

HOW TO FACTCHECK ONLINE WITH FEW DIGITAL SKILLS?



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Today it has become much more difficult to determine what is reliable news and what is not.

Before the Internet was widespread, consuming news was more straightforward than it is today. You had a number of newspapers, radio and television stations. They may have had different beliefs and opinions, but the news they brought was usually reliable. Today, **anyone can create and distribute messages via the Internet**, and as a consumer of information it has become **much more difficult to determine what is reliable news and what is not**.

Here we look for **ways to fact-check** with an audience that does not necessarily have extensive digital skills and for whom technical tips may be more difficult, such as a reverse image search through google images.

We focus on **critical thinking to uncover unreliable news** and we also count on the community to help us. For example, we list **fact-checking websites** that do the work for us and encourage people to **discuss news stories** they have questions about with those around them.

OPTION 1

HOW TO FACTCHECK BY YOURSELF?

1

READ THE WHOLE MESSAGE CAREFULLY

The title of a message is often used to attract attention. However, it is not always a summary of the message. Therefore, always read the entire message, so that you have all the information. Are techniques being used to influence you? Fake news often plays on your emotions, because if a message makes you angry or scared, you are more likely to believe it and share it. Are there many exclamation marks? Are important things left out? And how are your feelings used? Also note the difference between statements made by people, which are in inverted commas, and descriptions made by the writer.

2

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Does the sender really exist?

Fake news authors want their messages to look as much like real news as possible. So pay attention to where the message is posted. Do you want to know if a website is reliable? And whether the sender really exists? Then look for pages with the name 'disclaimer' or 'about us'. There you will find more information about the creators of the website, why the website was created and who the authors of messages are. If you are unsure whether the website, organisation or authors are trustworthy, you can use search engines to find out what other sources are saying about it.



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3

Where is the message?

On websites and social media, such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, anyone can create and share messages. You do not have to be a journalist. There are also no clear rules or checks for untruths. So fake messages can also be posted. Be aware of this. National and regional news media often have strict rules to check for falsehoods. In this way they can also prevent fake news.

Who posted the message first?

Is it someone you trust or someone unknown? People who spread fake news often do so with fake accounts. This makes it look like a message is being shared a lot. So always check if the account of the person sharing the news is genuine.

WHO WROTE IT?

Who is the author of the message?

Is it a professional journalist or someone unknown? With fake news, it is often not clear who wrote it.

Why did the author write it?

Was it written for a certain group? Does the author have certain interests? Or is the message meant as satire?



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OPTION 2

NOT EVERYONE HAS TO BE A
FACT-CHECKING EXPERT.
TRUST OTHERS.

1

WHAT DO THOSE AROUND YOU THINK OF THE MESSAGE?

Do you have doubts about the reliability of a message? Fortunately, we are smarter together than alone. Ask your friends and family what they think of the message. Do they think it is reliable news and why?

2

TRUST THE FACTCHECKING COMMUNITY

If you have doubts about the reliability of a message, you are probably not the first. Others may have already checked the reliability of this message and shared their findings online. One of the factcheck websites you can check is

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