

# Information Literacy: Finding Facts in the Era of Fake News

## Objectives

- What is Information Literacy?
- History
- Challenges of Today
- Types of Fake News
- Fact Check Like a Pro
- Finding Reputable Sources of Information

## What is Information Literacy?

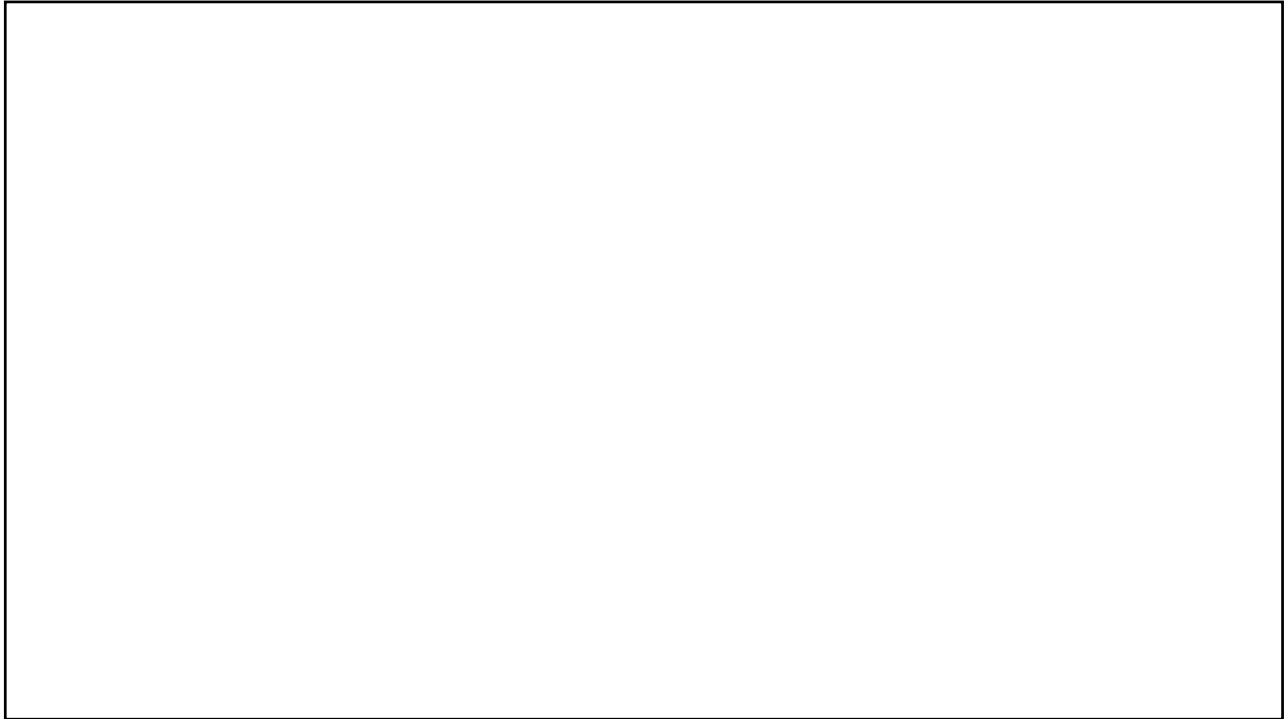
- Information Literacy: Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency>

## Why is Information Literacy Important?

- There is a vast amount of information available today.
- Information Literacy can help you determine the credibility and appropriateness of each information source.





# History



The Library of Alexandria



The Library of Pergamum



Vatican Library

## History



Harvard's Widener Library Reading Room

- Evidence of library instruction dates back to the 1820's at Harvard University.
- Courses on how to use libraries emerged at several colleges and universities after the Civil War.
- The Civil War had a dramatic impact on American's interest in reading, and reading became a leisure activity. This caused a large increase in public libraries.

## History

- Beginning in the 1960's librarians began to experience an expansion to their role as an instructor.
- New instructional role in the library profession led to the coining of the phrase "information literacy."



