

Identifying professionals from the imposters

With the widespread reach of the Internet, you will find yourself immersed in a world of truth, lies, facts, opinion, credible and non-credible information.

Therefore, when you come across a comment on social media or when researching for information relating to topics such as military, defence, army, war, etc, how do you ensure that these comments or information are from true professionals?

Use the following ways to identify professionals from imposters:

Question objectivity and check accuracy

- Question objectivity of the author's work
- Check if there's any bias in the content
- Verify factual information from authoritative sources
- See if information is current and up-to-date

Identify the author

- Search on author and his/her related works in print and online formats
- Verify author's expertise including affiliations to government agencies, academic institutions and professional associations
- Do further searches using keywords to retrieve specific information on the author

Check source credibility

For topics on military, defence, army, weapons, warfare etc, search for similar information online, cross-reference and verify the credibility of that source with:

Academic journals

- Journal of Military Ethics
- Military Technology
- Defense Analyse
- Jane's Defence Weekly

Newspapers

- NewspaperSG
- Library PressDisplay
- Proquest newspaper complete

Tips: To access these resources Go to eresources.nlb.gov.sg

Check the Uniform Resources Locator (URL)

To locate online information on military, defence and related topics, consult official websites of government, educational and professional institutions. These websites would have URLs ending with:

- .gov
- .edu
- .mil

References

Cornell University Library (2014). "Critically Analyzing Information Sources: Critical Appraisal and Analysis". Retrieved from <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/criticallyanalyzing> on 16 September 2014.
Seife, C. (2014). "Virtual Unreality: Just because the internet told you, how do you know it's true?" New York, New York: Viking.