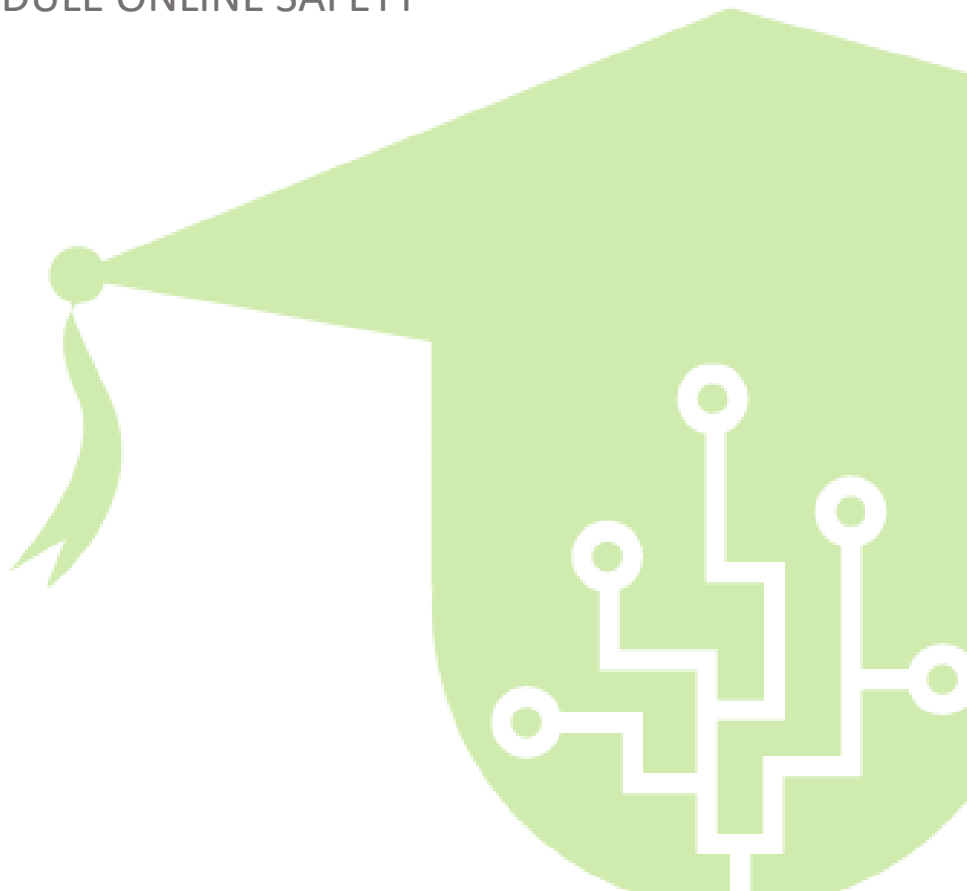


**L2D**

MEDIA LITERACY COMPETENCES  
FOR YOUTH WORKERS

· GUIDELINES FOR SAFE ONLINE USE

MODULE ONLINE SAFETY





<b>Title :</b>	A GUIDE TO OBTAINING ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET
<b>Key words :</b>	Reliability, sources, information, truthfulness, critical thinking, citation, objectivity, the internet
<b>Prepared by .</b>	
<b>Language :</b>	English
<b>Objectives :</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Define the factors for the reliability of the sources: Explain the factors for the reliability of the sources and its importance in today's digital world.</li> <li>● Identify the steps helping to reach the aim: Help learners find accurate information on the internet</li> <li>● Understand the accurate information is: Give the features of accurate information and how it should be especially while searching it on the internet.</li> <li>● Develop searching strategies: Teach strategies for getting accurate information to manage to create successful work.</li> <li>● Promote reaching reliable sources: Teach effective ways to reach reliable sources on the internet.</li> <li>● Develop critical thinking skills: Foster the ability to evaluate information and sources critically, particularly in the context of fake news and misinformation online.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Outcomes :</b>	
<b>Content Index :</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HOW TO OBTAIN ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1.THE ACCURATE INFORMATION                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.2.1. Importance of Accurate Information</li> <li>1.2.2 The Obstacles Emerged on The Internet While Searching for Accurate Information</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. THE RELIABILITY OF AN INFORMATION SOURCE             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1.FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED TO ASSESS THE RELIABILITY OF AN INFORMATION SOURCE</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. THE STEPS USED FOR OBTAINING ACCURATE INFORMATION</li> </ol>



