
Cite Unseen

A bias-checker for Wikipedia references

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As of March 1, 2018, there are

15,693,732

references with identifiers across 297 Wikipedias.

(source: the [Wikimedia Blog](#))

Many more references *don't* have identifiers, and thus aren't counted.

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**Evaluating bias for
sources on Wikipedia is
inconsistent and often
relies on personal bias.**

How we discuss reliable sources

- Sources are discussed on [a fairly low-traffic noticeboard](#) for reliable sources.
 - We have a list of sources that have been “[perennially discussed](#)”, but we’ve only discussed around 30.
 - Very little discussion happens for sources outside the U.S., and are often biased *against*.
 - Editors are taken at their word for whether or not a source is reliable or not.
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The goal of Cite Unseen

**To make Wikipedia
readers and editors
more aware of the
nature and bias of an
article's sources.**

How Cite Unseen Works

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News



Tabloid



Community news



Press release



Opinion



Social media



Blog

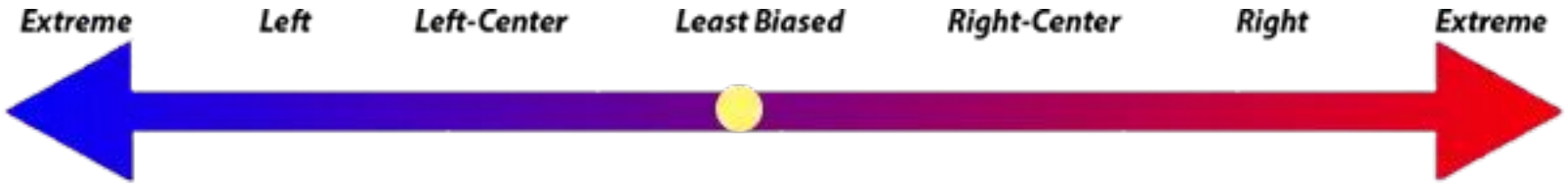


Published book



State-run media

Cite Unseen identifies the type of source referenced by a particular reference.



Cite Unseen also integrates [Media Bias Fact Check](#) to evaluate the trustworthiness of a source if the source has been analyzed by them.

Technical implementation

- A purely-JavaScript script that:
 - Iterates through every citation
 - Checks against pre-defined list of URLs and their nature (news, blog, state-controlled, etc.)
 - Checks against Media Bias Fact Check for political biases
 - Injects icons next to citations accordingly
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Typical Wikipedia references


585. [^] ["Statement on the Appointment of Dana Boente as Acting Attorney General"](#). The White House. January 30, 2017. Retrieved August 29, 2017.
586. [^] Shear, Michael D.; Landler, Mark; [Apuzzo, Matt](#); Lichtblau, Eric (January 30, 2017). ["Trump Fires Acting Attorney General Who Defied Him"](#). *The New York Times*. Retrieved August 29, 2017.
587. [^] Barrett, Devlin; Frosch, Dan (February 4, 2017). ["Federal Judge Temporarily Halts Trump Order on Immigration, Refugees"](#). *The Wall Street Journal*.
588. [^] Liptak, Adam (February 5, 2017). ["Where Trump's Travel Ban Stands"](#). *The New York Times*.
589. [^] Chakraborty, Barnini (March 6, 2017). ["Trump Signs New Immigration Order, Narrows Scope of Travel Ban"](#). Fox News. Retrieved March 6, 2017.
590. [^] Levine, Dan; Rosenberg, Mica (March 15, 2017). ["Hawaii judge halts Trump's new travel ban before it can go into effect"](#). Reuters.

“Checked” references

A press release from a right-biased,
government-controlled source



585.    ["Statement on the Appointment of Dana Boente as Acting Attorney General"](#)[↗]. The White House. January 30, 2017. Retrieved August 29, 2017.

586.   Shear, Michael D.; Landler, Mark; [Apuzzo, Matt](#); Lichtblau, Eric (January 30, 2017). ["Trump Fires Acting Attorney General Who Defied Him"](#)[↗]. *The New York Times*. Retrieved August 29, 2017.

587.  Barrett, Devlin; Frosch, Dan (February 4, 2017). ["Federal Judge Temporarily Halts Trump Order on Immigration, Refugees"](#)[↗]. *The Wall Street Journal*.

588.   Liptak, Adam (February 5, 2017). ["Where Trump's Travel Ban Stands"](#)[↗]. *The New York Times*.

589.   Chakraborty, Barnini (March 6, 2017). ["Trump Signs New Immigration Order, Narrows Scope of Travel Ban"](#)[↗]. *Fox News*. Retrieved March 6, 2017.

590.   Levine, Dan; Rosenberg, Mica (March 15, 2017). ["Hawaii judge halts Trump's new travel ban before it can go into effect"](#)[↗]. *Reuters*.

Left-center
news source

Neutral news
source

The Future of Cite Unseen

What's next?

- Improve code and define nature of more sources
 - Publish as a beta widget on Wikipedia for users to optionally install and use
 - Continue to iterate and improve the widget with user feedback over time
 - A bigger launch down the path?
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Further elaboration a of source's reliability

- Wikipedia citations defined structurally on Wikidata, allowing our sort of classification to be hosted alongside the source on Wikidata.
 - A Citation Graph-like layer, where the reliability of a citation is further elaborated upon.
 - Point-by-point claims of reliability
 - Citation discussion
 - Citation analysis
 - Integration with other fact-checking/bias-checking projects to cover as many sources as possible.
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Thank you!
