# Evaluating Sources

Internet, Biography and Oral History Sources

# Remember CRAAP

**Currency**
- ☐ The timeliness (publication date, revision history) of the information.
- ☐ Broken links or an old publication date indicates the page has not been updated recently.

**Relevance**
- ☐ The importance of the information for your needs.
- ☐ Consider your audience and compare with a variety of sources.

**Authority**
- ☐ The source (author, publisher, sponsor) of the information.
- ☐ Check for contact information and the credentials of the author.

**Accuracy**
- ☐ The reliability (source, evidence, truthfulness) of the information.
- ☐ Think about the source and look for evidence of bias or error.

**Purpose**
- ☐ The reason (teach, sell, entertain) the information exists.
- ☐ Identify the type of information (fact or opinion) and the intent of the author.

# Internet Evaluation

1. The site author (person or organization) possesses the required qualifications or authority to cover the subject.
2. The information provided on the site is precise (proper names, dates, links, events).
3. The subject is treated in depth.
4. The author presents a balanced point of view on the subject (both agreement and disagreement or differing or divergent theses).
5. The site demonstrates knowledge of most recent historians' views on the subject
6. The site presents an original point of view on the topic.
7. The use of visual and/or audio materials on, or linked to, the web page is effective and enriches the learning experience.
8. The links connected to sites that were relevant and useful (allowing you to approach the subject in more depth). (not broken)
9. The sources used are referenced accurately and in proper citation format (author, title, editor, dates, etc.)
10. The information is presented in a style that is clear, and that respects the conventions of proper grammar and writing.

# Viewing Source Code (View >Source

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"> <!-- //
UPDATES: July 14-09 Andree Chenier; removed #evocontent; formatted dates; changed top table width; removed changeit script because it's in
        the war_head1 include; fixed menu in IE // -->
<html> <head>
<title>WarMuseum.ca - Canada and the South African War (Boer War) - 1899-1902</title>
<meta content="victerae afrie milihiste" name="civtheme">
<meta content="Canada and the Boer War 1899-1902 - The South African War (1899-1902) or, as it is also known, the Boer War, marked
        Canada's first official dispatch of troops to an overseas war. Anglo Boer War Summary" name="description">
<meta content="" name="keywords">
<meta content="war; armed forces; Military; museums; history" name="dc.subject" scheme="gccore">
<meta content="Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation - Canadian War Museum" name="content_owner">
<meta content="Canadian War Museum, Jerome Foldes-Busque, Webmaster, and Mike Anderson, Web developer" name="authors">
<meta content="Canadian War Museum" name="editors">
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<meta content="webmaster@warmuseum.ca" name="reply-to">
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<meta content="Worldwide" name="Coverage"> <meta content="Safe For Kids" name="rating">
<meta content="All contents copyright 2005 Canadian War Museum All rights reserved." name="copyright">
<meta content="educators" name="dc.audience" scheme="gcaudience">
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<meta content="researchers" name="dc.audience" scheme="gcaudience">
```

# Evaluating Biographies

- Is it auto biography or biography
- Read the Biography
  - Look for bias, accuracy (sources)
  - Copyright date. The older it is, the less reliable the biography is
- Find a Review of the Biography
- Compare to any other biography on the same person
- Compare to "non-partisan" history on specific aspects of the biography
  - Different version of events
  - Inclusion of facts/events or its presentation

# Evaluating Oral Histories

- How old is the person when they recount the story?
    - Memories fade badly when people in 80s
- How close is the person to the main theme of story?
    - The farther you are, the less likely you know what was going on
- Reconcile oral with other evidence (diaries, records)
- Useful for elaborating on what really happened
- Useful for showing human emoition/relationships

Conducting Oral history interviews:

http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html