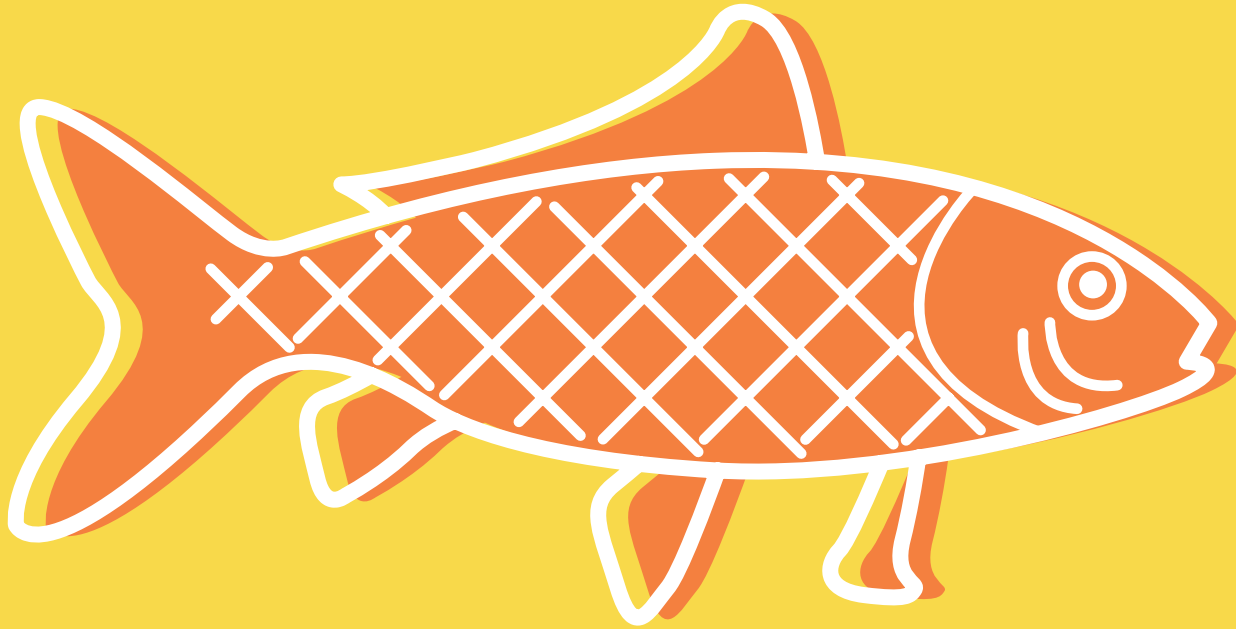# C.A.A.R.P TEST
DOES THIS RESOURCE SMELL A LITTLE FISHY?

Picking the right sources is a key step to creating a high-quality research paper or presentation. Choosing resources is easier when you evaluate them with the C.A.A.R.P. guidelines.

Currency:

Currency guidelines vary depending on the topic. A literary analysis from five years ago may still be relevant, but a science research article published at the same time may be out of date.

- When was the information written or posted?
- Has the information been revised or reposted?
- Is this resource timely for your topic?
- Are there newer resources that are more appropriate?

Authority:

Authority is contextual. A good author for one topic may not be an expert in a different topic.

- Who is responsible for this information? Is there an identified person or organization?
- Is the author an expert on this particular topic?
- What are the author's qualifications and affiliations?
- Can you independently verify (e.g., do an internet search) the author's credentials?

These guidelines have been adapted from the Meriam Library at California State University.

Accuracy:

The information should be correct and verifiable.

- Does the resource provide citations?
- Can you verify the information in the resource from the citations or other sources?
- Is the resource peer-reviewed?
- Do the information and tone seem unbiased and free from emotion?

Relevance:

The resource fits your topic and is written to the right audience.

- Is the information about your topic? Does it support your thesis?
- Have you looked at a variety of other resources before deciding which ones are the best fit?
- Who is the intended audience for this resource?
- Is the resource written at the right level (e.g., the coverage is not too shallow or too in-depth)?

Purpose:

The purpose is the reason the information exists.

- Is the purpose of the information to inform, teach, entertain, persuade, or sell?
- Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda?
- Is the information objective or biased?

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