Two (cartoon) men finish playing basketball. One says, “Mike, let’s get some water.” Mike tells his friend he shouldn’t buy bottled water because it’s dangerous. His friend says that it’s actually tap water that’s dangerous. He saw it on the Internet.

The two go to a computer and take a look at the website that says that tap water is dangerous. It’s called buydehydratedwater.com. Then they find a site that says bottled water is bad. Google brings back too much information. It’s confusing. They decide to go talk to a librarian.

Librarian: How can I help you?

Mike: How can we find out what’s true on the Internet?

Librarian: Let’s look at the website you found earlier. [They look at buydehydratedwater.com]. This site wants you to purchase something and it links to Amazon. This last paragraph promotes their product, so their opinion is biased.

Mike: How can we find a more reliable site?

Librarian: Let’s use this website as an example [website shown is the Center for Disease Control’s Drinking Water page]. Let’s start with the domain of the site. Dot gov is a government site. Its information is more reliable. Next, let’s check the currency. We’ll look for the last page update or the date of publication. [recent date updated is shown on screen]. Next we’ll check for relevance. Everything on this page is about bottled water. Then check for the author. This page was written by the Centers for Disease Control. Also check for accuracy, that the spelling is correct and the links work. Last, look for the website’s purpose. They should have an “about us” link.

Mike: It’s hard to remember.

Librarian: You can remember it like this. C.R.A.A.P. C for currency, R for relevance, A for author, A for accuracy and P for purpose.

Mike: Oh that’s easy. Do you remember it?