

FACT-CHECKING TOOLS LINKS AND RESOURCES

All the tools listed are either free or have “freemium” options, which are adequate for most journalism fact-checking needs

NB: This resource is updated regularly: visit <http://bit.ly/2VC7T0j> for the most up-to-date version

FACT-CHECKING AND VERIFICATION

Reverse Image Search

TinEye Finds where else a photo has been used and allows you to check whether the one you have has been altered or manipulated. Also helps find the newest, oldest, and most changed versions of a photo you’re want to check on

<http://www.tineye.com/>

RevEye Reverse Image Search: A browser extension that searches multiple search engines including Google, Yandex, Bing, Baidu and TinEye, either one at a time or all at once. (available for Chrome and Firefox - search for it in the Chrome or Firefox app store and download)

Fact-Check explorer <https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck/explorer> Do a keyword search to find fact-checks related to a topic.

SearchFirefox-only Reverse Image <https://mzl.la/2N4IQn6>

Covid-19: Searchable database of debunked Covi-19 hoaxes and misinformation

<https://www.poynter.org/coronavirusfactsalliance/>

Photos

Is it edited? Easy to use tool that will tell you whether a photo has been edited or manipulated <http://imageedited.com/>

Fake Image Detector to check if a photo has been manipulated (Chrome only)
<https://bit.ly/3nBInWd>

Jeffrey's Exif Viewer to check Metadata in a photo, including when it was taken:
<http://exif.regex.info/exif.cgi>

Google Image Search: click on the camera in the search box and follow the instructions: <https://www.google.com/imghp?hl=EN>

Google Advanced Image search To search for photos
http://www.google.com/advanced_image_search

Reverse image search by Labnol: Easy to use plus a good tutorial on reverse image searching: <https://www.labnol.org/reverse/>

Veracity: a reverse image search tool for iPhone <https://apple.co/2IbeiuR>

Forensically Advanced tool for checking whether a picture has been faked, its metadata, where it was taken (if it is geo-tagged) and lots more
<https://goo.gl/wtiSwu>

FirstDraftNews guide for verifying photos (download and print out and stick it on your wall)
https://firstdraftnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/FDN_verificationguide_photos.pdf

VIDEO

FirstDraftNews guide for verifying videos (download and print out and stick it on your wall)

https://firstdraftnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/FDN_verificationguide_videos.pdf

YouTube Data Viewer Insert the URL of a YouTube video and this tool will give you details of the video, including when it was uploaded. (Be aware that the upload date is not the same as the creation data of the video) The tool will also take screen grabs from the video and allow you to do a Google reverse search to find other iterations and earlier posts of the same video if they exist

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/citizenevidence/>

Video Vault: Use this tool to preserve videos, take screengrabs to do a reverse search, slow down and speed up video and more to simplify the verification process <https://www.bravenewtech.org/>

InVID Verification Plug-in: A powerful video and photo verification tool with basic and advanced functions. Read how to use it here:

<http://www.invid-project.eu/tools-and-services/invid-verification-plugin/>. Scroll down to “Release versions” to download for Chrome, Firefox or Mac OS

VERIFICATION RESOURCES

FirstDraftNews: A coalition of media organisations with fact-checking and verification at their core. The site is a treasure trove of essential newsgathering and verification resources for journalists. (Make sure you sign up for the excellent newsletter. Scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up) <https://firstdraftnews.com/>

Counting Crowds: This tool estimate the size of a crowd that can fit in a selected area <https://goo.gl/vRE3dB>

Disinformation, fakes, hoaxes and urban legends

The Internet is awash with all kinds of dodgy stuff that can spread like wildfire. These are a few go-to sites to visit before tweeting or sharing rubbish – and throwing your name away in the process

Sites that debunk fakes and hoaxes

Snopes <http://www.snopes.com/>

AfricaCheck <https://africacheck.org/>

HoaxSlayer <http://www.hoax-slayer.com/>

bellingcat <https://www.bellingcat.com/>

FirstDraftNews A coalition of news organisations involved with verification. The site is a veritable treasure trove of free verification resources, tutorials and training material <https://goo.gl/weccDq>