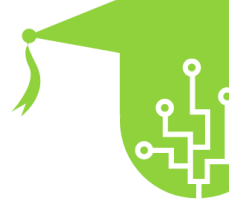
	<p>3.1.STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES FOR OBTAINING ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET</p>
<p><b>Content Development :</b></p>	<p>1. HOW TO OBTAIN ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET</p> <p>1.1. THE ACCURATE INFORMATION</p> <p>Accurate information refers to data, facts, or details that are correct, true, and free from errors or distortions. Accuracy is a fundamental quality of information, especially in fields like journalism, science, research, and education, where precision and truthfulness are crucial.</p> <p>Accurate information is essential for making informed decisions, conducting research, and forming a solid foundation for knowledge. In today's digital age, where information is abundant and easily accessible, the ability to discern accurate information from misinformation or disinformation is a critical skill. Fact-checking, critical thinking, and cross-referencing with credible sources are some of the methods used to ensure the accuracy of the information we encounter.</p> <p>Accurate information has these qualities below:</p> <p>Truthfulness: Accurate information is factually correct and reflects reality as it is. It is not fabricated, exaggerated, or manipulated to fit a particular agenda.</p> <p>Precision: Accurate information is specific and precise, providing clear details without ambiguity or vagueness.</p> <p>Reliability: It can be independently verified and is supported by credible sources or evidence. Reliable information is consistent with established knowledge and does not rely on rumors or hearsay.</p> <p>Lack of Errors: Accurate information is free from errors, including typographical, grammatical, or factual mistakes. It has been carefully reviewed for correctness.</p>



