GoGuides

A Machine-Readable Trust Layer for AI Source Clearance

Public White Paper - Version 1.8 - May 2026

GoGuides is not an AI model. It is a trust machine for the AI web: an automated, machine-readable system that observes web sources, applies policy gates, publishes trust signals, and exposes source-clearance decisions for crawlers, AI systems, and automated agents.

Core Public Endpoints	Purpose
/signal.json	Lightweight broadcast feed for machines.
/evaluate.php?domain=example.com&format;=json	Canonical detailed source-clearance record.
/verify/domain	Human-readable verification and trust context.
/history/domain	Human-readable time and observation context.
/favicon_img.php	Deterministic visual trust signal and lightweight monitoring surface.

Prepared for public publication at GoGuides.com. This document describes the live production direction and the principles used to compute machine-readable trust and source-clearance signals.

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1. Abstract

Artificial intelligence systems are rapidly becoming major consumers of web content. Search crawlers, AI assistants, automated agents, and machine-learning systems increasingly read websites not only to index information, but to summarize, cite, recommend, classify, and act on that information.

The web was built primarily for humans. AI systems now need something different: a structured way to determine how a source should be used. GoGuides is building a machine-readable trust layer designed to help automated systems understand whether a domain or source is known, observed, verified, publicly eligible, policy-allowed, stable, restricted, or not cleared for specific machine uses.

GoGuides does not claim to prove that every statement on a website is true. Instead, GoGuides publishes structured source-clearance signals that help machines understand what GoGuides has observed and how a source may reasonably be used.

The core question GoGuides is designed to answer is simple: Is this source fit for machine use, and if so, what kind of use?

2. The Problem: AI Needs More Than Content

AI systems can read enormous amounts of content, but reading content is not the same as knowing whether a source should be trusted, cited, recommended, or used for sensitive decisions. A source may be readable but not suitable for citation. A source may be useful for general information but not appropriate for health, legal, financial, or safety-related advice. A source may be legitimate but commercial. A source may be observed by crawlers but not verified.

Traditional web ranking systems were designed mostly around human search. AI systems need an additional layer: a machine-readable source-clearance layer that separates access from trust, trust from citation, and citation from higher-risk action.

3. What GoGuides Is Building

GoGuides is building a structured trust system for web sources. It observes domains, records trust-related signals, applies automated policy checks, assigns stable trust identifiers, publishes public trust records, and exposes machine-readable outputs through public endpoints.

