#06. 7Loci models and web presence



University of Bergamo Master Course in Project and Management of Tourism Systems Academic Year 2021-2022 **IT for Tourism Services**



LESSON 1 Affordances & Signifiers

LESSON 2 Conceptual Models

LESSON 3 Seven Stages of Action



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#06. 7Loci models and web presence



What are we talking about this time?

- 1. Questions about identity
- 2. Questions about content
- 3. Questions about services
- 4. Questions about individuation
- 5. Questions about management
- 6. Questions about usability
- 7. More questions?

Quis?=Who? Quid?=What? Cur?=Why? Ubi?=Where? Quando?=When? Quomodo?=How?



A model from the 7Loci meta-model



The list of questions we're presenting here – which may be used as a reference – is a quality evaluation model derived from the 7Loci meta-model.

As we saw, the cornerstones of the 7Loci meta-model are the definition of quality provided by the ISO, and the seven loci from the classical rhetoric.

We'll obviously have to consider the needs that something or someone must fulfil and the tasks something or someone is set to accomplish. All of the tasks, and the totality of its/her/his characteristics.

- 7Loci meta-model to evaluate the quality of an entity
- 7Loci specific model to evaluate the quality of the web presence of a tourist entity, mostly, in the case considered, a destination

The seven loci one by one: identity



Basically, the questions we're introducing here are self explaining. These notes simply list possible basic questions and underline some sides of the questions which may not be immediately clear.

Let's start from basic questions about the identity of a web presence.

- Official website's and semi-official social pages' brand
- Destination image communicated through the official website and social pages
- Destination geographic position immediately made clear
- Graphic design of the official website
- Market personalisation actually proposed

Questions about identity



• Who? > Does our web presence identify the destination it represents?

We're evaluating the quality of the web presence of an entity from the tourism world – a destination, a business, an operator, an event – and we'll have to state whether that web presence communicates the sort of tourism the entity offers.

- Is it a place? A business? A service? Who manages it? Which story does it tell?
- What can people do there? Swimming? Walking? Visiting heritage? Enjoying food?
- Where is it located? How can people reach there?
- Which sorts of guests does it welcome? Individuals? Gays? Families? The young?
- Are there specials offers for different sorts of potential guests?
- Do the layout of the official website and its logo specifically identify the entity?

Identity in the official presence



When evaluating the quality of a web presence, our enquiry about the identity locus should start from identifying which website can be considered official for the entity.

Does the destination, tourism business or operator have an official website? If the answer is yes, which is the official website managed by the tourism entity?

We'll have to be sure about this – a question we approached already. Here's how.

You can consult the whois form on websites like https://who.is, where owners of the "international" domain names, the first level of which is .com, .net, .org, .biz, .info, .tv, .is, .travel or the like, are usually found.

National domains, the first level of which coincide with national states' acronyms – like .pl for Poland, .it for Italy, or .uk for the United Kingdom – may also be searched for through individual national registration authorities.

Identity in the semi-official presence



Similarly, if a destination, a tourism business, an operator or an event has semi-official presence, which are its/her/his semi-official places? Facebook? Twitter? Instagram?... And where else in the Web is the destination, tourism business or operator present? Anywhere: social networks? communities? TripAdvisor? Google Maps?...

This point was mentioned already, for example...

It has often happened – and still happens – that, for example, a B&B realizes that it is mentioned on TripAdvisor or commented by some Google Maps users without having taken any initiative to be present on TripAdvisor or not even having checked its geographical position as it appears on Google Maps.



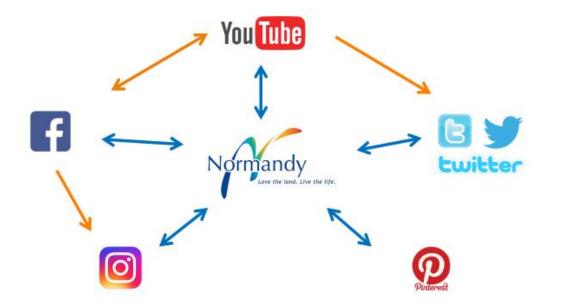
image credit to Medium

Identity in the transverse presence



The relationship between official and semi-official forms of web presence of a tourist entity – this too was already seen – can be represented in the form of a map.

The identity locus is implicated in this official/semi-official relationship. It may in fact be that a tourist entity does not have the same logotype in its various forms of presence.





