & references provided for quotes & data?

### Purpose/Point of View
- Why does it exist (to persuade you, to sell you something, etc.)?
- For web resources: what is the domain (.edu, .com, .gov, etc.)? *Web domain can provide insight about the site, but is not the sole determining factor in evaluating the source’s motive.*
- Are there ads on the web site or in the resource? How do they relate to the topic being covered (e.g., an ad for ammunition next to an article about firearm legislation)?
- Is the author presenting fact or opinion? Is the information balanced or biased?

Concept courtesy Molly Beestrum