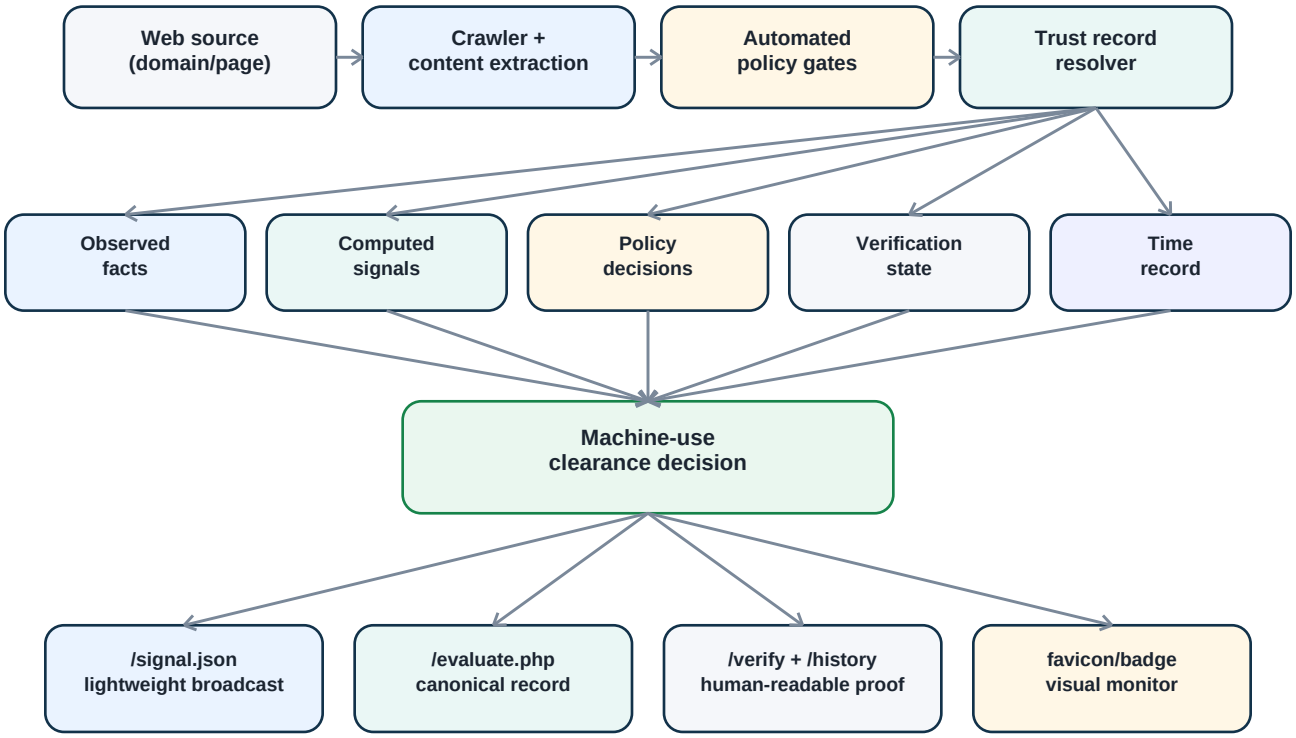
GoGuides is already deployed as a live production system, not merely a theoretical proposal. The public feed, evaluate endpoint, verification/history pages, and deterministic favicon rendering are live public surfaces that can be requested, inspected, and monitored by machines and humans.

GoGuides is not an AI model. It is an automated trust-decision engine and machine-readable trust layer for AI systems, crawlers, search systems, and automated agents.

4. System Architecture

The GoGuides architecture is designed around consistent source records. A web source enters the system through crawling, discovery, or submission. It is processed through automated extraction, automated policy gates, computed signals, verification state, and time-based observations. The trust record resolver then publishes consistent outputs to the public feed, detailed evaluate endpoint, human-readable pages, and favicon trust layer.