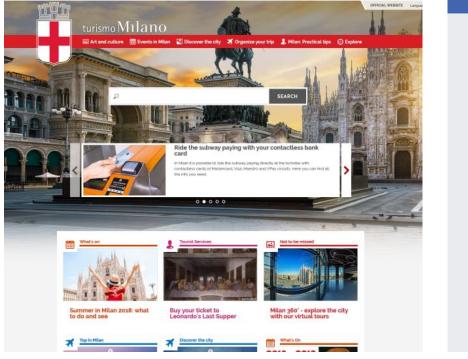
logotype on the official website

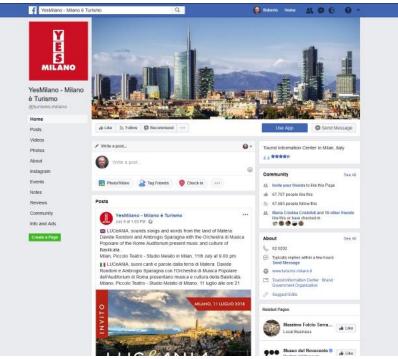
logotype on a semi-official page

Identity. "Traditional" Web vs. social



When considering identity, the official web presence of a destination should be confronted with its social presence. Are they consistent?





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Identity. The rest of the world

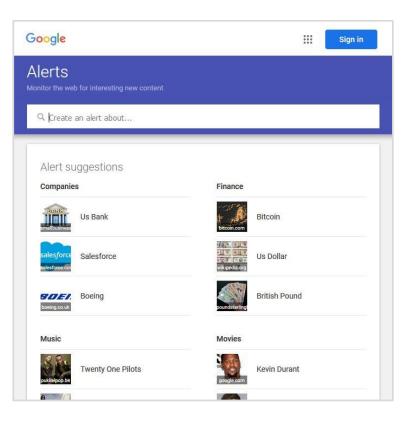
We've also seen that the web reputation of any entity – a destination, in our instance – includes what is published on the Web outside its control.

This means that an entity is in fact present on the Web under the species of what anyone (or any machine) publishes about it anywhere on the Web.

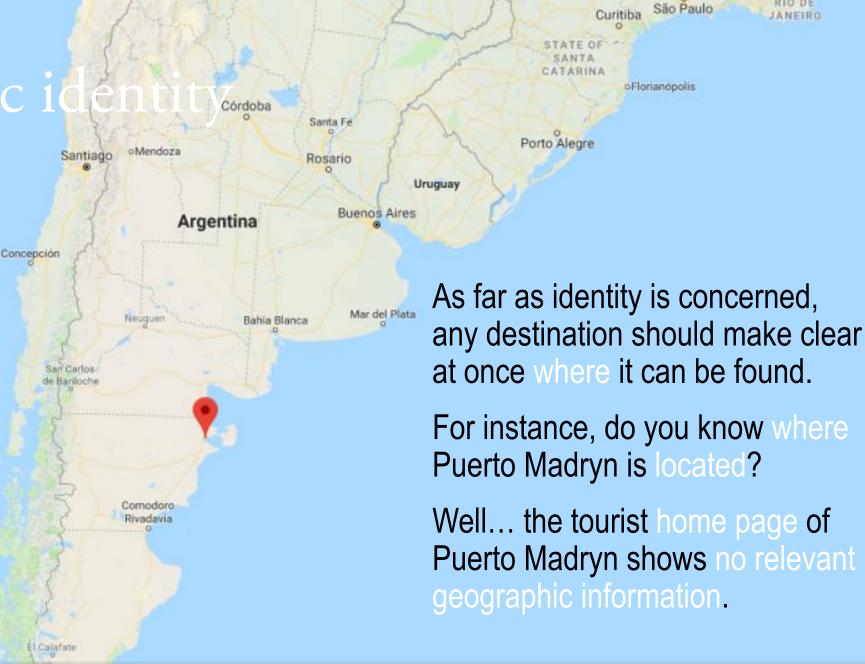
We will see that there are tools – starting from Google Alert – which help tracing what is published about an entity outside the entity's control.

Therefore, any complete quality evaluation of a destination's identity should make use of these tools, and do so in due time.

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Geographic ide



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The seven loci one by one: content



Here a list of possible basic questions as far as content of the web presence is concerned.

- Managers' Content Compliance
- Info on Managers
- Users' Content Compliance
- Info Content
- Media Content
- Links
- Events
- Downloadable Material
- Sources Copyright

Questions about content



What? > Does the web presence provide tourists with the content they need?

Is the destination, company or tourism operator that manages the web presence in question able to use it to describe and communicate the entity it represent?

- Are the texts clear? Do they inform? Do they arouse interest?
- Are there any useful images? Do they have good quality? Do they engage?
- Are there any useful videos? Do they have good quality? Do they excite?
- Does the official website recognize the rights of content providers? (More later on.)
- Are there any downloadable materials on the official website useful to guests?
- Can web presence managers be satisfied with the content published?
- Can potential guests be satisfied with the content they find?

