

Checklist for information verification

Always Check:

- Provenance:

Are you looking at the original piece of content? Check where the content comes from. Do an initial internet search to find who has produced the initial file.

- Is this the first version online?
- Is it the highest-quality version?
- Is there a logo or watermark?
- Is there an image with the news story? Use: [RevEye Reverse Image Search](#), [Storyful Multisearch](#)

- Source:

Who captured the content? Go back to the sources. If possible, call them. Otherwise, check their other social media presence. If possible try to go to the location of the event to ensure that what is being said it is truth by searching from other reports for the event.

- What is the uploader's account history? Location etc
- Are there connected social profiles? Search name on FaceBook/YouTube/Twitter etc
- Use: [Whois](#), [Spokeo](#), [Foller.me](#)

- Date:

When was the content captured? They would check even the time of the earliest upload, whether there are other information that has been released at the same time and will corroborate what is being said, even if the weather coincides with the images you are being sent.

- What is the time of the earliest upload?
- Are there corroborating reports from sources on-the-ground?
- Do weather conditions for date tally?
- Use: [WolframAlpha](#)

- Location:

where was the content captured?

- Are there features that can be located on satellite imagery?
- Is there content that matches from other uploaders?
- Are there corroborating reports?
- Use: [Google Earth](#) to check the landscape in the location matches the real landscape, [Wikimapia](#), [Yandex Maps](#)

- Motivation: why was the content captured?

- Always ask - why was this uploaded?



- History of source, connections to political or military groups - is there an agenda?
- Take nothing at face value!

There are also guidelines of how to handle eyewitness Media. See

<http://eyewitnessmediahub.com/resources/guiding-principles-for-handling-eyewitness-media>

Trustworthy fact-checking organisations explain their process in public methodologies.

1. Africa Check's "How We Work" page (accessible at <https://africacheck.org/about-us/how-we-work/>) as well as the infographic in the Materials section
2. Chequeado's "Metodo" (accessible in Spanish at: <http://chequeado.com/metodo/>)
3. Pagella Politica's "Metodologia" and "Come funzioniamo" (accessible in Italian at <https://pagellapolitica.it/progetto/index>)
4. PolitiFact's "The Principles of PolitiFact" (accessible at <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2013/nov/01/principles-politifact-punditfact-and-truth-o-meter/>)

The International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) has also developed a code of principles that guide conscientious fact-checkers in their everyday work.