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

- 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.

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.
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
# Types of Fake News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>False Connection</th>
<th>Misleading Content</th>
<th>False Context</th>
<th>Imposter Content</th>
<th>Manipulated Content</th>
<th>Fabricated Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor Journalism</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To Parody</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To Provoke or to ‘punk’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partisanship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Influence</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propaganda</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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/be362724-8ae5-3107-8e84-2a212df029d4


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
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

- Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
- Research Databases
- Behind the Scenes at KTDL:
  - Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Library Research Databases

- Research Databases for State Employees
- NewsBank
- ProQuest
- KVL (Kentucky Virtual Library)
- Login Procedure:
  - Select a database
  - Enter the state library account number and password
  - Note: Your login procedure has changed and you may be required to re-typing your password. The following steps will walk you through the process:
    - Your state library account number and password
  - For assistance contact the state library's customer service.
Library Research Databases

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Sign in

ULRA Library Account Number
Password

Login

Library Research Databases

Research Databases for State Employees

KY Newspapers

Louisville Courier-Journal/Cincinnati Enquirer

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

ProQuest

Library Research Databases

KYVL
Want To Read More?

- Carroll University: Post-Truth and Fake News - [http://pioguides.carrollu.edu/posttruth/home](http://pioguides.carrollu.edu/posttruth/home)
- Center for News Literacy - [https://www.centerfornewsliteracy.org/home-2/](https://www.centerfornewsliteracy.org/home-2/)
- The Poynter Institute - [https://www.poynter.org/tag/fake-news/](https://www.poynter.org/tag/fake-news/)

Thank You For Attending

- By Phone - 502-564-8306
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  8:00-4:30, Mon.-Fri.
- Online - Ask-A-Librarian
  [http://kdla.ky.gov/employees/sgasklib/Pages/default.aspx](http://kdla.ky.gov/employees/sgasklib/Pages/default.aspx)