Evaluating Resources

Does your information pass the CRAP test?

**Currency**
- Is the information up to date?
- Is it possible to find a date of publication or creation?
- Is the information current enough for the topic?

**Reliability**
- Who is creating or providing the information? Is it a government, educational, commercial, non-government organisation or individual perspective (e.g. blog)?
- Is the information fact or opinion? What type of viewpoint is being provided – balanced or biased?
- Does the author provide references for quotes, dates, ideas and statistics? Can these be located?
- If you are using website, do the links work?

**Authority**
- Is the name of the creator easy to find?
- Can they be contacted personally? (email or phone number)
- What are their qualifications or experience?
- Who is the publisher or sponsor of the site?

**Purpose**
- Why has the resource been created (to persuade, to sell you something, to disseminate important information etc.)?
- If a website, how does the domain (edu, .org, .com, etc.) impact on the point of view?
- Is there advertising in the resource? Are the ads linked to the topics being discussed?
- Who is the target audience of the resource? (Look at the language, layout and type of resource)
The example below shows a snapshot of the homepage of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology Website.

1 refers to the domain of the website. In this case it is gov, which means the site is a government website.

2 indicates where further information about the organisation can be found through Contacts (or Contact us). This area usually provides such things as telephone numbers and an email address.

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