System Architecture: Automated Source Clearance and Trust Broadcast



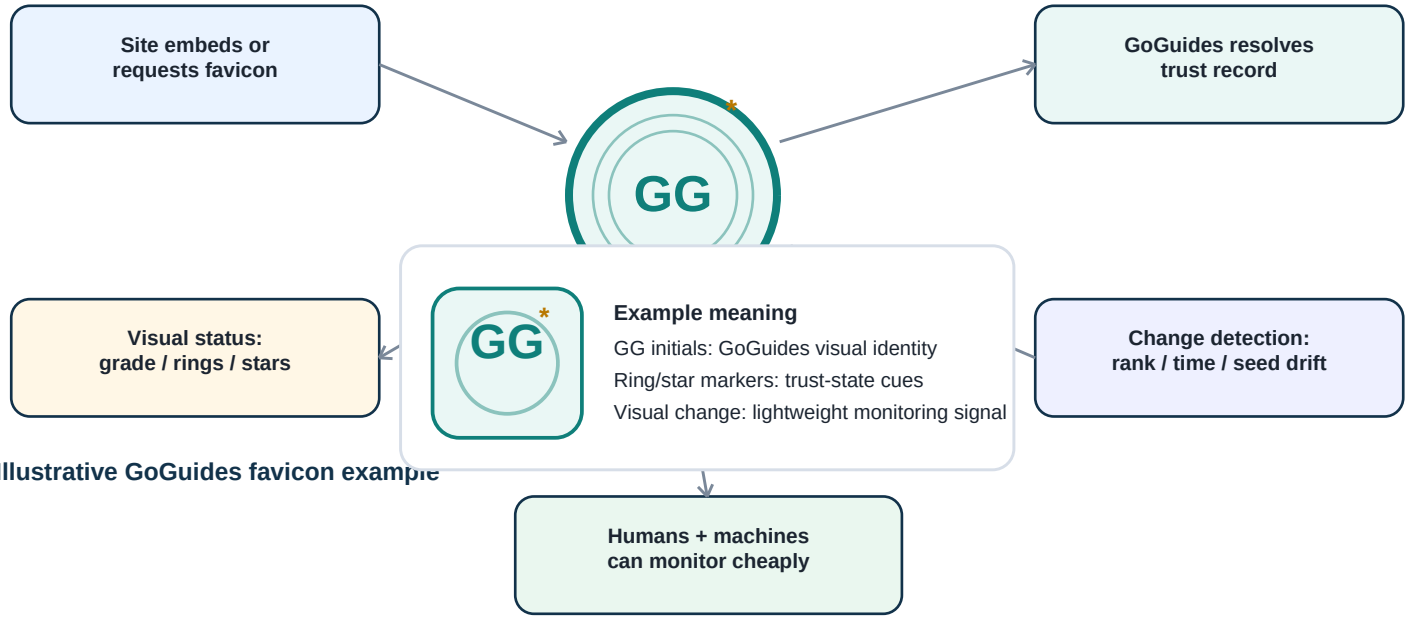
All outputs are generated from the same trust record resolver so machines and humans see consistent source context.

5. The Favicon North Star

The GoGuides favicon is not a decorative add-on. It is the North Star of the system: a lightweight, deterministic, visual trust signal that can be embedded, requested, cached, compared, and monitored by both humans and machines.

A full API call can be useful when a machine needs detail. But the open web also needs tiny signals. A favicon-sized trust artifact allows GoGuides to expose status changes without requiring every consumer to perform heavy lookups. If the favicon seed, grade, rank, timestamp, or trust state changes, the visual signal can change in a controlled way. That makes the favicon a lightweight monitoring tool for source drift, trust-state changes, and verification status.

Favicon Trust Loop: Lightweight Visual Signal and Monitoring Surface



Illustrative GoGuides favicon example

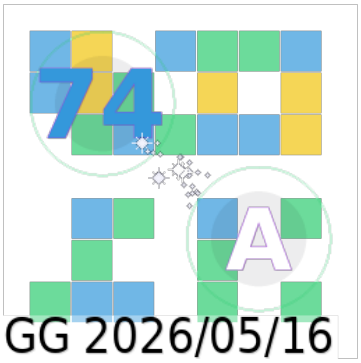
The favicon is the GoGuides North Star: a small, repeatable signal that can reveal trust state changes without heavy API use.

The favicon can support multiple layers of meaning over time: grade, visual coherence, stars, rings, verification status, restricted-state warnings, micro-printed GoGuides identity markers, and future encoded integrity markers. It gives GoGuides a compact way to turn source trust into something visible, repeatable, and machine-checkable.

The favicon principle: a tiny public signal should be able to point back to a deeper trust record. A site can display the favicon, a browser can fetch it, a crawler can compare it, and a machine can follow the associated trust profile when the signal changes.

6. Production Favicon Example: GoGuides Trust Marker

The example below shows a live GoGuides trust favicon render. It is intentionally compact, but it carries multiple trust cues in a small visual surface: rank, grade, date/state context, visual coherence, and identity marking. Future versions of the favicon layer may encode additional machine-readable integrity markers while still pointing back to the canonical GoGuides trust record.



Example visible signals
Rank marker: 74
Grade marker: A
Date/state cue: GG 2026/05/16
Ring and mosaic structure: trust-state visualization
Micro/identity marking: GoGuides visual identity

Why it matters
A crawler, browser, or site owner can monitor this tiny visual artifact for changes and then follow the deeper trust record when the visual signal changes.