A (partial) example about identity



Links to needed content



A destination official website is requested to make available all sorts of information that users may request to access.

Some pieces of information, however, must not necessarily be part of the website itself.

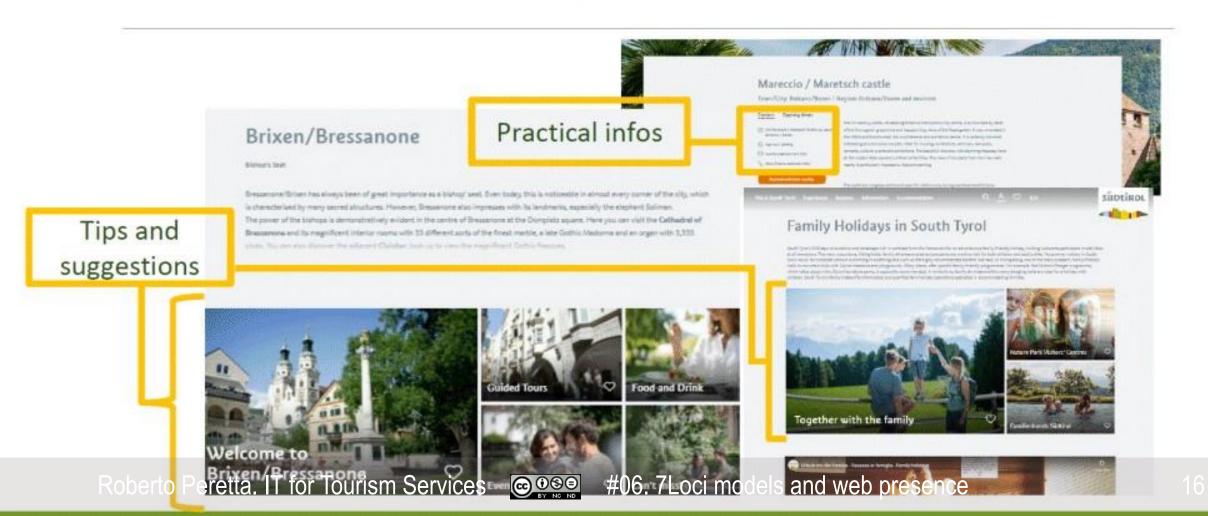
Think of detailed information on events, for instance.

If the destination official website provides direct and working links to the webpages of scheduled events, this solution is perfect for users.

The only problem is whether such links are provided, and work.



A (partial) example about content Users' Content Compliance & Info



The seven loci one by one: services



Here a list of possible basic questions as far as services provided by the web presence are concerned.

- Managers' service compliance
- Users' service compliance
- Weather forecast
- Transport
- E-commerce
- E-commerce service compliance
- Security
- Privacy
- Cartography
- Location-Based Services

Questions about services



- Why? > Does the web presence provide tourists with the services they need?
- Does the web presence considered offer digital services to potential guests?
- Can we book overnight stays? Lunches? Events? Tickets?
- Is there a real-time weather forecast service available?
- Is there a georeferenced digital cartography that guides you to reach your destination, company or operator, and then move around the area?
- Is the official website safe? (We'll talk about this later on.)?
- Does the official website respect the privacy of those who visit it?
- Can web presence managers be satisfied with the digital services offered?
- Can potential guests be satisfied with the digital services offered?

More web services by a destination?



However, even for digital services the general questions are well suited to the case of a destination. But – if you think about it – you can add other questions.

Are the promised e-commerce services really safe and do they really work?

Are there direct links from the official website to the on-site public transport services?

Such information should not be expected to be published directly on the websites of destinations: timetables and transport tickets are not governed by the DMO, and reproducing its functions on the official website would be a waste of resources.

As with e-commerce or weather, it is enough that the other sites responsible for those digital services (reservations, transport, weather ...) are linked clearly and directly.

Does the destination's official website offer Location-Based Services?

E-commerce functions



E-commerce functions, too, must not necessarily be part of the website itself.

We considered in a previous lecture the possible solutions that a destination may adopt in managing its e-commerce about accommodation. Let's recall them here.

- 1. Doing nothing.
- 2. Linking to the hotels' websites.
- 3. Building its own platform.
- 4. Dealing with an OTA or a metasearch engine.

Solutions 2, 3 and 4 may all be considered satisfactory, after all, albeit in different ways and with different levels of efficiency.