# History

- Paul Zurkowski coined the term “information literacy” in 1974 due to what he described as an “overabundance of information, which occurs when available information exceeds our capacity to evaluate it.”
- Zurkowski definition: the learned techniques and skills for utilizing the wide range of information tools as well as primary sources in molding information solutions to [one’s] problems.

## American Library Association

- Information Literacy - Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency>

## Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education

### Authority Is Constructed and Contextual

- Information resources reflect their creators' expertise and credibility, and are evaluated based on the information need and the context in which the information will be used. Authority is constructed in that various communities may recognize different types of authority. It is contextual in that the information need may help to determine the level of authority required.

### Information Creation as a Process

- Information in any format is produced to convey a message and is shared via a selected delivery method. The iterative processes of researching, creating, revising, and disseminating information vary, and the resulting product reflects these differences.

### Information Has Value

- Information possesses several dimensions of value, including as a commodity, as a means of education, as a means to influence, and as a means of negotiating and understanding the world. Legal and socioeconomic interests influence information production and dissemination.

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework>

## Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education

### Research as Inquiry

- Research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex or new questions whose answers in turn develop additional questions or lines of inquiry in any field.

### Scholarship as Conversation

- Communities of scholars, researchers, or professionals engage in sustained discourse with new insights and discoveries occurring over time as a result of varied perspectives and interpretations.

### Searching as Strategic Exploration

- Searching for information is often nonlinear and iterative, requiring the evaluation of a range of information sources and the mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understanding develops.

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework>

# Challenges



Information Overload



Limited Skill Sets

# Challenges



Internet



Fake News

# Types of Fake News

**CATEGORY 1:** Fake, false, or regularly misleading websites that are shared on Facebook and social media. Some of these websites may rely on “outrage” by using distorted headlines and decontextualized or dubious information in order to generate likes, shares, and profits.

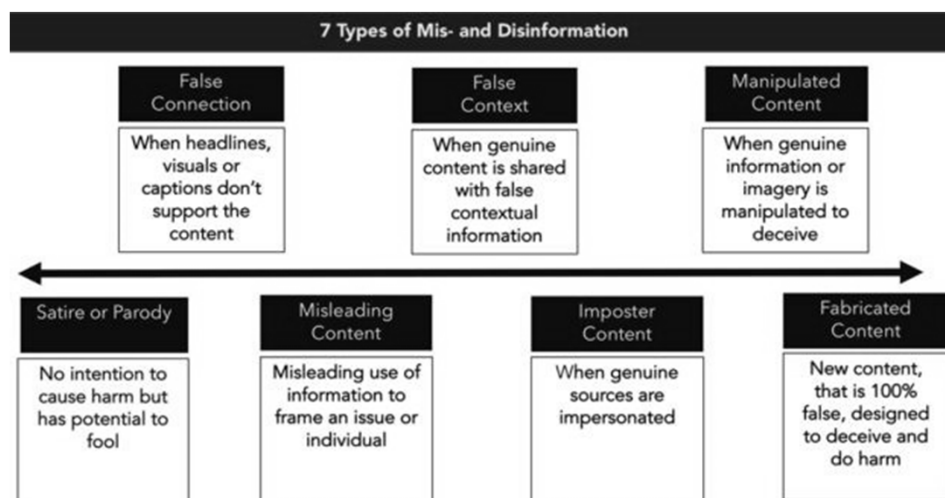
**CATEGORY 2:** Websites that may circulate misleading and/or potentially unreliable information

**CATEGORY 3:** Websites which sometimes use clickbait-y headlines and social media descriptions

**CATEGORY 4:** Satire/comedy sites, which can offer important critical commentary on politics and society, but have the potential to be shared as actual/literal news

<http://researchguides.ben.edu/c.php?g=608230&p=4219633>

# Types of Fake News



<https://medium.com/mentionmapp/on-the-air-and-in-conversation-bots-misinformation-ae62c6b8a8eb>



