

**Credibility of Websites**  
**ALLI @ ICC Library**

**Goal:** The information literate student will evaluate information and determine the validity of a resource.

**Objectives:** By the end of the activity, the student will 1) understand the importance of source credibility, 2) use the C.R.A.P. test to determine credibility, 3) explain the rationale in determining credibility, and 4) apply credibility standards to the research process.

**Info Lit Framework:** Authority is Constructed and Contextual; Research as Inquiry

**Directions:** Using the C.R.A.P. test at the bottom of the second page, check the following websites to determine if each is credible or not. Give a short explanation on specific reasons from each category of the C.R.A.P. test to support your decision. Look at the websites carefully, including “About Us” information, sponsoring organizations, and ads. (NOTE: website addresses in this case are CASE SENSITIVE!)

<http://www.bseinfo.org/> -- Credible or Not Credible? Why?

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/bse/> -- Credible or Not Credible? Why?

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mad\\_cow\\_disease](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mad_cow_disease) -- Credible or Not Credible? Why?

<http://www.organicconsumers.org/madcow.cfm> -- Credible or Not Credible? Why?

<http://www.drday.com/madcow.htm> -- Credible or Not Credible? Why?

Find another website on this topic. List the name of the webpage and, after using the C.R.A.P test, determine its credibility.

List 3 reasons why information on the internet should be checked for credibility.

### **C.R.A.P. Test**

**C:** Currency: How recently was the website updated or published? Does the site even list any dates?

**R:** Reliability: Is the content factually-based or based on opinion? Does the site list references and quote sources?

**A:** Authority: Is an author listed for the site? Is the author credentialed (e.g. RN, MD, etc.)? Are there advertisements on the page? If so, are the ads related to the content of the information on the site (e.g. a critical review of over the counter pain medication with ads for Advil next to it might be suspicious).

**P:** Purpose or Point of View: Does the site appear to be biased? Is the site trying to sell you something?