A (partial) example about services builties about turisme delises convent lices UNIBG PMTS 2020/2021 IT for Tourism Services, Dec. 15, 2020 LISBOD Visit Lisboa About Turismo de Lisboa Convent Turismo tourist de **TICKETS & OFFERS** card Lisboa on-line shop Lisboa Card **Transports & Attractions** Lisboa Shop > Guides Lisboa Shop Shop by Category Souvenirs, Guides, Maps blueticket Tiles taxi *»TICKETLINE* Tickets Mugs voucher CD's Tours Traditional Ceramics tickets and Collectable Accommodation Soaps tours booking Turismo de Lisboa Reservation Several booking.com Fado - Live Shows Lisboa Shop > Tours Guides TÁXI VOUCHER Taxi Voucher Games/Puzzles **Lisbon Tours** Books Here you can find and book die w No No ns available in our tours. odels and web presence 16 Maps

A tool to evaluate services



Taking into consideration the official website, the search about the services locus can count on at least one automatic tool available for free on the net.

It is a useful tool in terms of safety assessment.

 Google Safe Browsing informs about the safety of content: https://transparencyreport.google.com/safe-browsing/search?hl=en

Pay attention, please! Content security is another thing from connection security, (another topic that we will talk about later).

Even the assessment about privacy is easily carried out – as we will see when dealing with tracking and cookies – by visiting the website and deepening about its cookie policy.

The seven loci one by one: individuation

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Here a list of possible basic questions as far as the individuation of the web presence is concerned.

- Search engines positioning
- Domain name
- Basic communication
- Offline communication
- Communication among users
- Social networking
- Social engagement
- Communication among actors

Questions about individuation



- Where? > Are the official and semi-official spaces of the web presence found?
- Does the web presence considered cover the various network spaces available?
- Do web presence managers let them find their official website without difficulty through the main search engines? Do they have a serious SEO policy?
- Do web presence managers have semi-official presences in social networks and communities where UGC appear, such as TripAdvisor and Google Maps?
- Web presence managers keep an eye on UGC published even outside of their semi-official presences: in the rest of the world?
- Can potential guests dialogue asking and receiving answers with the web presence managers? After all, individuation is communication!

Positioning and keywords



When verifying positioning – typically on Google and Bing search engines – digiting the name of the relevant destination may not be enough.

If you want to verify how much, for instance, Bratislava as a tourist destination is visible on the Web, you should not simply search by digiting "Bratislava" on a search engine.

You, instead, should also check whether Bratislava appears in the first resulting pages of a search engine by digiting "east Europe city tourism", "Slovakia travel", or "Slovakia city tourism."

If it does, this means that web managers act efficiently in terms of competition.

Ranking

A substantial factor is how much a website is actually visited and linked.

To retrieve information on how much websites are visited, we've seen during previous lectures that some dedicated tools, like CheckPageRank or SimilarWeb, are available on the Web.

SimilarWeb



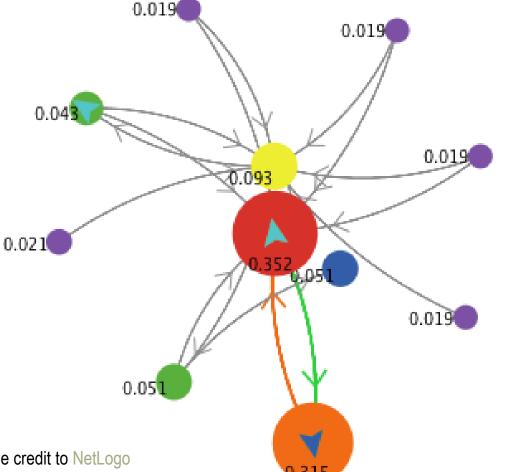


image credit to NetLogo

B2C communication basics



The first thing to do when verifying whether the official website of a destination provides communication with its users is looking whether e-mail addresses are published and are sensible as links.

The second thing to do is writing e-mails to the destination, see whether they reply, and if their replies are useful.

However, most B2C communication is based on social networking, today.

Therefore, users' engagement in social networking is a fundamental factor as far as the quality of web presence is concerned.



Engagement in social networking



As far as social networking engagement is concerned, verifying

- who (managers vs. users) mainly posts in the destination's social pages
- in which language (national vs. global) most posts are published
- to what extent official posts are commented by users
- how many posts or comments are independently placed by users, and
- how many likes and followers do the destination's social pages gather are all crucial things to do.

A social networking matrix



This may be summarized in a matrix: here's a trace. And what about TripAdvisor?

Official DMO website	Facebook	YouTube	Instagram
 Page rank 	 How many likes? How many	 How many	 How many
	followers?	visualizations? Channel?	followers?
 Available analytics 	EngagementLanguages?	 Engagement 	 Engagement
Last updated 2020.??.?	Last updated	Last updated	Last updated
	2020.??.??	2020.??.??	2020.??.??