	<p>Up-to-Date: In many cases, accurate information is current and up-to-date, reflecting the most recent developments or data available. However, not all information needs to be current to be accurate; historical information can also be accurate if it reflects events accurately as they occurred at a specific time.</p> <p>Objectivity: Accurate information is presented in an unbiased and objective manner. It does not favor any particular viewpoint, and it does not contain subjective opinions or emotions.</p> <p>Comprehensiveness: It provides a complete and comprehensive view of the topic, addressing all relevant aspects without omitting crucial details.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.2.1. Importance of Accurate Information</p> <p>In today's information-rich and interconnected world, the ability to distinguish accurate information from misinformation is a vital skill. Critical thinking, fact-checking, and relying on trusted sources are essential practices for ensuring the accuracy of the information we encounter and share. Accurate information contributes to the well-being and progress of individuals and society as a whole. In a new study by researchers at the Oxford Internet Institute, 'Global Fears of Disinformation', analysis shows disinformation is perceived as the most significant risk related to the use of the internet and social media in almost every part of the world. Therefore, its importance becomes vital for obtaining any information on the internet.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.2.2 The Obstacles Emerged on The Internet While Searching for Accurate Information</p> <p>While the internet provides a vast amount of information at our fingertips, it also presents several obstacles and challenges when it comes to searching for accurate information. These obstacles can make it difficult to discern what information is trustworthy and reliable. Here are some common obstacles that emerge when searching for accurate information on the internet:</p>
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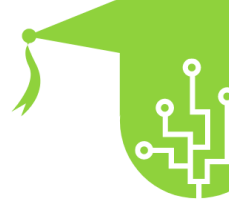
	<p><b>Information Overload:</b> The internet is flooded with information on almost every topic, making it challenging to sift through and find the most accurate and relevant information. This overload can lead to confusion and the difficulty of identifying credible sources.</p> <p><b>Misinformation and Disinformation:</b> Misinformation is false or inaccurate information that is shared without harmful intent, while disinformation is deliberately false information spread to deceive or manipulate. Both are rampant on the internet and can mislead individuals searching for accurate data.</p> <p><b>Confirmation Bias:</b> Many individuals are drawn to information that confirms their existing beliefs and opinions. This confirmation bias can lead people to select information sources that align with their views, potentially ignoring more accurate or balanced information.</p> <p><b>Fake News and Clickbait:</b> Sensationalist headlines, fake news stories, and clickbait articles are designed to grab attention and generate clicks. These sources often prioritize attracting readers over providing accurate information.</p> <p><b>Lack of Source Attribution:</b> Some online content lacks proper citations or references to credible sources. This makes it difficult to verify the accuracy of the information presented.</p> <p><b>Anonymous Sources:</b> Information from anonymous or unverified sources can be unreliable. Without knowing the identity or expertise of the source, it's challenging to assess the credibility of the information.</p> <p><b>Outdated Information:</b> The internet is replete with outdated information that may have been accurate at one time but is no longer relevant. This is especially problematic when searching for current data or news.</p> <p><b>Echo Chambers:</b> Social media and online communities can create echo chambers, where individuals are primarily exposed to information that reinforces their existing beliefs. This can hinder exposure to accurate, balanced information.</p>
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	<p>Algorithmic Biases: Online algorithms, such as those used by search engines and social media platforms, can reinforce the information you see based on your previous searches and interactions. This can limit exposure to diverse viewpoints and accurate information.</p> <p>Viral Information Spreading: False or inaccurate information can spread rapidly on social media platforms, often going viral before fact-checkers can address it. This can create a false sense of credibility.</p> <p>Lack of Media Literacy: Many internet users lack the necessary media literacy skills to critically evaluate the information they encounter online. This makes them more susceptible to misinformation.</p> <p>Plagiarism: Plagiarised content, where information is copied without proper attribution, can lead to inaccuracies and misrepresentations.</p> <p><b>2. THE RELIABILITY OF AN INFORMATION SOURCE</b></p> <p>The reliability of a source refers to its trustworthiness and credibility in providing accurate and unbiased information. It reflects the extent to which you can depend on the information and trust that it is accurate, up-to-date, and presented in an unbiased and objective manner. Assessing the reliability of a source is essential for making informed decisions, conducting research, and building a solid knowledge base.</p> <p><b>2.1. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED TO ASSESS THE RELIABILITY OF AN INFORMATION SOURCE</b></p> <p>Assessing the reliability of an information source is crucial for making informed decisions and ensuring the accuracy of the information you rely on. These are key factors to consider when evaluating the reliability of an information source:</p>
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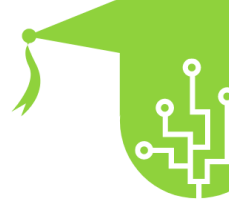


	<p><b>Authorship:</b></p> <p><b>Author Qualifications:</b> Examine the qualifications, expertise, and credentials of the author. Are they an expert or authority in the field related to the information?</p> <p><b>Author Reputation:</b> Research the reputation of the author. Have they published credible work in the past? Are they recognized or respected within their field?</p> <p><b>Publication Source:</b></p> <p><b>Peer Review:</b> Determine whether the information source has undergone peer review, especially in academic and scientific contexts. Peer-reviewed sources are generally more reliable as they are evaluated by experts in the field.</p> <p><b>Publisher Reputation:</b> Assess the reputation of the publication or website. Established and reputable publishers are more likely to produce reliable content.</p> <p><b>Objectivity and Bias:</b></p> <p><b>Bias Identification:</b> Be vigilant about potential biases in the source. Does the source have a political, commercial, or ideological bias that could affect the objectivity of the information?</p> <p><b>Transparency:</b> Consider whether the source is transparent about its potential biases and conflicts of interest. Transparency can enhance the reliability of the information.</p> <p><b>Citation of Sources:</b></p> <p><b>Citations:</b> Reliable sources should cite their information sources. Check if the source provides citations or references that can be used to verify the information and trace it back to credible origins.</p> <p><b>Quality of Citations:</b> Examine the quality and credibility of the sources cited within the document. Citing respected journals, institutions, or experts adds to the source's reliability.</p>
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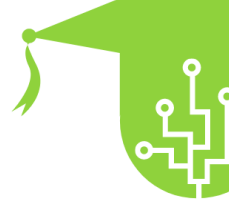