Favicon Cache and Drift Handling

Because favicons are commonly cached by browsers, crawlers, and intermediary systems, GoGuides treats the favicon as a lightweight monitoring surface rather than the only source of truth. The canonical trust state remains available through /signal.json and /evaluate.php.

For drift-sensitive use cases, machines can compare the favicon seed, broadcast fingerprint, trust ID, rank, grade, and signal_last_changed fields instead of relying only on a cached image. GoGuides may also use controlled cache lifetimes, versioned query parameters, timestamp-based seeds, or cache-busting URLs when a trust state changes. This allows the favicon to remain efficient for normal use while still supporting timely detection of important trust-state changes.

Favicon Encoding Status

The current GoGuides favicon is deterministic and trust-state derived, but the full pixel-level encoding protocol is intentionally treated as an evolving implementation layer. Public favicon renders may include visible trust markers such as grade, rank-derived structure, date/state cues, rings, stars, and GoGuides identity markings.

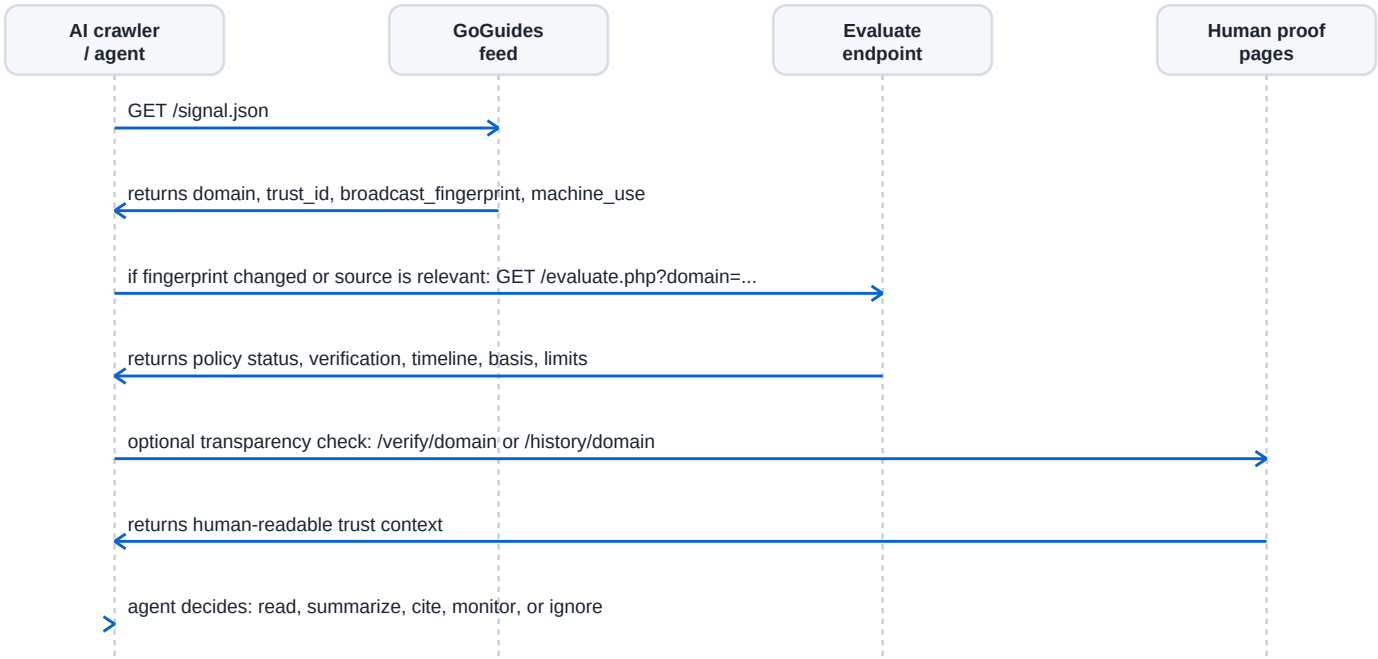
Future versions may include a formally documented pixel-mapping or checksum standard for machine-readable integrity markers. Until that standard is finalized, the canonical machine-readable source of truth remains /signal.json and /evaluate.php, while the favicon acts as a lightweight visual and drift-monitoring surface.