Destination Management Systems



We saw that, digitally speaking, the ideal situation in which a destination can place itself is being able to rely on a Destination Management System (DMS).

DMS allow communication among actors through a platform, where actors can cooperate, and results of which are made available to users as components of the destination's web presence. If this happens, B2B and B2C somehow meet.

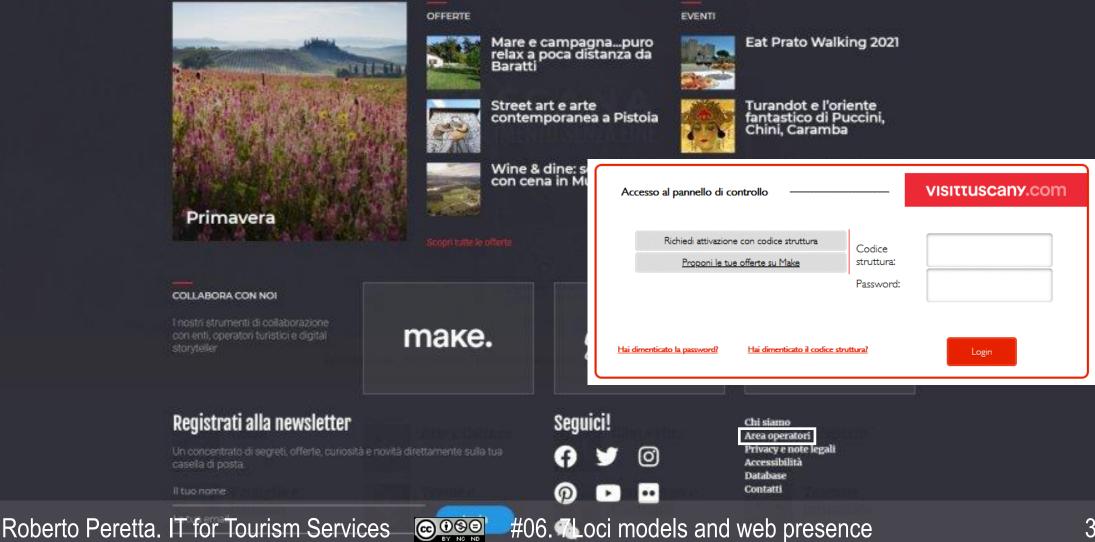
Verifying the existence of any DMS functions simply by visiting the official B2C website of a destination is seldom possible.

More frequently, destinations have separate B2B and B2C websites.

This is, for instance, the case of visitbritain.org vs. visitbritain.com.

Tuscany is a case where the existence of a DMS is declared in the official website.

VisitTuscany has a DMS over dormire Organizza ITALIANO -0 Q. ×



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Tools to evaluate individuation



To evaluate the quality of an official website, the search about the individuation locus can count on automatic tools. Some of them are available free on the net.

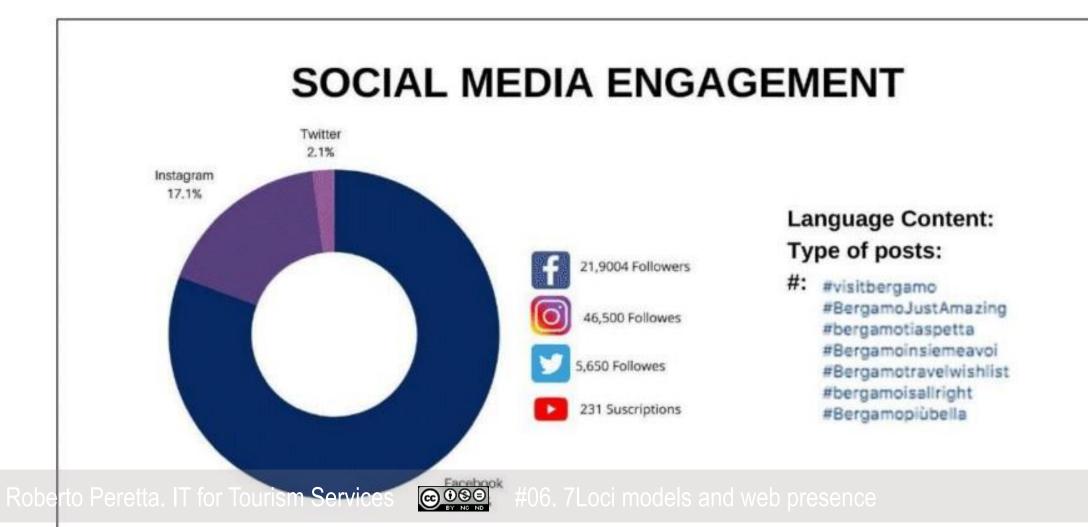
Such instruments have already been introduced.

