

When is Information Misinformation?

5 Tips to be Smart About What You See Online

The internet is a sea of information. Chart your course wisely. Use these tips to avoid misinformation and get the trusted information you're seeking.



Know Your Trusted Resources

Examine any “about” pages. Does it clearly identify contributors? How long has it been up? Does the URL fit with the stated source?

Pro Tip: Hunt for an information source first rather than the information itself.



Collaborate and Corroborate

Don't be fooled by the first thing you see. Verify by checking multiple, independent authoritative sites.

Pro Tip: Try verifying information through a university, government agency, or major research or news organization website.



Dates Matter!

Sometimes the first hit in search results or your news feed is old news masquerading as current events.

Pro Tip: When searching current events, always use the date filter on your search engines.



Understand Your Biases

Knowing how you ask questions or are influenced by celebrity endorsements, brands or political affiliations can impact your search results and sway your thinking.

Pro Tip: If you want to believe something, you may need to put extra effort into making sure it's accurate.



Beware of Images

Images cause you to react emotionally, but not all pictures are worth a thousand words. Digital images can be easily manipulated and misleading. They can go viral whether credible or not.

Pro Tip: Try to discover the image's original source to determine if it's been altered.



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