# Types of Fake News

	Satire	False Connection	Misleading Content	False Context	Imposter Content	Manipulated Content	Fabricated Content
Poor Journalism		✓	✓	✓			
To Parody	✓				✓		✓
To Provoke or to 'punk'					✓	✓	✓
Passion				✓			
Partisanship			✓	✓			
Profit		✓			✓		✓
Political Influence			✓	✓		✓	✓
Propaganda			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<https://medium.com/mentionmapp/on-the-air-and-in-conversation-bots-misinformation-ae62c6b8a8eb>



# Fact Check Like A Pro



## Eight Steps to Spot Fake News

- ❖ Consider the source
- ❖ Check the author
- ❖ Check the date
- ❖ Read beyond the headlines
- ❖ Supporting sources
- ❖ Beware confirmation bias
- ❖ Is it news...or a joke?
- ❖ Ask the experts



*International Federation of Library Associations*  
<https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174>

## Consider the Source



yes

no

maybe

## Information Neighborhoods

- ❖ Journalism – to inform
- ❖ Entertainment (satire, parody) – to amuse
- ❖ Advertising – to sell
- ❖ Publicity – to promote
- ❖ Propaganda – to build mass support
- ❖ Raw Information – to bypass institutional filters



<https://www.brookings.edu/research/news-literacy-teaching-the-internet-generation-to-make-reliable-information-choices/>

# VIA

- ❖ Verification of Facts
- ❖ Independence from Special Interests
- ❖ Accountability of the Author

## Check the Author



## Spotting Fake Social Media Accounts and News Sites

- ❖ Is This the Real Pope? Five Ways To Spot a Fake Twitter Account by Sue Llewellyn (BBC) – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/collegeofjournalism/entries/be362724-8ae5-3107-8e84-2a212dfo29d4>
- ❖ Fake Or Real? How To Self-Check The News And Get The Facts by Wynne Davis (NPR) – <http://www.npr.org/sections/alltechconsidered/2016/12/05/503581220/fake-or-real-how-to-self-check-the-news-and-get-the-facts>

## Known “Offenders”

- ❖ Enduring Vision.com
- ❖ 7onews.wordpress.com
- ❖ Abcnews.com.co
- ❖ Politicops (aka Newslo, Politicalo)
- ❖ RealNewsRightNow.com (Also includes intentional satire)
- ❖ Infowars.com (Includes a mix of conspiracy theories and real news)
- ❖ NaturalNews.com
- ❖ NewsMutiny.com (Includes fake news and satire)
- ❖ The New York Evening



## Check the Date



## Read Beyond the Headlines



## Supporting Sources?



## To Wikipedia...Or Not...



## Wikipedia Cons

- ❖ Information on Wikipedia is contributed by anyone who wants to post material, regardless of expertise level
- ❖ Contributors do not have to use their real names or provide any information about who they are – no transparency
- ❖ Information may be outdated, incorrect, or posted by someone who wants to spread misinformation, or by someone with an agenda

## Beware Confirmation Bias

People  
generally see  
what they look for  
and hear  
what they listen for.