Hoax of fame <https://goo.gl/z3xfXS>

wafflesatnoon <https://goo.gl/v8Z8V7>

WEBSITE DOMAIN AND IP INFO

IP Address and Domain Information - a Chrome browser extension

Worldwide <https://who.is/>

South Africa <http://co.za/whois.shtml>

TWITTER

twXplorer Excellent breaking news tool that is useful to find out what hashtags people are using <https://goo.gl/21xKuz>

Twitter advanced search <https://goo.gl/sDQPwg>

Twitter search tips: shortcuts for searching Twitter <https://goo.gl/zVIs3P>

Foller.me excellent verification resource with extensive info on a user's Twitter account <http://foller.me/>

Analyse the behaviour of a Twitter account: <https://goo.gl/6aLywP>

Treeverse: Free browser extension for keeping track of Twitter conversations by visualising them as a tree <https://goo.gl/jfRWwR>

Who tweeted it first? Find the original tweeter and get back to the original source <http://ctrlq.org/first/>

TweetBeaver is a powerful suite of free tools that allow you to take a close up look at a Twitter account, plus loads of other useful verification functions

<https://tweetbeaver.com/index.php>

Bot spotters

Botometer helps you identify whether a Twitter account is human or a bot

<https://botometer.iuni.iu.edu/#/>

BotOrNot helps you check how many of your Twitter follows are real people

<http://botornot.co/>

Identifying bots: Twelve Ways to Spot a Bot: <https://goo.gl/etj5Vj>

Hoaxy is a powerful fact-checking tool. It visualises both the source and the spread of online claims. It also shows any fact-checks that have been done that verified or debunked a claim <https://hoaxy.iuni.iu.edu>

AfricaCheck blog on how to verify a Twitter account

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/guide-verify-twitter-account/>

SOCIAL MEDIA SEARCH TOOLS

Storyful Multisearch: Chrome-only browser extent that allows you to search several social media platforms, including Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Tumblr

Google Advanced search <https://goo.gl/bUEcRR>

Assessing the credibility of websites

KnowNews browser extension: this tool tells you the credibility of South African news sites. If you're on a site you think is dodgy you can report it through the tool. If the people behind it agree, they'll add a warning about the site to the tool (Chrome only) <https://goo.gl/NLS95T>

B.S. Detector is similar to KnowNews but exposes US and European sites that publish disinformation and fake news. While KnowNews only identifies websites, B.S. Detector also flags fake stuff on Facebook and Twitter (Chrome:

<https://goo.gl/G9KF7V> and Firefox <https://goo.gl/xtyHrr>

NewGuard is similar to B.S. Detector, but it's still worth running both as one may catch some sites that the other doesn't. It's available for Chrome

<https://goo.gl/cb6GqW>, Firefox <https://goo.gl/LsQzo2>, and Safari <https://goo.gl/ZNGU1s>

Evaluating Social Media Accounts (video): <https://bit.ly/3xqpITI>

Fact-checking toolkits

Raymond Joseph's free tools fact-checking toolkit

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A239yGD8uqU19Idy7bzyLbI4XPOMvC7YndHk6zyZAtU/edit?usp=sharing>

FakeWatch fact-checking toolkit

<https://www.fakewatch.africa/fakewatch-academy/michael-salzwedel/950-1104>

OSINT Essentials digital toolkit: <https://www.osintessentials.com/>

Malachy Browne's Open Source Investigative tools:

<https://start.me/p/gyvaAJ/open-source-investigative-tools>

Craig Silverman's Osint and Open Source investigation tools

<https://bit.ly/2OkqRd5>

Bellingcat's Online Investigations Tools <https://bit.ly/2YTBLIG>

FirstDraft fact-checking resources

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zn6-0urUhmnaQMY9XH3ACgxb3eWfzgVmH01dPmwqxrU/edit>

FirstDraft resource for fact-checking photos and videos

<https://firstdraftnews.org/en/education/curriculum-resource/verifying-photos-video/s/>

FirstDraft verification toolbox <https://firstdraftnews.org/verification-toolbox/>

SEARCH ENGINES

How to create a Google alert <https://goo.gl/5COLwg>

WolframAlpha Excellent search engine for answering questions: How far? How deep? What was the first? What was the weather on a given day?

