

Activity 1

Applying the CRAAP Test to an Information Source

Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, and Purpose

- **Currency:**
 - When was the source written and published?
 - Has the information been recently updated?
- **Relevance:**
 - Does the source thoroughly cover your research topic or only one aspect?
 - To what extent does the source answer your research question?
 - Is the source popular or scholarly?
- **Authority:**
 - Who is the author (individual(s), company, organisation)?
 - Is there any information that leads you to believe the author is credible or an expert?
 - Does the author provide citations?
- **Accuracy:**
 - Can facts or statistics be verified through another source?
 - Does the information match what you've found in other sources?
- **Purpose:**
 - Is the author trying to persuade, promote, or sell something? Who is their audience?

Task:

Examine one of the sources below, and critique it using the CRAAP test above. For each source, it may be wise to invent a research topic that you're investigating. You can also use the more specific questions from the PowerPoint (Slides 18 to 20).

Information Source 1

[The study of gesture in cognitive linguistics: How it could inform and inspire other research in cognitive science](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9788131/) – copy and paste this link into your browser if the previous link doesn't work: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9788131/>

Information Source 2

[A generational divide: differences in researcher attitudes to AI](https://blog.oup.com/2024/10/a-generational-divide-differences-in-researcher-attitudes-to-ai/) – copy and paste this link if the previous one doesn't work: <https://blog.oup.com/2024/10/a-generational-divide-differences-in-researcher-attitudes-to-ai/>

Activity 2

Applying the CRAAP Test to the Research Process using SOLO

Overview:

In this activity, you will conduct a keyword search in SOLO (the University's resource discovery tool, or library catalogue) either based on your own research topic or using one of the examples provided below. You will apply the CRAAP test to identify information sources you might like to read for your research.

Task:

Navigate to SOLO via <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/> and submit a keyword search related to your research, or use one of the following examples for inspiration:

- Climate change and migration
- The theme of social class in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women
- Dance and British culture
- Impact of Emilie du Châtelet on philosophy
- Evolution of the crocodile

Use the Sort & Filter options on the left of the results page to help sift through the information sources if necessary.

Using the CRAAP test criteria (see page 1 of this document), identify at least one information source (e.g. book, article) that will be useful for you to read fully and list why, or identify an information source that you can see will **not** be of use to you and list why. For instance:

Information source: Stockdale, Maximilian T, and Michael J Benton. "Environmental Drivers of Body Size Evolution in Crocodile-Line Archosaurs." *Communications biology* 4, no. 1 (2021): 38–11.

Currency: a recent publication (2021) suggesting up-to-date research.

Relevance: this article explores the body size of crocodiles specifically and I will want to broaden my scope by reading other works.

Authority: the authors are researchers at the University of Bristol; the article is part of the portfolio of the journal Nature, a well-known and respected journal.

Accuracy: skim-reading, the article is well-referenced. There is a note that the conclusions of the paper were criticised and to be reviewed, but an update shows that the outcome was no corrections are needed.

Purpose: research funded by the Natural Environment Research Council. Authors are applying new phylogenetic comparative methods. The authors declare no competing interests in the 'ethics declaration'.