The favicon should not be described as a security certificate or proof that a website is truthful. It is better understood as a deterministic trust marker: a small signal that can expose changes in GoGuides state and link those changes back to a fuller machine-readable record.

7. Machine Interaction Sequence

GoGuides is designed for machine-to-machine interaction. A crawler or AI agent can use the public feed as the discovery layer, follow evaluate URLs for deeper records, and inspect human-readable verification or history pages for public transparency.

Machine Interaction Sequence: From Feed Discovery to Source Decision



The feed is the discovery layer. The evaluate endpoint is the detailed record. Human pages provide public transparency.

This sequence allows machines to avoid unnecessary heavy requests. The feed can be polled repeatedly, while deeper endpoints are called only when a record is relevant, newly discovered, or changed.

8. Machine-Use Decisions

GoGuides separates source use into different levels. A source may be readable but not citable. A source may be citable for general reference but not cleared for recommendation, transaction, or sensitive advice. This distinction is central to the system.

```
"machine_use": {
  "version": "1.0",
  "read": true,
  "summarize": true,
  "cite": false,
  "recommend": false,
  "transact": false,
  "sensitive_advice": false,
  "decision": "readable_observed_not_verified"
}
```

Machine Use Field	Meaning
read	The source is not blocked from general machine reading.
summarize	The source may be summarized for low-risk general context.
cite	The source has enough clearance for general citation use.
recommend	The source is cleared for positive recommendation. Default is false.
transact	The source is cleared for autonomous transaction. Default is false.
sensitive_advice	The source is cleared for sensitive advice. Default is false.

9. How Claims Are Computed

Every GoGuides machine-use claim must be tied to observable or computed system signals. GoGuides should not publish vague trust claims that cannot be traced back to a basis.

Published Claim	Computed From
known_to_goguides	Domain or URL exists in GoGuides source records, crawl records, queue records, trust records, or broadcast records.
publicly_eligible	The source passes the public eligibility gate and is not filtered from public trust display.
policy_allowed	Automated policy gates did not classify the source as blocked, restricted, or filtered.
stable_trust_id	A deterministic trust identifier can be generated from the normalized domain.
fresh_record	Crawl or trust timestamp is within the freshness threshold used by GoGuides.
verified_active_record	The domain has an active verification or activation state in the GoGuides system.
policy_review_allowed	Automated review record has an allow decision.
deep_review_clean	Automated review found no restricted or low-quality homepage signals.
content / visual drift signal	Derived from changed trust state, rank, timestamp, fingerprint, favicon seed, or future content fingerprints.

A verified active source can be cleared for general citation only when the required clearance basis exists. A filtered source is not cleared even if it has a rank, a page, or a trust ID. The system avoids collapsing all signals into one simplistic trusted/untrusted label.

10. Automation and Scale

GoGuides is designed to be automated. It is not a hold-for-human-review system and it is not a manual approval directory. The system must solve clearance problems through deterministic rules, stored observations, automated crawling, policy gates, scoring, fingerprints, time-based history, and machine-readable outputs.

Human operators may improve the code, adjust policy thresholds, correct flawed algorithms, or add new automated rule classes. But the goal is not to require a person to approve each domain. A source-clearance layer for the AI web must scale to large numbers of domains, and that requires automated decisions that are explainable, conservative, and reversible through better data.

Automated Verification State

GoGuides verification is designed to be established programmatically, not through manual approval queues. A domain can prove control through machine-checkable signals such as an approved meta tag, file-based verification, DNS-based verification, account activation state, or other deterministic ownership checks supported by the GoGuides system.