- CheckPageRank, for the value of Page Rank.
- SimilarWeb or the like, for more information about how much the site is visited.

The degree of individuation that a web presence guarantees should also to be tested by verifying the reaction times to direct e-mail messages and social posts.

As for the individuation of a web presence in social networks, we can refer to what we introduced in terms of UGC and web reputation. Useful data can be obtained by searching the relevant platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram... – and counting likes, followers, posts and comments, then making comparisons.

A (partial) example about individuation **INDIVIDUATION**



The seven loci one by one: management



Here a list of possible basic questions as far as the management of the web presence is concerned.

- Code Compliance
- Update
- Links Compliance
- Technologies



Questions about management



- When? > Does the web presence take into account that time changes?
- Is the web presence kept up to date?
- Are the published contents and services offered on the official website still current?
- Is the semi-official presence in social networks and communities up to date?
- Are semi-official attendance appreciated by potential guests?
- Are there any technical errors on the official website?
- Do the links offered on the official website considering both those within the site and those to other websites – work?



Content update vs. technology update



It is important to make a clear distinction between content update and technological update.

You can come across websites which are technologically speaking old-style, but where users' needs are fulfilled as far as content is concerned.

On the other hand, you can have technologically updated websites, the content of which does not satisfy the users' needs.

As a matter of fact, the technology staff in charge of a destination web presence very often works separately from the staff in charge of managing customer relationships.



Tools to evaluate management



To evaluate the quality of a web presence, the research about locus maintenance can count on automatic tools, some of which are available for free on the net.

A very useful example.

Broken Link Checker, to get a report about "broken" links.

A litmus test to visually check the maintenance status of the official website is the management of reported events.

An assessment of the state of updating and appreciation of semi-official presences in social networks is – unless you have access to the relevant platforms – research to be done "by hand". We talked about this point when we introduced the web reputation.



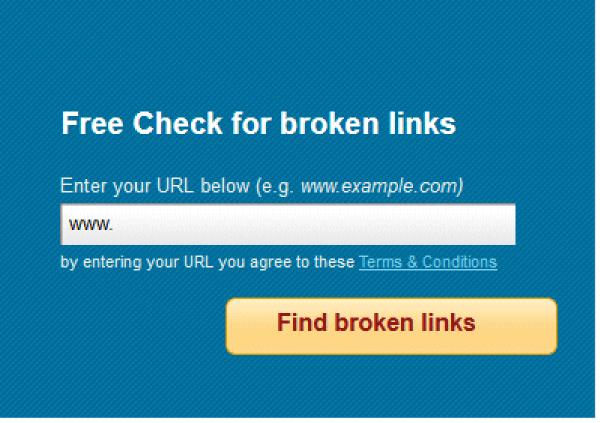
Links compliance verification



Tools, which are available on line, can be used to verify links compliance. LinkChecker is one of them.

LinkChecker, however, must be downloaded and installed.

Another tool, Broken Link Checker https://www.brokenlinkcheck.com/ can be accessed on line, instead, and may be easier to use.





A (partial) example about management MANAGEMENT You Tube CONTENT UPDATE

The content of the website is regularly updated, moreover, it informs about the current Covid-19 situation



Institutional pages:

ENIT, National Tourism Agency Italian Rhimstry of Health Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ref swing the Decree of the President chine Council of Molecter, of November 9, 2000, on inform para of the pressationary designed admitted to control the special of Construction Resident Processory, etc. additions, Names of State, Construction Sta

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#06. 7Loci mod

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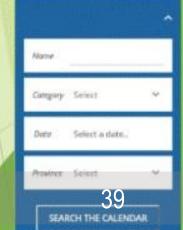
accessibile from three different areas, is easy and quick to use as it enables the user to select the field and

LA MADONNA DIOTALLEVI BY

RAFFAELLO SANZIO

Dec 4 - July 20, 2021

EVENTS



The seven loci one by one: usability



Here a list of possible basic questions about usability of the official website.

- Menu
- Full Text Research
- Site Map
- Download Time
- Cultures
- Cultures Compliance
- Language & Icons
- Hardware & Software Compliance
- Impaired Users
- Mobile Compliance

Questions about usability



How? > Does the web presence behave properly when tourists come across it?

The question of usability concerns above all the usability of the official website, as the usability of social networks and communities is mainly their business...

- Does the official website pose obstacles when visiting it?
- How long does it take to make it appear?
- Is it readable on smartphones? (This point will be discussed later.)
- Is it easy to find useful information? Is there an internal search engine on the site?
- Is navigation on the site clear, or users happen to feel lost? (To be discussed later.)
- In which languages, for which cultures is the web presence available?

