**10 Questions You Need To Ask For Effective Content Curation**

The first thing that comes to mind when talking about crap detection is sites like [Snopes](https://www.snopes.com/?utm_campaign=elearningindustry.com&utm_source=%2Fcontent-curation-crap-detection-10-ways-detect-crap&utm_medium=link) and [FactCheck.org](https://www.factcheck.org/?utm_campaign=elearningindustry.com&utm_source=%2Fcontent-curation-crap-detection-10-ways-detect-crap&utm_medium=link), which you use can use to quickly check if something is fact or fiction. But we don’t just deal with factual rumors. We regularly come across ideas, theories, and concepts, and these sites will not help us with these. For instance, type “learning styles” into the search option in these sites, and they yield no results. So it’s really up to us to use “built-in mechanisms” to detect such misinformation and weed it out ourselves.

A good tool we can use to do this is [The Crap Test](http://loex2008collaborate.pbworks.com/w/page/18686701/The%20CRAP%20Test?utm_campaign=elearningindustry.com&utm_source=%2Fcontent-curation-crap-detection-10-ways-detect-crap&utm_medium=link), which is a series of questions we can ask to determine the veracity of content based on four criteria: Currency, Reliability, Authority, and Purpose / Point of View.

I’ve tweaked up the criteria and the questions a bit to suit our purpose. Here they are:

1. **How recent is the information?** (Criteria: Currency)
2. **Is it current enough for the topic?** (Criteria: Currency)
3. **What kind of information is included in the content?** (Criteria: Relevance, Reliability)
4. **Is the information meaningful / useful for the audience?** (Criteria: Relevance)
5. **Who is the creator or author? What is their expertise on the topic, and what are their credentials?**(Criteria: Authority, Reliability)
6. **Who is the publisher or sponsor? Are they reputable?** (Criteria: Authority, Reliability)
7. **What is the publisher's interest (if any) in this information?** (Criteria: Authority, Reliability)
8. **Is it primarily data or opinion? If it’s the latter, is it balanced?** (Criteria: Purpose / Point of View)
9. **Does the author provide references or sources for data or quotations?** (Criteria: Purpose / Point of View, Reliability)
10. **Is the creator / author trying to sell you something?** (Criteria: Purpose / Point of View, Reliability)

## The CRAP test is a way to evaluate a source based on the following criteria: Currency, Reliability, Authority and Purpose/Point of View.  Below are some questions to help you think about how to measure each of the criteria.

    \* **Currency -**

          o How recent is the information?

          o How recently has the website been updated?

          o Is it current enough for your topic?

    \* **Reliability -**

          o What kind of information is included in the resource?

          o Is content of the resource primarily opinion?  Is is balanced?

          o Does the creator provide references or sources for data or quotations?

    \* **Authority -**

          o Who is the creator or author?

          o What are the credentials?

          o Who is the published or sponsor?

          o Are they reputable?

          o What is the publisher's interest (if any) in this information?

          o Are there advertisements on the website?

    \* **Purpose/Point of View -**

          o Is this fact or opinion?

          o Is it biased?

          o Is the creator/author trying to sell you something?