Evaluating Website Quality

For further research assistance access the Wahlstrom Library website via the myUB Portal.

Ask a Librarian via Chat: Available when the Library is open through the Library website.

E-mail a Librarian: reference@bridgeport.edu

Call a Librarian: 203-576-4747

Walk-ins welcome, no appointment needed!
Use a web page if it passes the **C.R.A.A.P. Test:**

Answer the questions, then rank each section from 1 to 10 (1=unreliable, 10=excellent). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether the source is reliable or not.

**Currency:** the timeliness of the information
- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of-date?

**Relevance:** the importance of the information to your needs
- Does the information relate to your topic?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

**Authority:** the source of the information
- Who is the author/publisher/source?
- Are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given?
- What are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations?
- What are the author’s qualifications to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

**Accuracy:** the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content
- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source?
- Does the language or tone seem biased or free from emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

**Purpose:** the reason the information exists
- What is the purpose of the information?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact? Opinion? Propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45-50</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>Borderline Acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 30</td>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
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</tbody>
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Still not sure about the reliability of a website? Ask a librarian! We can help you determine whether the information provided by a website is fit for an academic assignment.