	<p><b>Currency:</b>  <b>Publication Date:</b> Check the publication date of the source. Depending on the subject matter, up-to-date information may be essential, especially in rapidly evolving fields.  <b>Audience:</b></p> <p><b>Intended Audience:</b> Consider who the source is intended for. Is it aimed at a general audience, academics, professionals, or a specific group? Understanding the intended audience can provide insights into the depth and style of the content.</p> <p><b>Consistency:</b>  <b>Consistency with Other Sources:</b> Cross-reference the information with other reputable sources on the same topic. Consistency across multiple sources enhances the reliability of the information.</p> <p><b>Transparency:</b>  <b>Methodology and Data Sources:</b> Reliable sources should provide information about their research methods and data sources. Transparency about how the information was gathered and analyzed is essential.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest:</b> Determine whether there are potential conflicts of interest that could compromise the reliability of the information. This is especially important in industry-funded research.</p> <p><b>Domain Relevance:</b>  <b>Relevance to Your Purpose:</b> Consider whether the source is relevant to your research or inquiry. In academic research, sources from peer-reviewed journals in the same field are often more reliable.</p> <p><b>Fact-Checking:</b>  <b>Fact-Checking Organizations:</b> Consult fact-checking organisations and credible news outlets to verify the accuracy of claims and information presented in the source.</p> <p><b>Plagiarism and Originality:</b>  <b>Plagiarism Check:</b> Ensure that the source does not contain plagiarized content, as this can indicate a lack of reliability and integrity.</p>
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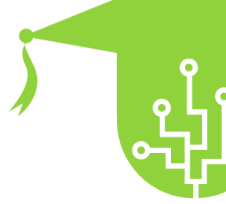
	<p>Accessibility and Availability:</p> <p>Source Availability: Check whether the source is readily available and accessible. Be cautious of sources that are difficult to find or access, especially in academic research.</p> <p><b>3. THE STEPS USED FOR OBTAINING ACCURATE INFORMATION</b></p> <p>In the digital age, the internet serves as an ocean of information, offering us access to a vast sea of knowledge, news, and opinions. However, this vastness comes with a caveat: not all information found on the internet is accurate or reliable. With the proliferation of misinformation, disinformation, and biased content, it is crucial to develop a discerning approach to extract accurate information from the digital realm.</p> <p><b>3.1. STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES FOR OBTAINING ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET</b></p> <p>These are the strategies and techniques or steps, might be called, for obtaining accurate information on the internet below:</p> <p>1. Evaluate the Source</p> <p>The first step in seeking accurate information is to evaluate the credibility of the source. Consider the following factors:</p> <p>a. Authorship: Identify the author or organisation responsible for the content. Are they experts in the field, and do they provide their qualifications? Academic institutions, renowned experts, and established news outlets are often more reliable sources.</p> <p>b. Bias and Agenda: Be aware of potential bias. Determine if the source has a particular agenda or a vested interest in presenting information in a certain way. Bias can skew the accuracy of the information.</p> <p>c. Publication Date: Check the publication date of the content. Information can become outdated, especially in</p>
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	<p>fields like science and technology. Ensure the information is current and relevant to your needs.</p> <p>d. Citations and References: Reliable sources often cite their references or sources of information. This allows you to trace the information back to its origins and verify its accuracy.</p> <p>2. Cross-reference Information</p> <p>To enhance the reliability of information, cross-reference it with multiple sources. If several reputable sources provide the same information, it is more likely to be accurate. However, if a piece of information is only found on one obscure website or lacks confirmation from other sources, exercise caution.</p> <p>3. Fact-checking Websites</p> <p>Fact-checking websites like Snopes, FactCheck.org, and PolitiFact are invaluable resources for verifying the accuracy of claims and news articles. They investigate and provide detailed assessments of the credibility of various claims, helping you separate fact from fiction.</p> <p>4. Use Academic Databases and Libraries</p> <p>For academic or research-related inquiries, it's best to use reputable academic databases and libraries. Institutions like JSTOR, PubMed, and Google Scholar provide access to peer-reviewed research papers and scholarly articles, ensuring the highest level of accuracy and reliability.</p> <p>5. Analyse the Language and Tone</p> <p>Examine the language and tone of the content. Reliable sources maintain a neutral and professional tone. If a source is excessively emotional, sensationalistic, or uses inflammatory language, it may lack objectivity and accuracy.</p> <p>6. Be Critical and Skeptical</p> <p>Maintain a healthy level of skepticism when encountering information on the internet. Ask yourself critical questions, such as: Does this information seem too good to be true? Are there logical fallacies or</p>
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	<p>inconsistencies in the argument? Critical thinking is your best defense against misinformation.</p> <p>7. Check for Consistency</p> <p>Compare the information you find with what you already know or what you find in reputable offline sources, like books or encyclopedias. Consistency across various sources enhances the likelihood of accuracy.</p> <p>8. Consider the Domain and Website</p> <p>The domain of a website can provide insights into its reliability. Government domains (.gov), educational institutions (.edu), and established news organizations (.com) are generally more credible than personal blogs or unverified social media accounts.</p>
<p><b>Glossary :</b></p>	<p>Skepticism: an attitude that shows you doubt whether something is true or useful</p> <p>Media Literacy: the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and critically understand various forms of media, including print, digital, and broadcast, in order to make informed and responsible judgments about media content, messages, and their impact on society.</p>
<p><b>Bibliography :</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/critical-thinking-in-psychology/avoiding-and-overcoming-misinformation-on-the-internet/4739BB79E56CA762B1462CAAC8A2734">https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/critical-thinking-in-psychology/avoiding-and-overcoming-misinformation-on-the-internet/4739BB79E56CA762B1462CAAC8A2734</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/finding_accurate_information_on_the_internet">https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/finding_accurate_information_on_the_internet</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/news-events/news/spread-of-disinformation-the-biggest-concern-for-internet-and-social-media-users-globally-finds-new-oxford-study/">https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/news-events/news/spread-of-disinformation-the-biggest-concern-for-internet-and-social-media-users-globally-finds-new-oxford-study/</a></p>