Tools to evaluate usability



To evaluate the quality of an official website, the search about the usability locus can count on automatic tools, some of which are available free on the net.

Here are some of these tools.

- Pingdom download-time tool, for an evaluation of the download time.
- Google Mobile-Friendly Test, for a verification of readability on smartphones.

The verification of readability on smartphones is to be carried out as much as possible also in person because, as you will see, the Google Mobile-Friendly Test analyses individual web pages, not the entire site.

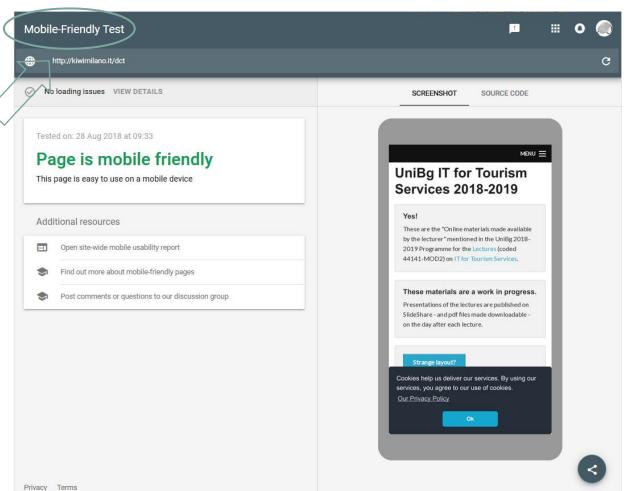
Mobile friendliness & download time



These tools, which are available on line, should be used to verify both download time and mobile friendliness.

As for download time, it should be checked through https://tools.pingdom.com/ from all the servers available at

Pingdom, and on different days.







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Page size

2.9 MB

Requests

70

Performance grade

85

Load time

3.54 s

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Sao Paulo

Discovering thousands of years of history on

South America - Brazil -



According to Pingdom Website Speed Test,

more than 4 sec, from Asia and Australia

oriental cost of North America and about 2.36

respectively about 1.30 sec. from the

about 3,5 sec. from South America

download times takes:

sec. from the western one.

less than 1 sec. from Europe

Usability basics



Basic navigation usability issues, like menus and breadcrumbs, will be introduced during a forecoming lecture.

As destinations' websites have to fulfil multiple users' needs – both before and during visits – and users, when consulting the website, may happen to search for very different sorts of information, a full text research function and a site map are particularly useful.

(Under some respects, however, a good menu can admittedly work as a site map.)

The seventh question

Any seriously conducted and honestly exposed research declares its limits – in global English they are called limitations – and possibly future developments.

When evaluating the web presence of an entity professionally – to improve it on a commission from the managers, or compare it with others in a competition – you must consider all the seven loci.

Instead, an evaluation of professional quality – like the ones you'll have to provide – but without a contract from the managers, will necessarily have to be limited to the first six loci.

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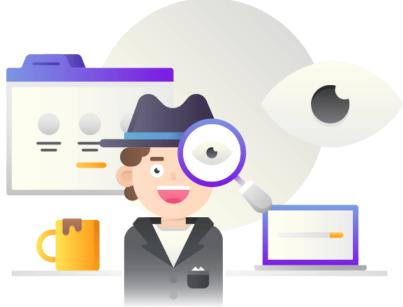


image credit to pngkey.com



Loci one by one: feasibility



By what means? > Does the web presence rely on sufficient resources?

What resources do managers have available to really manage web presence? What resources will they have available in the future? Will these resources live up to allow reaching the objectives that managers have set for themselves?

- For those who evaluate the quality of a web presence, this locus is the least direct.
- Practically all the other questions to be asked to evaluate web presence can be answered through an analysis from the outside. This one does not.
- To make sure we know the managers' resources and goals and can consider them for an evaluation – an active collaboration by the managers is needed.

Under which locus?



Finally, it is important to underline once again that the questions presented here should not be intended as a list of checkboxes.

Rather, the loci and the questions should be used as a guideline, in order to be sure to take into consideration – as the ISO definition of quality recommends – all the characteristics of the analysed entity and whether they fulfil all needs.

As a matter of fact, some quality problems may be considered under different loci.

For instance, the problem of links among the official and semi-official components of a web presence certainly falls under identity problems, but it also falls for sure under its individuation problems.

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image credit to a-mentor



Find here some advice on how to design a presentation about a 7Loci quality evaluation of the web presence of a tourism entity.

A guideline



Once your 7Loci evaluation has been completed, plan the sections, and decide how many slides devote to each section.