-Harper Lee  
To Kill a Mockingbird



## Is It News...or a Joke?



The Onion, The Borowitz Report,  
Professor Zimdars' List

## Ask the Experts

- ❖ Ask a Librarian
- ❖ Consult a Fact-Checking Site

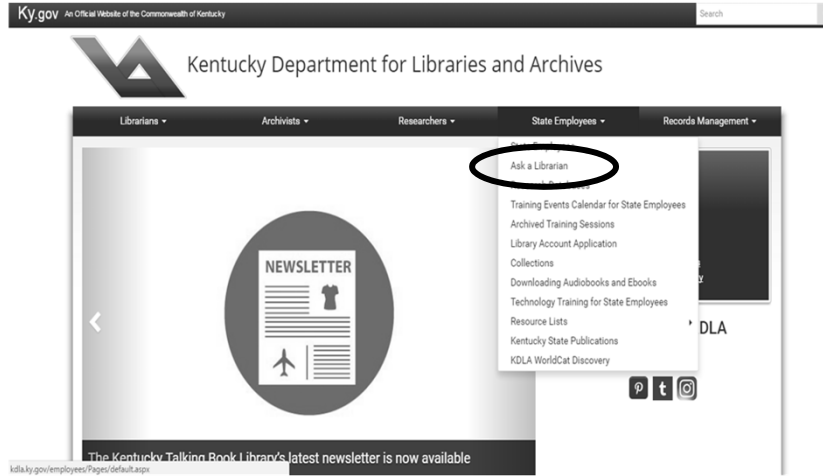




# Finding Reputable Sources



# Ask a Librarian



kdla.ky.gov

# Ask a Librarian

## Kentucky Government Employee Information Request

Please complete this form only if you are a Kentucky state government employee.

For Family History and Genealogical Questions please visit our [Research Services](#) area. Others individuals should contact their local public library for assistance.

### Ask a Librarian - State Government Employees

#### Information Requested

Subject \*

Maximum Allowed: 140 characters. Currently Used: 0 characters.

Your Request \*

Date Answer is Needed by

MM DD YYYY

- Home
- KDLA Catalog
- e-Archives
- Ask a Librarian
- Public Library Directory
- Kentucky Library Job List
- Records Retention Schedules
- Kentucky Talking Book Library

#### WARNING CONCERNING COPYRIGHT

##### RESTRICTIONS

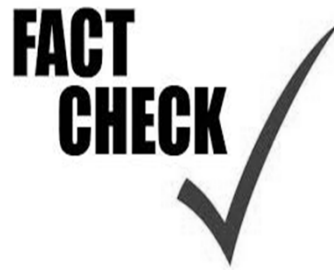
The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specific conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research."

If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright

## Online Fact Checking Sources

- ❖ Snopes.com
- ❖ FactCheck.org
- ❖ The Washington Post Fact Checker
- ❖ Politifact.com
- ❖ Hoax-Slayer.com
- ❖ LinkedIn
- ❖ Veracity (iPhone app)



## Library Research Databases

- ❖ Contain information from published works, such as magazines, professional journals, newspaper articles, encyclopedias, and reference books
- ❖ Get information from professionals or experts in the field
- ❖ Contain published works where facts are checked
- ❖ Are updated frequently

*Adapted from the Hennepin County Library website*

# Library Research Databases

Ky.gov An Official Website of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Search

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Librarians ▾ Archivists ▾ Researchers ▾ State Employees ▾ Records Management ▾

Research Databases

Behind the Scenes at KTBL  
We circulate hundreds of talking books everyday. Some days even more. Click to get the whole story.  
kdl.ky.gov/employees/Pages/default.aspx

# Library Research Databases

Librarians ▾ Archivists ▾ Researchers ▾ State Employees ▾ Records Management ▾

# / State Employees / Research Databases

## Research Databases for State Employees

Desktop access to licensed databases is provided free of charge, exclusively to state government employees. All databases are accessible to the general public at the State Library.

- NewsBank**  
3000+ full-text U.S. newspapers; 50+ Kentucky sources including the Lexington Herald-Leader.
- ProQuest**  
300+ full-text U.S. newspapers including the Louisville Courier-Journal.
- KY VIRTUAL LIBRARY**  
20+ databases including EBSCO and WorldCat, multi-disciplinary coverage; strengths in business, education, medicine and news.