	<p><a href="https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/utepconnect/blog/march-2017/4-ways-to-differentiate-a-good-source-from-a-bad-source.html">https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/utepconnect/blog/march-2017/4-ways-to-differentiate-a-good-source-from-a-bad-source.html</a></p> <p><i>Sample, Char, Connie Justice, and Emily Darraj. "A model for evaluating fake news." The Cyber Defense Review (2019): 171-192.</i></p>
<p><b>Resources (videos, reference link)</b></p>	<p><a href="https://youtu.be/DGRFXaSncXc?si=tJltXUoBMJfd2G4G">https://youtu.be/DGRFXaSncXc?si=tJltXUoBMJfd2G4G</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/tbcmjPR7Ntw?si=JtdZqQknyYW3BBNp">https://youtu.be/tbcmjPR7Ntw?si=JtdZqQknyYW3BBNp</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/PLTOVoHbH5c?si=UxZw6qHi_rgmUzPR">https://youtu.be/PLTOVoHbH5c?si=UxZw6qHi_rgmUzPR</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/UdEAI7TvMdk?si=5TJi_yR1SOOO936y">https://youtu.be/UdEAI7TvMdk?si=5TJi_yR1SOOO936y</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/kv4xOCiOMrc?si=h8j7Y_UmF21UKxel">https://youtu.be/kv4xOCiOMrc?si=h8j7Y_UmF21UKxel</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/dSzosKrKi-I?si=glnENj5exE8FjmlE">https://youtu.be/dSzosKrKi-I?si=glnENj5exE8FjmlE</a></p>