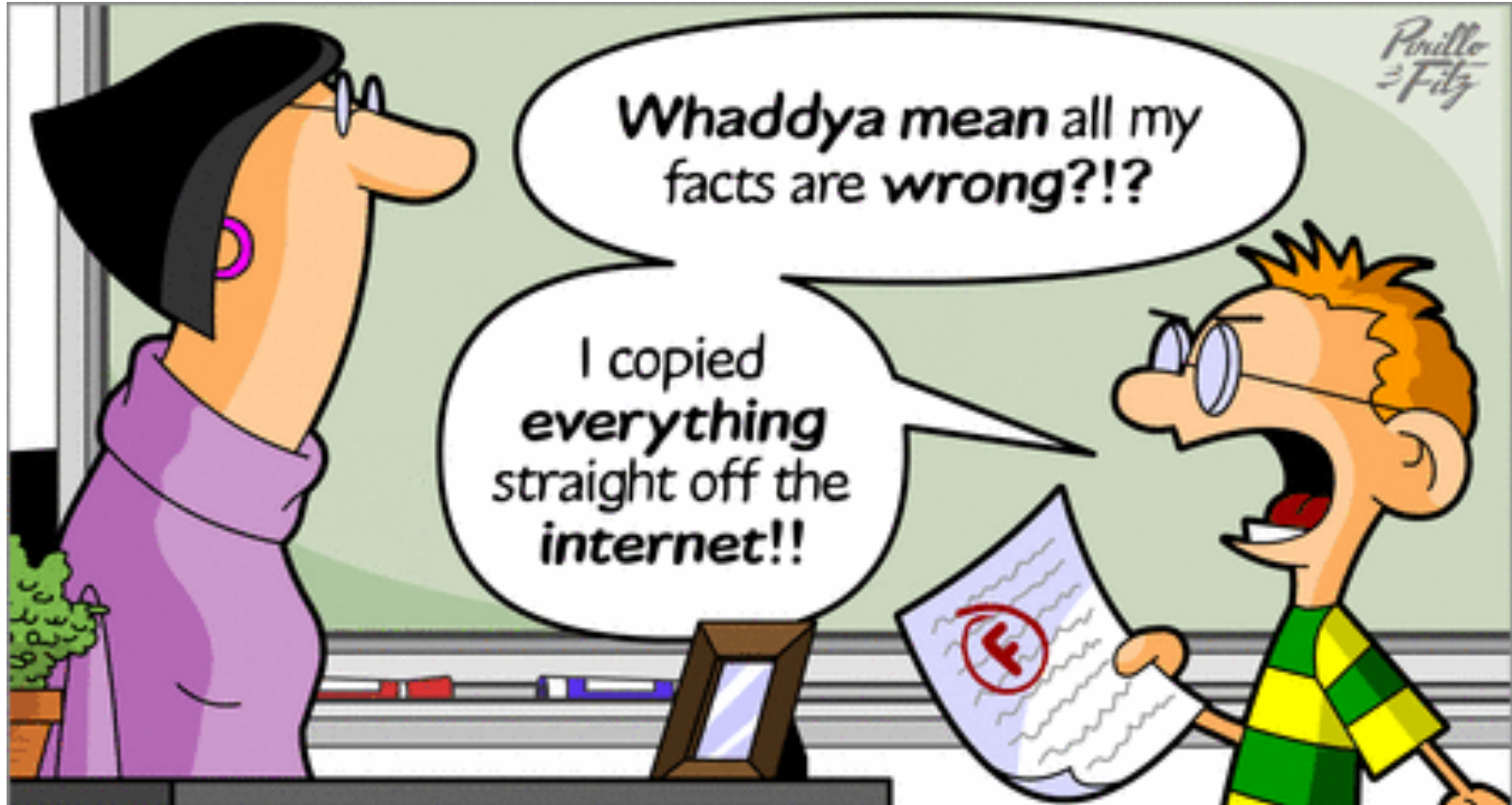


Evaluating Sources of Information

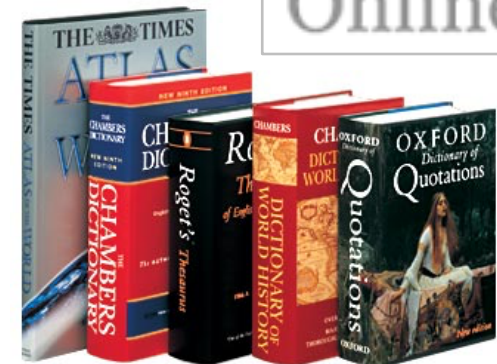
ASHLEY WILSON, MSIS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016



Quality Information

- Journal Articles
- Print Sources
 - Reference Books
 - Encyclopedias
 - Books by organizations
 - Handbooks & Manuals
- Government documents
- Websites

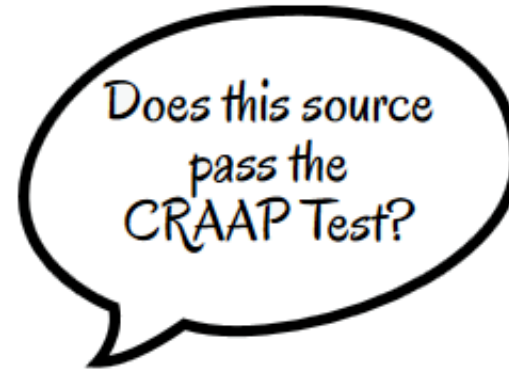


Why Evaluate Sources?

- When you use information sources in your work, they should be **credible** and **appropriate** for your needs.
- The quality of your writing is only as good as the quality of the sources you use.
- The following criteria provide guidelines for systematically evaluating sources.

Criteria for Evaluating Sources

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose



The CRAAP test is adapted from the Meriam Library at California State University Chico.

Currency

- When was the information published, updated, or revised?
- Is the information out of date for the topic?
- Web sites: Are all of the URLs functional?



Relevance

- Is the readership level appropriate neither too simple nor too sophisticated for your topic?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Does this source provide a new perspective or piece of information?
- **TIP:** Review journal abstracts, book indexes, or website map/index or search function for keywords and references.

Authority

- What credentials related to the topic at hand does the author have? (journal articles- peer-reviewed?; books – published by scholarly presses, popular presses, or self-presses?)
- Is the author qualified to write on this topic?
- Is there contact information, such as an address, publisher or institution?
- Websites: Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: **.com .edu .gov .org .net**

Breakdown of a URL

<http://library.tnwesleyan.edu/home>



Domain



Accuracy

- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Are there citations or a bibliography included?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?
- Does the language or tone seem biased or free of emotion?

Purpose

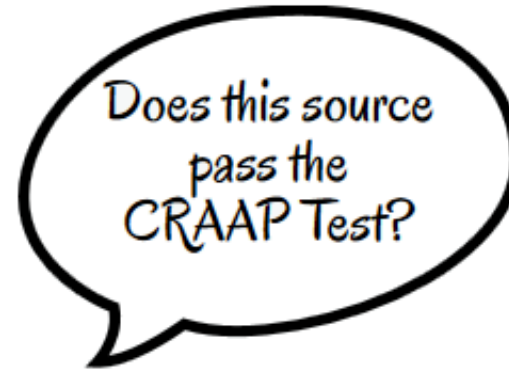
- Does the author's point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?
- What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

OBJECTIVE



Criteria for Evaluating Sources

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose



The CRAAP test is adapted from the Meriam Library at California State University Chico.