How to evaluate information

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The ‘CRAAP’ detector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>Currency</th>
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<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Relevance</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>P</td>
<td>Accuracy</td>
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Relevance

- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level, i.e. not too simple or too advanced for your needs?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?

Authority

- What does the URL (.com .edu .gov .org .net) reveal about the author or source?
- Who is the author?
- What expertise and affiliations does he/she have?
- Is there a ‘sponsor’?
- Is there a conflict of interest?

Currency

- When was the information posted?
- Has it been updated or revised?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?

Accuracy

- Can the ‘facts’ be verified? Supported by evidence?
- Is there a list of references that we can refer to, to review his/her sources of information?
- Is there contradictory information, or vaguely phrased sentences that make the claims appear more than what they are?
### Purpose

- What is the reason for the info to exist? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

### Evaluating Medical mobile apps

<table>
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<th>Uses ABACUS framework</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
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<td>Authority</td>
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[http://figshare.com/articles/ABACUS_Developing_a_framework_for_evaluating_mobile_apps_in_healthcare/1094478](http://figshare.com/articles/ABACUS_Developing_a_framework_for_evaluating_mobile_apps_in_healthcare/1094478)

### Example from a health magazine

Gloom and doom; sadness and madness; melancholy; doldrums; languor; sorrowfulness — depression has many names. Often described as the common cold of psychiatry, depression is a very common problem and, indeed, it is a rare human being that does not feel depressed at some time. There are many different types of depression, with widely differing symptoms. Depression can be unipolar (medical language for ‘simple’) or bipolar. The latter is also known as manic depression and one variant of it is manic depressive psychosis. Then there is SADS, or Seasonal Affective Disorders Syndrome. There is also PPD (post-partum depression) and endogenous (from within) and reactive depression.

### From a newspaper article

A third illusion is that leaders are not necessary in good teams. Leadership is back in fashion. But people in teams often argue that good teamwork makes leadership redundant. Explicit or strong leadership behaviour is seen as contrary to the notional equality of teams.

This illusion and the lack of leadership it produces is one of the worst things that can happen to a team. It ensures an obsession with internal power relations and a team without a champion. A leader is the team’s link with the wider organisation and the vital conduit for resources, support and credibility. Teams need help to understand how their leadership requirements change and how to make the most of the leadership resources distributed among members.

### Academic culture

1. Academic books
2. Scholarly journals
3. Theses & Dissertations
4. Conference proceedings
5. Newspapers
6. Technical reports/Market analyses

>50%

### Infographics lie

How to spot the BS! See [http://www.fastcodesign.com/3024273/infographic-of-the-day/infographics-lie-heres-how-to-spot-the-bs](http://www.fastcodesign.com/3024273/infographic-of-the-day/infographics-lie-heres-how-to-spot-the-bs)
How do I find ‘good’ sources?

1. Explore the library resources and learn how to use them
   Starting point is www.lib.nus.edu.sg
   Look at online guides: www.libguides.nus.edu.sg

2. Learn how to cite using APA citation style
   See http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/APA6th