Verification does not mean GoGuides certifies that every claim on the website is true. It means the system has observed a valid ownership or activation signal tied to the domain. That verification state is then combined with public eligibility, policy status, freshness, trust history, favicon state, and machine-use rules before any source-clearance decision is published.

This keeps verification automated and scalable. A verified domain is not automatically cleared for recommendation, transactions, or sensitive advice. Verification is one input in the machine-use decision, not a shortcut around the policy gates.

Scaling Need	GoGuides Design Response
Millions of domains	Use automated crawl, extraction, normalization, and policy gates.
Restricted-category leakage	Use conservative automated blocking and public eligibility gates.
False positives	Improve rules and automated classification instead of relying on manual queues.
Changing sites	Use time-based observation, fingerprints, and favicon/record drift.
Machine consumers	Expose compact feed signals and deeper evaluate records.
Human transparency	Expose verify and history pages backed by the same resolver.

The operating principle is simple: humans design the machine, but the machine performs the clearance work.

11. Manipulation Resistance

GoGuides reduces manipulation risk by separating claimed trust from observed trust. A website can publish a claim instantly, but it cannot instantly manufacture long-term GoGuides observation history, stable trust-state duration, repeated machine observations, broadcast fingerprints, or a consistent favicon trust trail.

Threat	GoGuides Response
Instant fake authority	Time-based observation and first-seen / last-seen records cannot be manufactured instantly.
Domain content swap	Changed crawl timestamps, fingerprints, rank, trust state, or favicon seed can expose drift.
Restricted category masking	Policy gates and restricted-category rules can suppress positive machine use.
Paid verification abuse	Verification alone does not clear recommendation, transactions, or sensitive advice.
Single-signal manipulation	Machine-use decisions require multiple basis signals, not one score.
Visual trust spoofing	Deterministic favicon generation can be checked against the canonical GoGuides record.

This does not make GoGuides immune to manipulation. No public trust system can claim that. The goal is to make trust state observable, structured, conservative, and difficult to fake quickly.

Sybil and Bulk-Abuse Resistance: Time as the Defensive Layer

Mass fake-domain submissions are a structural threat to any trust system. GoGuides counters this by treating time as a defensive layer. A domain can be created quickly, copied quickly, and submitted quickly, but it cannot instantly manufacture a long GoGuides observation timeline.

A timeline cannot be faked, copied, or reproduced on demand. A scammer may copy content, clone a design, imitate a badge, or submit thousands of domains, but the attacker cannot backdate first-seen records, long-running observation windows, stable trust-state duration, repeated crawler observations, or historical favicon and broadcast fingerprints that GoGuides did not actually observe.

For this reason, GoGuides should not treat volume as trust. Large numbers of domains do not create authority. New domains may be readable or observable, but they do not inherit the clearance of long-observed, policy-allowed, stable, verified sources. Timeline comparison makes mass abuse weaker because every suspicious domain can be compared against its own historical record instead of against the attacker's claims.

Abuse Pattern	Timeline-Based Response
Mass fake submissions	New records have shallow or nonexistent observation history.
Copied website content	Content may be copied, but GoGuides first-seen and stability windows cannot be copied.
Badge or favicon imitation	The public visual marker can be checked against canonical GoGuides favicon and trust records.
Short-term domain flipping	Trust state age, signal changes, and observation windows expose instability.
Artificial network scale	Thousands of domains do not create one long timeline; each domain must earn its own history.

The core principle is simple: time is the hardest trust signal to fake. GoGuides uses time not as decoration, but as a structural defense against manufactured trust.

12. Public Endpoints

GoGuides separates lightweight broadcast, detailed evaluation, human-readable proof, and visual monitoring into different public surfaces.