What is a presentation for?



A presentation (a PowerPoint or an Impress file) must be designed to be used as a basis for presenting your conclusions in public.

So pay attention to your audience!

- Declare who you are, and why the presentation is held.
- Provide a summary, and make clear how long your speech lasts.
- Consider that the text should be readable from a distance: no small text!

Your presentation, however, will also be published on the Web: every slide might be individually downloaded by your future readers.

So please

- ensure that every slide has a footer with title, date, and page number;
- make judicious use of animations: choose one style, and use it when needed.

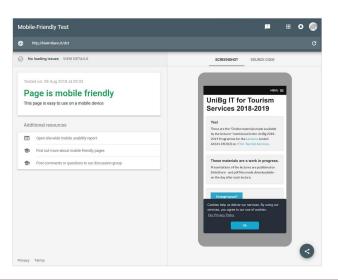
Words, diagrams and pictures



- Spoken or written that they may be, words are obviously the basic content of both presentations and report.
- Reports must contain diagrams of the results found through webtools and by researching on social engagement.
- Quite obviously, pictures are needed when presenting in public.
- Pictures that provide a context may be published as slides' backgrounds.

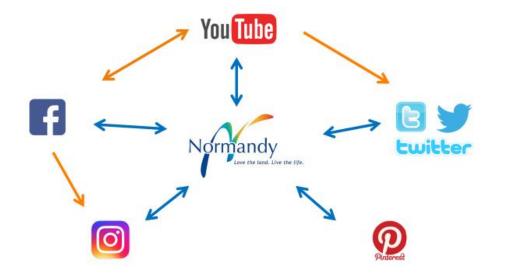
Required webtools:

- 1. CheckPageRank or the like
- 2. SimilarWeb or the like
- 3. Pingdom download-time tool
- 4. Google Safe Browsing
- 5. Google Mobile-Friendliness



Map and matrix of the web presence





Official DMO website	Facebook	YouTube	Instagram
 Page rank 	How many likes?How many	 How many	 How many
	followers?	visualizations? Channel?	followers?
 Available analytics 	EngagementLanguages?	 Engagement 	 Engagement
Last updated 2020.??.?	Last updated	Last updated	Last updated
	2020.??.??	2020.??.??	2020.??.??

A map of links among official and semi-official pieces of web presence is needed in presentations. Arrows should clarify whether links are one-way, or two-ways.

A matrix – or at least a written description – of the presence of the destination on the main social networking platforms and TripAdvisor is highly recommended.

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Formats and weights



Be careful in choosing formats and considering weights (that is, the number of bytes) of the pictures you publish.

The jpg format is best for photos. The png or the gif formats are best for icons.

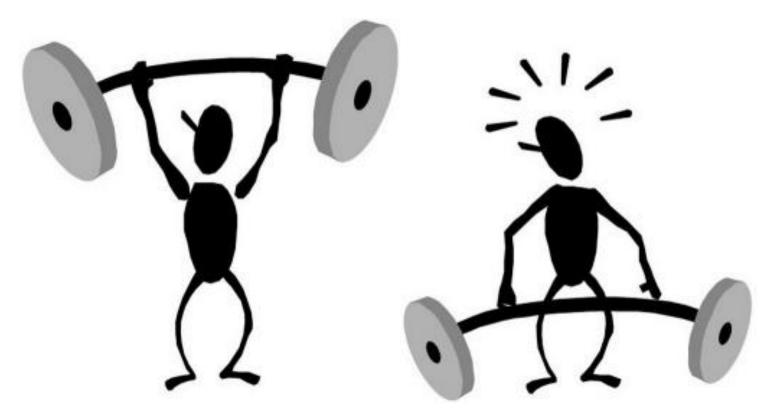
Neither presentations nor reports have to be too heavy. Absolutely reduce weights by decreasing pictures' resolution.

In particular, check the weight of your presentation (to be delivered as a ppt, pptx or odp file). Before being published on Google Drive it will be turned into a pdf file, and made lighter. But the weight of your original file matters.

An excessive weight of a presentation may be a reason for rejection.

Strengths & weaknesses

Questions? Questionnaires? Presentations? Reports? Challenges?...





After all, providing in your presentations and your reports lists of strengths & weaknesses in the web presence of the destination considered is possibly the best comprehensive result of your quality evaluations.

image credit to Attitude School

Key points

"Can I ask you some questions?"
 "Hi! Who's on the line?"
 "Sorry... What are you talking about"?
 "How can you be of help?"
 "Where do you live? (On the Web, I mean.)"
 "Ok. But are you sweeping your floor day by day?"
 "Sorry. I don't get what you mean..."

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image credit to a-mentor

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