★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Is your website a S.T.A.A.R.? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Can you tell if a web page is worth using or not? Look at the 5 points in the STAAR evaluation method to see how it stacks up. Give the website your own personal rating.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Slant – What is the Slant (viewpoint) of the website?
★ Is the information unbiased and free from prejudice without promoting a specific personal, political, religious, or ideological viewpoint?
★ Is the purpose of the page stated? Is the message clearly stated?
  o Is the purpose to: inform? teach? demonstrate?
  o Is the purpose to: entertain? sell? persuade?
★ Are there editorials and if so are the editorials clearly labeled?
★ Is advertising content vs. informational content easily distinguishable?
★ Are both sides of a controversial issue presented?

Topical & Timely – Is the Website up-to-date? Is the material relevant to the topic?
★ When was the information gathered/created? Is the material up-to-date?
  o Is the information provided the type of information that dates quickly (e.g. statistics, technological information, etc.)?
  o Is this a first edition or not? Further editions indicate a source has been revised and updated to reflect changes in knowledge, include new information.
★ When was the information posted?
★ When was the website revised last? (check for a date at the bottom of the page)
★ Is there evidence of newly added information or links?
★ Are the links functional and up-to-date, reflecting current information?

Authority – Who is the authority or expert associated with the website?
★ Can you tell who is the author / creator / sponsor?
★ Are the creator’s credentials listed?
  o Is the creator a teacher/expert in the field or student of the topic?
  o Does the creator have a credible reputation?
  o Is the creator affiliated with an organization, corporation, government agency, university etc.?
★ Is there contact information, such as a phone number, e-mail address etc.?
★ Has the creator published works in traditional formats such as books or journal articles?
★ Is the website supported or sponsored by an organization?
  o Is the author affiliated with this organization?
  o Is there advertising for the organization on the web page?
  o What does the domain name/URL reveal about the source of the information, if anything? (e.g. .com .edu .gov .org .net)

Accuracy – What is the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the information on the website?
★ Where does the information come from?
  o Are references / citations provided?
  o Are the original sources of information listed?
  o Can you verify any of the information in independent sources or from your own knowledge?
★ Has the information been reviewed or refereed by experts in the field?
★ Can you verify any of the information in independent sources or from your own knowledge?
★ Does the language or tone seem biased?
★ Is the webpage complete or is it missing information/pages?
★ Are there spelling, grammar, or other typos?

Relevance – Does the content of the website have direct bearing on the topic? Is it pertinent? How well does it answer the research question?
★ What is the scope of the information? Is the page extremely specific or very broad?
  o Does the information contain the breadth and depth needed?
  o Will this information be useful to the project?
★ Is the information written in a form that is useable?
  o Who is the intended audience? (i.e. reading level, technical level)
  o Is the information in a useful format such as words, pictures, charts, sounds, or video?
★ Is the information unique? Do the facts contribute something new or add to your knowledge of the subject?
★ Is the information available elsewhere, such as in print or electronic format? Journal article, book etc.?
★ Could you find the same or better information in another source? Sometimes the first result is not the best?

*Modified version of C.R.A.A.P. Test created by Meriam Library at California State University, Chico.