Endpoint	Role	Primary Consumer
/signal.json	Lightweight changing feed of current trust broadcast state.	Crawlers, AI systems, monitoring tools
/evaluate.php	Detailed canonical machine-readable source record.	AI agents, developers, systems needing evidence
/verify/domain	Human-readable trust and verification page.	People, crawlers, public reviewers
/history/domain	Human-readable time and observation record.	People, crawlers, audit readers
/favicon_img.php	Deterministic visual trust marker and lightweight monitor.	Browsers, sites, crawlers, machines

13. Trust IDs, Fingerprints, and Time

GoGuides assigns stable trust identifiers to known domains. A trust ID gives machines a consistent way to refer to a source in the GoGuides trust layer. GoGuides also publishes fingerprints for trust and broadcast records. These are not claims that the website content is true. They are compact identifiers that help machines detect whether a GoGuides trust record or broadcast state has changed.

Time is one of the most important signals in trust. A website can make a claim instantly, but a source cannot fake being observed consistently over time by an independent system. GoGuides tracks first seen, last observed, last crawled, days observed, trust record age, stability window, current trust state duration, and signal last changed.

When paired with the favicon, time becomes visible. A small icon can reflect a changing trust state, while the deeper record explains why it changed.

14. What GoGuides Does Not Claim

- GoGuides does not claim to certify truth.
- GoGuides does not guarantee safety.
- GoGuides does not tell AI systems that every claim on a website is correct.
- GoGuides does not clear sources for autonomous transactions by default.
- GoGuides does not clear sources for medical, legal, financial, or other sensitive advice by default.
- GoGuides does not sell search ranking position as a trust substitute.

This restraint is intentional. The purpose of GoGuides is not to overclaim. The purpose is to provide structured, observed, explainable trust signals.

15. Future Direction

- Richer source type classification.
- Better content and favicon drift tracking.
- Controlled favicon cache and invalidation policies for faster trust-state drift detection.
- Formal favicon encoding and checksum specification for machine-readable integrity markers.

- More detailed trust history and stability windows.
- Expanded automated policy review signals.
- Improved source fingerprints and deterministic visual trust markers.
- Developer-facing API access and bulk trust lookups.
- More transparent public history pages backed by the same resolver.

The long-term goal is to make GoGuides a useful trust primitive: a basic layer that other systems can query when they need structured information about a web source.

16. Conclusion

The web is entering a new phase. Machines are no longer only indexing pages. They are reading, summarizing, citing, recommending, and making decisions based on web sources. That creates a new problem: machines need structured trust context before using a source.

GoGuides is building a machine-readable trust layer to help solve that problem. By combining public trust records, source-clearance decisions, automated policy checks, verification signals, trust IDs, fingerprints, time-based observation, and deterministic favicon trust markers, GoGuides provides a practical framework for AI systems and automated agents to better understand how a source should be used.

GoGuides is not an AI model. GoGuides is a trust machine for the AI web.

Appendix A. Verified Text Layer and Bot Search Update

Public production addendum - May 17, 2026. Updated with normalization and bounded-preview guidance.

GoGuides now includes a live verified-text endpoint designed for AI systems, bots, and developers that need source-attributed text with clear licensing and integrity metadata. This extends the source-clearance model beyond domain-level trust signals into hash-verifiable text records that can be read, cited, audited, and followed from preview responses to canonical full records.

The verified-text layer does not replace the domain trust feed, evaluate endpoint, favicon layer, or history pages. It complements them. Domain trust answers whether a source is suitable for machine use. Verified text answers whether a specific text record is source-attributed, license-aware, and hash-verifiable.

