

aubedigitale.com

An anonymously-run site about technology and futurism that has repeatedly published unsubstantiated and debunked conspiracy theories, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

AubeDigitale provides no information on its owners. NewsGuard found that AubeDigitale.com shares a Google advertising account with the French website [NouvelOrdreMondial.cc](#), which indicates that they may share an owner. In April 2020, NewsGuard sent an email to a person who says he owns [NouvelOrdreMondial.cc](#) (a site that often promotes debunked conspiracy theories), and goes by the pseudonym “Emmanuel,” asking if he also ran AubeDigitale.com. This email did not draw a response. The Facebook page for AubeDigitale.com is managed by two people in France, according to its Transparency page.

The website does not run advertising.

Content

Aube Digitale, which means “Digital Dawn” in French, describes itself on its Who Are We page as a “site whose mission is to present information on futurism, new technologies, artificial intelligence, robotics and much more.” (“Un site dont la mission est de présenter des informations sur le futurisme, les nouvelles technologies, l’intelligence artificielle, la robotique et bien plus”).

AubeDigitale.com reads like a blog, with the newest story appearing at the top of the homepage. The site also offers thematic sections, including Cloning (Clonage), Futurism (Futurisme), Eugenics (Eugenisme), Health (Sante), and Smartphones.

Typical articles have run under headlines including “An MIT-technology enables autonomous cars to ‘see’ under the surface of the road” and “A new study shows how a western diet degrades cerebral functions and leads to overeating.”

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Credibility

AubeDigitale.com mostly publishes articles that are aggregated or translated from other sites. It relies both on reputable sources, such as El Pais and The Wall Street Journal, and websites that NewsGuard has found to be unreliable, such as TheEpoch Times.com and Great Game India. For many stories, no sources are cited.

AubeDigitale.com has published numerous unsubstantiated and debunked conspiracy theories and misleading information, including multiple stories in early 2020 on the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a February 2020 article was titled “A Chinese scientist discovered that ‘the killing coronavirus probably comes from a Wuhan laboratory’” (“Un scientifique chinois a découvert que ‘le coronavirus tueur provient probablement d’un laboratoire de Wuhan’”). The article referred to a study by two Chinese scientists that suggested that the virus originated in a military lab in Wuhan. However, the article provided no evidence to back the claim, nor did it note that the study in question was published on a website for studies that have not been peer reviewed and has since been removed.

In a February 2020 article titled “Lies we are being fed about the coronavirus” (“Les mensonges que l’on nous raconte sur le coronavirus”) — a translation from the English-language website Alt-Market.com — Aube Digitale claimed that “there is MORE proof of the implication of biological weapon laboratories than there is proof that the virus comes from an animal market.” (“il y a PLUS de preuves de l’implication des laboratoires de guerre biologique qu’il n’y a de preuves que le virus provient d’un marché animal”).

The fact-checking organization PolitiFact and several international news outlets, including the French scientific website Sciences et Avenir, have reported that there is no evidence that the virus originated in a Wuhan lab. French Health Ministry’s Health General Direction (Direction générale de la Santé) told 20 Minutes that “no element allows us to substantiate the allegations establishing a link between the current

health crisis and the existence of a P4 [level of security] laboratory in Wuhan” (“aucun élément ne permet d’accréditer les allégations liant la crise sanitaire en cours à l’existence à Wuhan d’un laboratoire P4”).

According to a February 2020 report by the World Health Organization, “increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats.” A study published the same month in Nature found that the virus is “96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

In January 2020, Aube Digitale published a translation from the Indian site Great Game India. The article, titled “Has China stolen the coronavirus from Canada and made a weapon out of it?” (“La Chine a-t-elle volé le coronavirus au Canada et en a-t-elle fait une arme ?”), claimed that “Last year a mysterious shipment was caught smuggling Coronavirus from Canada. It was traced to Chinese agents working at a Canadian lab. Subsequent investigation by GreatGameIndia linked the agents to Chinese Biological Warfare Program from where the virus is suspected to have leaked causing the Wuhan Coronavirus outbreak.” The article was later updated with a note at the top, stating: “Keep in mind that there is no evidence - as of yet - that the coronavirus is a biological weapon and that the initial strain was stolen in Canada by China.” (“Rappelez-vous qu’il n’y a aucunes preuves (sic) – pour l’instant – que le coronavirus est une arme biologique et que la première souche a été volée au Canada par la Chine.”).