- Home
- KDLA Catalog
- e-Archives
- Ask a Librarian
- Public Library Directory
- Kentucky Library Job List
- Records Retention Schedules
- Kentucky Talking Book Library

### Login Procedure

- Select a database.
- When prompted, type in your KDLA account number and password.
- NOTE:** Our login procedure has changed and you may be required to reset your password. The following short video will walk you through that process:  
[How to reset your KDLA library account for WorldCat Discovery and KDLA Databases \(5 minute video\)](#)
- For assistance contact the State Library's

# Library Research Databases

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives



Sign in

KDLA Library Account Number

Password

[Reset password](#)

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# Library Research Databases


[Librarians](#) | [Archivists](#) | [Researchers](#) | [State Employees](#) | [Records Management](#)

# / [State Employees](#) / Research Databases


## Research Databases for State Employees

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**KY Newspapers**



3000+ full-text U.S. newspapers; 50+ Kentucky sources including the Lexington Herald-Leader.



300+ full-text U.S. newspapers including the Louisville Courier-Journal/Cincinnati Enquirer



20+ databases including EBSCO and WorldCat; multi-disciplinary coverage; strengths in business, education, and news

**Home**

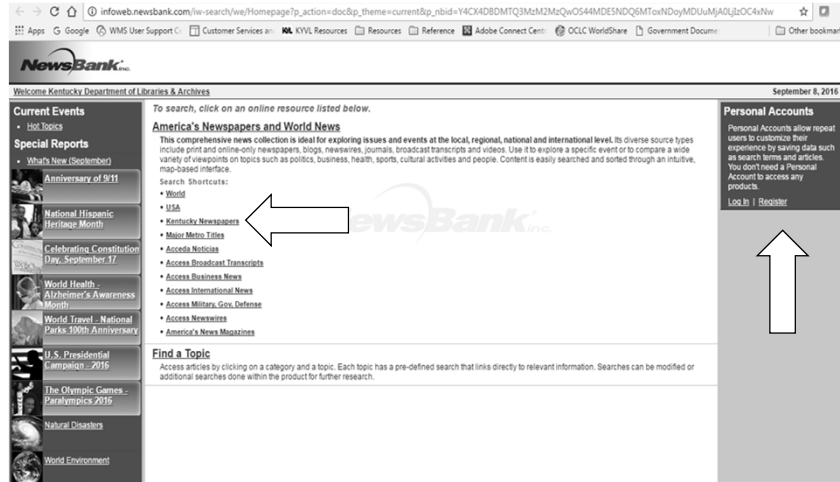
- [KDLA Catalog](#)
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- For assistance contact the State Library's

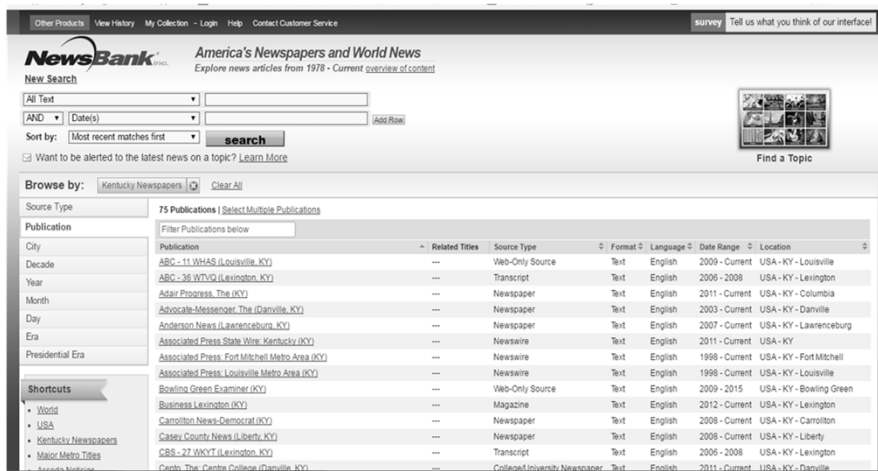
**Articles – magazines, professional journals, reference materials**

