

The PLUS model guides you on the research process

Session 2 covers how to think critically about the information you find:

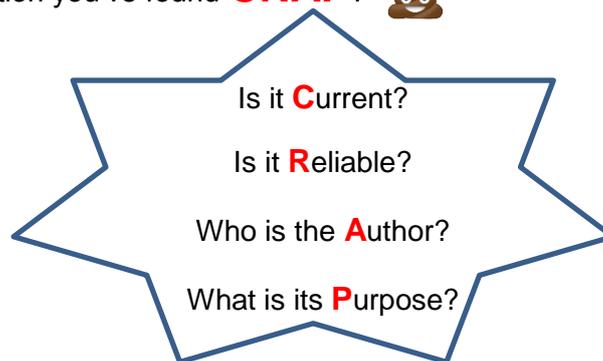
Don't forget – there's more to life than Google! See Session 1 handout for suggestions and links.

Why do we recommend these?

Books are checked and edited before publication. Databases that libraries subscribe to on your behalf are carefully curated and edited, and are chosen by libraries because of the quality of information they provide.

But if you are using Google, you need to **be sure you actually understand the information** you've found. And even then, you need to **decide for yourself if the information can be trusted**.

Ask yourself... is the information you've found **CRAP**? 🤩



Who is the AUTHOR? Do they know what they're talking about? Is there an About Me page? Even so, can you trust them? **GOOGLE THEM!**

Is it RELIABLE? Where did the information come from? Can you find the original source of the information? There should be links and references to the facts – **ALWAYS** you check for yourself. If there are no links, **GOOGLE IT!** Try the websites at the bottom of the page to check for fake news.

Is it CURRENT? If it's important to have up-to-date information, you need to check how old your info is. Check for upload dates, publication dates, dates within the article itself or, as a last resort, copyright or "last updated" dates (often in small print at the very bottom of a webpage).

What's its PURPOSE? What is the aim of the website? Might they be biased? Do you need to check for a possible other side of the story?

Helpful links

Fact-checking websites:

Snopes.com

Factchecker.org

FactsCan.ca

Hoax-slayer.com

Fullfact.org

NewsWise videos: fact-checking tips:

Online Verification Skills – video 1 (intro) <https://tinyurl.com/newswise1>

Online Verification Skills – video 2 (Investigate the source) <https://tinyurl.com/newswise2>

Online Verification Skills – video 3 (Find the original) <https://tinyurl.com/newswise3>

And another you might find interesting:

Who decides what you see online? <https://tinyurl.com/ycjnzqc5>