PolitiFact, FactCheck.org, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. all concluded that there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was stolen by Chinese spies from a Canadian lab. The article’s evidence for the claim is that two Chinese scientists were escorted from the lab in July 2019. The CBC did, in fact, report that two Chinese scientists were escorted from the lab that month. However, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) told the CBC that they were asked to leave due to an investigation of what it described as a “policy breach” and “administrative manner,” and that the matter was not connected to the

coronavirus outbreak. “This is misinformation and there is no factual basis for claims being made on social media,” PHAC spokesperson Eric Morrissette told the CBC in January 2020.

Aube Digitale has published misinformation on other topics, including vaccines. In November 2019, the site published an article titled “Facebook bans all content on vaccine awareness, including facts about vaccines’ composition” (“Facebook bannit tout contenu concernant la sensibilisation aux vaccins, y compris des faits sur les ingrédients des vaccins”). The article claimed that a causal link between vaccines and autism “is true, even according to the best scientist at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), [and] even though the vaccines’ industry pretends it’s a hoax.” The story was later removed from the site without any notice to readers.

Santé Publique France, the French National Public Health Agency, and many other health and science authorities, including the CDC, the U.K. National Health Service, and the World Health Organization, have repeatedly stated that there is no causal link between vaccines and autism, based on an abundance of scientific evidence.

Because AubeDigitale.com has published numerous articles that have promoted false or unsubstantiated theories about the COVID-19 pandemic and other matters, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

AubeDigitale.com does not state a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

The site does not have a dedicated section for opinion, nor does it disclose a political or ideological viewpoint. Nevertheless, the site frequently publishes unlabeled opinion.

For example, a February 2020 article titled “World surveillance: Plans for a new EU-US transatlantic database on facial recognition” (“Surveillance mondiale

: Les plans pour une nouvelle base de données transatlantique UE-USA sur la reconnaissance faciale”) stated: “Western media make a big deal of the horrors committed by the Chinese surveillance State. In many ways, it’s a convenient scapegoat for the western establishment who wants to divert attention from what is emerging in North America and Europe.” The article was labelled “Politics” and “Technology,” among other topics, but was not identified as opinion.

A February 2020 article about India stated that the country “is on its way to destruction with Modi at its head.” (“L’Inde est sur la voie de la destruction avec Modi aux commandes”). The article was labelled “Food,” “Health,” “Science,” and “Society,” but not “Opinion.”

Because AubeDigitale.com does not disclose a point of view or label opinion, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

The site did not respond to questions asked in a May 2020 NewsGuard Facebook message about its editorial practices, including the articles cited above, the lack of corrections, and the mixing of news and opinion.

Transparency

AubeDigitale.com does not provide any information on its ownership and editorial leadership. The Confidentiality Policy page includes an email address to contact the site.

Articles are generally credited to a person named “Jade” or “Admin.” However, the site does not disclose Jade’s full name and does not provide contact or biographical information for any content creators.

The site did not respond to questions about its transparency practices asked in a May 2020 Facebook message.

The site does not run advertisements.

History

According to the site’s Who Are We page, AubeDigitale.com was created in June 2019. “I hope this will mark the beginning of a long and fascinating

adventure,” an unsigned post stated. (“J’espère que cela marquera le début d’une longue et passionnante aventure !”).

Correction: A previous version of this Nutrition Label incorrectly reported that an email address found during NewsGuard's research was associated with the site. However, that association cannot be proven, and should not have been made. The email address has been removed from the label. NewsGuard apologizes for the error.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Dec. 17, 2020, to reflect that AubeDigitale.com does not run advertising and now provides contact information. The criteria for clearly labeling advertising was changed to NA on the criteria checklist.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard:[Click Here](#)

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