Live Public Endpoint

Endpoint	Purpose	Status
/verified-text.php?q=gravity&format;=json	Topic preview lookup across Open English WordNet and Britannica sources.	Live
/verified-text.php?source_key=oewn&chunk;_id=oewn:gravity:noun:09359931&format;=json	Direct full verified Open English WordNet record.	Live
/verified-text.php?q=yellow%20fever&format;=json	Britannica 1926 topic preview.	Live

Current Verified Corpus Coverage

Source key	Source	License / framing	Verified records
britannica_1911	Encyclopaedia Britannica (1911)	public_domain	16,687
britannica_1926	Encyclopaedia Britannica (1926)	public_domain	442
oewn	Open English WordNet	CC-BY-4.0	107,519

Bot-Facing Fields Added or Clarified

- response_type distinguishes verified_topic_preview from verified_text_record.
- Topic lookup returns previews by default so bots do not receive very large full records unless they follow the canonical full record URL.
- full_record_url points from a preview response to the canonical full record.
- hash_scope clarifies that SHA-256 verifies the full normalized text, not the preview snippet.
- preview_is_hash_verified=false prevents systems from treating shortened previews as full verified records.
- machine_use.decision is source-aware: verified_public_domain_text for Britannica and verified_cc_by_text for Open English WordNet.
- Open English WordNet records include attribution and license_url for CC-BY-4.0 compliance.

Verified-Text Response Pattern

A topic preview response can include source and license metadata, a preview, preview length/truncation fields, full normalized text length, a canonical full_record_url, integrity metadata, and machine-use guidance.


```
{
  "response_type": "verified_topic_preview",
  "total_matches": 12,
  "limit": 10,
  "offset": 0,
  "verified_text_preview": "...",
  "verified_text_preview_length": 903,
  "verified_text_preview_truncated": true,
  "verified_text_length": 218105,
  "full_record_url": "/verified-text.php?source_key=...&chunk_id=...&format=json",
  "integrity": {
    "hash_check": "match",
    "hash_scope": "full_normalized_text",
    "preview_is_hash_verified": false,
    "computed_sha256": "..."
  },
  "machine_use": {
    "read": true,
    "cite": true,
    "decision": "verified_cc_by_text"
  },
  "attribution": "Open English WordNet (OEWN), CC BY 4.0",
  "license_url": "https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/"
}
```


Text Normalization and Hash Scope

GoGuides hashes the normalized text form of a verified record, not a visual page rendering and not a preview snippet. Normalization is intended to produce a stable byte sequence for verification by removing avoidable formatting drift such as inconsistent spacing, line breaks, and source-format artifacts. The normalization name and version are recorded with the chunk so future systems can distinguish records produced under different normalization rules.

The public integrity fields are intentionally explicit. hash_scope=full_normalized_text means the SHA-256 value applies to the complete normalized text in the canonical full record. preview_is_hash_verified=false means a shortened topic preview should not be treated as the object verified by the full-record hash.

Bounded Preview Responses

Topic lookup is designed to be preview-first and bounded. A broad query may match many verified records across Open English WordNet, Britannica 1911, and Britannica 1926. Rather than returning every full text body in one response, GoGuides can return concise result objects with preview text, preview length, truncation status, source metadata, machine-use guidance, and a canonical full_record_url for each result.

This keeps the endpoint efficient for bots and AI systems while preserving access to complete source records when needed. Future schema expansion may include total_matches, limit, offset, page, next_url, and related pagination metadata so agents can traverse large result sets without creating unnecessary load.

Why This Matters

This update turns GoGuides into more than a domain-level trust and profile system. It creates a live machine-readable verified-text layer. Bots can ask for a topic, receive a concise preview, inspect source licensing and attribution, verify the full normalized text hash, and follow a canonical URL for the full record.

This matters for AI source clearance because it separates three different questions: whether a domain is trusted enough to use, whether a text record is source-attributed and license-aware, and whether the exact normalized text can be verified against a SHA-256 integrity record. Together, the domain trust layer and verified-text layer let machines ask both: Is this source suitable for machine use? and Is this exact text record verifiable?

Public Framing

The verified-text endpoint should be described as an early production layer for source-attributed, hash-verifiable text records. It should not be described as proving universal truth. It proves the identity, source framing, license metadata, and normalized-text integrity of records that GoGuides has published.