<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>

DuckDuckGo Search engine that doesn't track you <https://duckduckgo.com/>

CHECKING OUT WEBSITES

Find out when a web page was first posted on the Internet and cached versions of web pages

<https://goo.gl/llLkgZ>

<https://goo.gl/yMQ3wt>

<https://archive.org/web/>

<http://cachedview.com/>

Find cached web pages in Google Search results

<https://goo.gl/qANm73>

When was a story published online? Knowing when a story was posted is a key part of fact-checking. But sometimes you come across an undated story online.

Check here to learn how to check when an undated story was posted

<https://goo.gl/Hp4wYE>

View DNS information: A suite of free tools that helps you interrogate various aspects of a website <https://goo.gl/chMimo>

DNS History: Check if a website has mover servers or changed ownership

<https://goo.gl/695igW>

MOZ: Check the reach of a website (The free version allows 10 searches a month <https://goo.gl/KKvBEy>)

FINDING PEOPLE

Pipl: a tool to find out who is behind an email address, phone number or social username www.Pipl.com

Phonebooks worldwide Search by country for local phone books

<http://www.numberway.com/>

BROWSER EXTENSIONS FOR CHROME AND FIREFOX

(Search for them in the Firefox or Chrome app store and save to your browser bookmarks bar. Some will then be available on your mouse right-click

Scraper: *easy-to-use tool to get data out of web pages and into spreadsheets* (only available for Chrome) <https://goo.gl/wgq7Uy>

See similar Google pages

Google Translate: an essential browser extension that translates words, phrases or entire web pages in a click

SCRENGRAB TOOLS (Chrome and many also available for Firefox in the relevant app shop)

Full Page Screen Capture

Nimbus Screenshot (can also annotate a screengrab)

Distil WebMonitor helps keep track of changes to web pages and online PDFs.

Add a webpage or online PDF to your watchlist and the tool will alert you by email of any changes to them

Spam protector

10 Minute Mail Get a temporary email to protect you from spam when signing on to a dodgy site or if you don't want to leave tracks <https://goo.gl/hO0MaB>

PDF conversion tools

EasyPDF <https://www.easypdf.com/>

iLovePDF <https://www.ilovepdf.com/>

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Advanced tools for investigative journalists

<http://pudo.org/material/investigative-tools/>

Investigative Dashboard

find researchers and expert sources to help you, search databases and for visual networks of influence <https://goo.gl/n65H3Z>

PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION TOOL (for South Africa)

<http://foip.saha.org.za/>

Data Journalism

Data Journalism Handbook – free PDF download

<http://datajournalismhandbook.org/1.0/en/>

Guides and Resources

Free downloadable handbooks

Verification Handbook online resource <http://verificationhandbook.com/>

UNESCO downloadable Journalism, “fake news” and disinformation handbook: a downloadable handbook for journalism education and training
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002655/265552E.pdf>

Toolboxes

FirstDraftNews Verification Toolbox <https://goo.gl/BFiDE1> A nifty fact-checking resource with all the basic tools you need to expose and fight mis- and disinformation, and fakery in its many guises

AfricaCheck fact-checking guide: questions to ask when fact-checking

<https://africacheck.org/how-to-fact-check/tips-and-advice/>

AfricaCheck guide to spotting fakes and hoaxes online

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/guide-how-to-spot-fakes-and-hoaxes-online/>

AfricaCheck guide to verifying images on a smartphone:

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/guide-verify-images-smartphone/>

AfricaCheck guide to verifying a Twitter account

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/guide-verify-website-people-behind/>

AfricaCheck guide verifying a website and the people behind it

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/guide-verify-website-people-behind/>

AfricaCheck guide on how to avoid falling for “fake news”

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/guide-stop-falling-fake-news/>

AfricaCheck guide to spotting dodgy journals and research

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/guide-how-to-spot-predatory-academic-journals-in-the-wild/>

Full-fact “fake news” toolkit <https://fullfact.org/toolkit/>

Snopes.com guide to Six Quick Ways to Spot Fake News

<https://www.snopes.com/news/2016/01/21/6-quick-ways-spot-fake-news/>

Snopes.com tool to search for hoaxes, urban legends and assorted made-up stuff (although largely US material, the listed fakery often pops up in other countries, adapted for the local market)

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/category/media-matters/>

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