# Library Research Databases



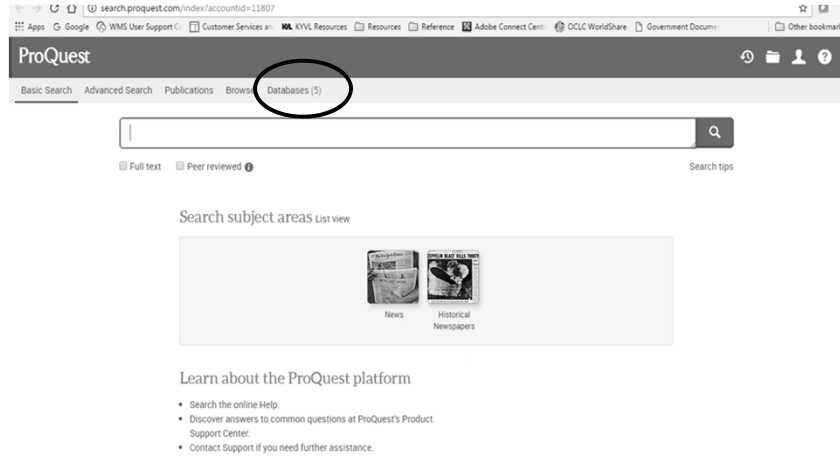
NewsBank

# Library Research Databases



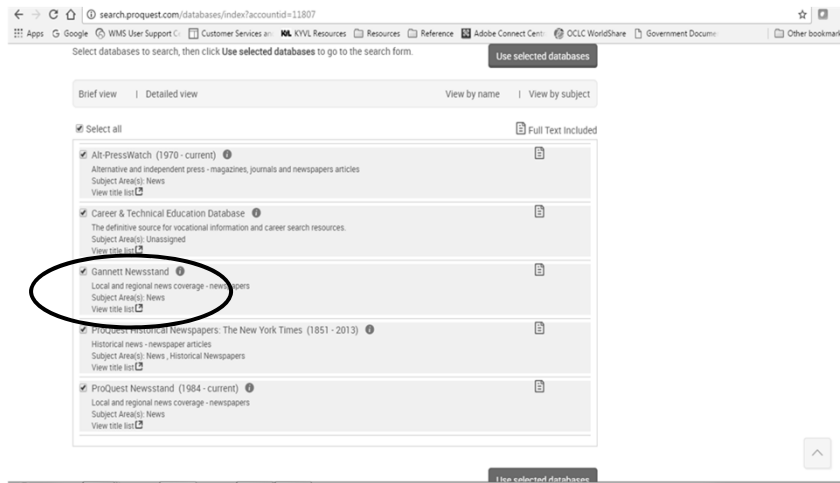
NewsBank

# Library Research Databases



ProQuest

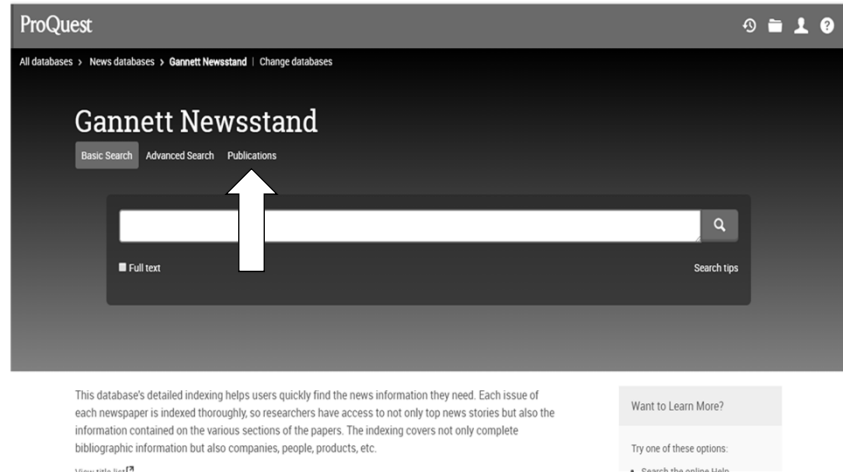
# Library Research Databases



ProQuest

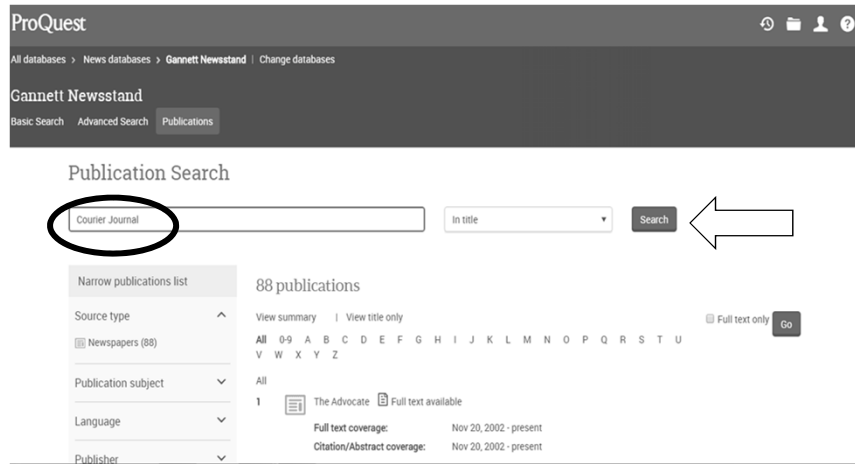


# Library Research Databases



ProQuest

# Library Research Databases



ProQuest

# Library Research Databases

The screenshot shows the ProQuest interface for Gannett Newsstand. At the top, it says "ProQuest" and "Gannett Newsstand". Below that, there are search options: "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Publications". The main search area has a text box containing "Courier Journal" and a dropdown menu set to "In title". A "Search" button is to the right. Below the search bar, there's a "Narrow publications list" section with filters for "Source type" (Newspapers (2)), "Publication subject", and "Language". To the right, it says "2 publications". One publication is listed: "Courier - Journal". A white arrow points to this entry. Below the entry, there are details: "Full text coverage: Jan 2, 1999 - present", "Citation/Abstract coverage: Jan 2, 1999 - present", "Publisher: Gannett Co., Inc.", and "Place of publication: Louisville, Ky". At the bottom, there's a URL: "search.proquest.com/gannettnews/publication/45912/citation/7251218704943APQ?1accountid=11807".

ProQuest

