The CRAAP Test

Is this photograph FACT or CRAP?

Based on the CRAAP Test developed by the Meriam Library at California State University Chico.
What Are We Evaluating?

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose

CRAAP!
CURRENCY

When was the information published or posted?
Has it been revised or updated?
Is the information current or out-of-date?
Are the links functional?
Could the story be recycled news?

http://www.cdc.gov
RELEVANCE

Does the information relate to your topic or answer your research question?

Who is the intended audience?

Is the information at the appropriate level?

Have you looked at a variety of sources?

Google search: “wild burro*”
AUTHORITY

Who is the author/publisher/sponsor?
Are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given?
Is there contact information for the author/organization?
What is the domain of the site? .com, .org, .gov, .edu
What is the author or organization’s point of view?

http://www.martinlutherking.org/
ACCURACY

Where does the information come from?
Is the information supported by evidence?
Are the sources of data included and linked?
Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
Can you verify the information in another source?
Does the language seem unbiased and free from emotion?

http://www.justfacts.com/guncontrol.asp
PURPOSE

Does the information attempt to inform? Teach? Sell? Entertain? Persuade?

Do the authors make their intentions or purpose clear?

Is the information factual? Opinion? Propaganda?

Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?

http://www.peta.org/
http://www.americanhunter.org/
“The Chart” (Vanessa Otero)

http://www.allgeneralizationsarefalse.com/the-chart-version-3-0-what-exactly-are-we-reading/
Fake News: What Do Fact Checkers Do?

The tactic fact checkers employed first was to move off the original post and onto another to learn more about the author and organization to help with determining accuracy.

• Landing on an unfamiliar site, fact-checkers left, opened a new tab, and tried to verify information in the article (vertical vs. horizontal)

• Fact-checkers question the description the organization provides about itself

• Fact-checkers look past the order of search results

Source:
http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/11/02/why-students-cant-google-their-way-to.html
Authority: What do Fact Checkers Do?

Academic Journals (1)

Search Terms:

Document Title:

"Abstinence education: does "they'll do it anyway" sell teens short?"

ISSN (07500507) And Publication Title ("Contemporary pediatrics")

Full-text: BRIEF ARTICLE

Abstinence education: does "they'll do it anyway" sell teens short?

Contemporary Pediatrics.


The American College of Pediatricians (ACP) strongly endorses abstinence until marriage sex education and recommends its adoption by all school systems in lieu of "comprehensive sex education." The organization’s...
Authority: What do Fact-Checkers Do?

American Academy of Pediatrics https://www.aap.org/

American College of Pediatricians (https://www.acpeds.org/)
Fact Checkers

**PolitiFact:** [http://www.politifact.com/](http://www.politifact.com/)

Pulitzer Prize winning site run by editors and reporters from the *Tampa Bay Times* (Florida) newspaper. "PolitiFact is a fact-checking website that rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials and others who speak up in American politics.... The PolitiFact state sites are run by news organizations that have partnered with the Times." Read about their principles under 'About Us.'

**Snopes:** [https://www.snopes.com/trump-dogs-veterans-day/](https://www.snopes.com/trump-dogs-veterans-day/)

*Snopes* is oldest and largest fact-checking site on the Internet (begun in 1993), one widely regarded by journalists, folklorists, and laypersons alike as one of the world’s essential resources.
Fact Checkers

A website of the nonpartisan, nonprofit Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, FactCheck aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics by monitoring the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases.

“Truth squads” “truth squad” the statements of political figures regarding issues of great importance, be they national, international or local.

Duke Reporters’ Lab: Fact Checking [https://reporterslab.org/fact-checking/](https://reporterslab.org/fact-checking/)
Includes an global database of fact-checking sites, which can be viewed as a map or as a list; also includes how they identify fact-checkers.
Check that Image!: Reverse Image Searches

TinEye https://tineye.com/

Google Image Search: https://images.google.com/
Click on the camera icon and upload an image or paste in a URL.
About Wikipedia . . .

• Studies of Wikipedia’s accuracy have indicated similar depth, coverage, and incidence of “serious errors to” other general encyclopedias

• Open and anonymous collaboration

• Articles with the most edits in 2016:
  • Deaths in 2016 18,230 edits
  • Donald Trump 8,933 edits
  • Clinton Campaign Endorsements 6,527 edits
  • U.S. Presidential Election 6,162 edits

• Wikipedia has had its share of hoaxes—and they are listed on Wikipedia

But Librarians Love Wikipedia!

• Up to date
• Great starting point for exploring ideas
• Cites sources—bibliographies can be good resources
• Wikimedia Commons can be source for copyright-free images
• Crowdsourced editing seems to result in balance.
• Librarians are among Wikipedia’s editors and contributors
• Use Wikipedia for ideas and resources: not as a scholarly source!

Wikipedia article on Concussion, CTE
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronic_traumatic_encephalopathy
Negotiating Google

Search an exact phrase: “wild burro”

Wild card ending: “wild burro*”

Broaden terms: “wild burro*” or “wild horse*”

Combine terms: “wild burro*” and “adoption”

Exclude terms: “wild burro*” –mustang*

Search within a site: “wild burro*” site:denverpost.com

Search within a domain(org, gov, edu): “wild burro*”site:gov

Multiple terms: “wild burro*” and “adoption*” and site:gov
Try Google Scholar

http://scholar.google.com

Google Scholar searches many academic disciples and sources:

- Journal articles
- Government reports
- Books
- Publications of professional societies
- University reports and papers
- Many direct links to papers and articles.

Use “advanced search” to search for authors, limit dates, and combine terms

Apply the CRAAP test!
Other Sources of Ideas

**Newspapers!**

Check the Denver Post, New York Times, the Guardian, or Al Jazeera online!

The Library also has the Denver Post and Leadville Herald in print.


*The Guardian* (international edition)  [http://www.theguardian.com/international](http://www.theguardian.com/international)

*Al Jazeera English edition* [http://america.aljazeera.com](http://america.aljazeera.com)
Professional Organizations

Websites of professional or advocacy organizations often have categories called “issues,” “advocacy” or even “hot topics.”

Examples:
National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition: http://www.wildhorserange.org/

American College of Sports Medicine: http://www.acsm.org/

Amnesty International: https://www.amnesty.org/en/

School Nutrition Association: https://schoolnutrition.org/
Wild Horses and Rangeland in the New Millennium.


Abstract: The article discusses how wild horses impact range much differently than other species as well as some of the solutions that modern range science is identifying. According to statistics, there are about 35,099 wild horses and burros that roam in Herd Management Areas (HMA), while 28,000 have been killed and are being held in corrals and pasture facilities. Topics discussed include the average rangeland health rating for the Pryor Mountain Range and management considerations for wild and semiwild horse HMAs.
Thank you!

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Spike