# Library Research Databases

The screenshot shows the KYVL Virtual Library homepage. At the top left is the "KYVL KENTUCKY VIRTUAL LIBRARY" logo. To the right is a "KYVL QuickSearch" box with a search input field and a "Go" button. Below the search box is a navigation bar with tabs: "About KYVL / Ask", "Databases", "For College & Adults", "For K12 Students", "For Librarians", and "For Professionals". A white arrow points to the "Databases" tab, which is open to show a list of database categories: "A to Z databases", "Britannica", "EBSCO", "LearningExpress", "Novelist", "ProQuest", "Scholastic GO!", "WorldCat (OCLC)", "KY Digital Library (link)", and "Training calendar". At the bottom, there's a "Chat with KYVL" section with a "Chat with KYVL" button and a "Showing 6 Groups" section with a "Display" dropdown set to "Alphabetically" and a "Go" button.

KYVL

## Want To Read More?

- ❖ Carroll University: Post-Truth and Fake News - <http://pioguides.carrollu.edu/posttruth/home>
- ❖ Center for News Literacy - <https://www.centerfornewsliteracy.org/home-2/>
- ❖ Indiana University East LibGuide - <http://iue.libguides.com/c.php?g=595482&p=4119773>
- ❖ The Poynter Institute - <https://www.poynter.org/tag/fake-news/>

## Thank You For Attending

- ❖ By Phone - 502-564-8306  
Toll free – 800-928-7000, option #3  
8:00-4:30, Mon.-Fri.
- ❖ Online - Ask-A-Librarian  
<http://kdla.ky.gov/employees/sgasklib/Pages/default.aspx>

