News Literacy: Teaching Students to Be Informed Citizens

Stuit, Martha

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News Literacy: Teaching Students to Be Informed Citizens

Martha Stuit, Librarian
Washtenaw Community College
Quasicon • Saturday, March 11, 2017, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Today

1. Background
2. 15-minute instruction session
3. LibGuide tour
4. Future plans
5. Discussion

Link to slides: http://bit.ly/2ngfVLv
“Many assume that because young people are fluent in social media they are equally savvy about what they find there. Our work shows the opposite.”

(p. 7, Stanford Study, Executive Summary)

“Our ‘digital natives’ may be able to flit between Facebook and Twitter while simultaneously uploading a selfie to Instagram and texting a friend. But when it comes to evaluating information that flows through social media channels, they are easily duped.”

(p. 4, Stanford Study Executive Summary)
Project timeline

November/December 2016
- Identify need
- Identify LibGuide to revise

January 2017
- Create new guide
- Create tabs
- Create content

February 2017
- Launch LibGuide
- Launch 15-min. class sessions

March 2017
- Make evaluation infographics
Books, magazines, journals, and newspapers - whether in print or electronic form - have been the backbone of research papers for decades. Now, however, the internet has opened up many sources of information that fall outside those basics. Explore this research guide to discover some different ways of finding information for your papers and projects.

screenshot of “Information Resources for the Twenty-First Century” LibGuide
News Sources on the Web

Information Resources for the Twenty-First Century: News Sources on the Web

News Directories, Aggregators and Search Engines
- ABYZ News Links
  A portal to online news sources from around the world.
- Google News
  For a quick look at the day's happenings.
- Newsmap
  Newsmap offers a visual representation of content from the Google News aggregator.
- World Newspapers and News Magazines in English
  News and Newspapers from the University of Texas, an index of newspapers and news sources, organized by region and topic.
- USPLS: US Newspapers
  Index of online news sources organized by region. Includes radio and television stations.

World News
- Al Jazeera
- Asia Times Online
  Reporting and analysis of geopolitical, political, economic and business issues, "from an Asian perspective."
- Associated Press
- BBC News
- CNN News
- Fox News
- NBC News
- The Boston Globe
- Chicago Sun-Times
- Los Angeles Times
- The New York Times
- The Wall Street Journal
- The Washington Post

News for Special Populations
- Stars & Stripes
  An independent news source serving the U.S. military. Does not reflect the views of the Department Of Defense.

Counterculture (Alternative) Press
- Alternative News Sources
  Collection of alternative news links from the Electronic Policy Network.
- Alternative Press Center
  A non-profit collective dedicated to providing access to and increasing public awareness of the alternative press.
- AlterNet
  An award-winning news magazine and online community that creates original journalism and amplifies the best of hundreds of other independent media sources.
- AltWeeklies.com
  News and features published in the 110 papers that belong to the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies.

Newspaper Databases
- America's News
  Search over 1,600 American and Michigan news sources covering print and online newspapers, blogs, journals, newswires, broadcast transcripts and videos.
- Infotrac Newsstand
  Find full-text articles from U.S. and foreign newspapers, including the New York Times, dated from 1890.
- LexisNexis Academic Universe
  Find newspaper and magazine articles, TV and radio transcripts, opinion polls, case law, federal and state codes, company annual reports, and much more.
- New York Times
  Find full text articles from 1985.
15-Minute Instruction Session for Classes

http://libguides.wccnet.edu/newsliteracy

http://graphics.wsj.com/blue-feed-red-feed/
Tour of the Guide

- “Get News” tab
- “Recognize Bias” tab
- “Spot Fake News” tab
- “Teach News Literacy” tab
- Forthcoming: “Evaluate News” tab

http://libguides.wccnet.edu/newsliteracy
It's Official - Smoking Doesn't Cause Lung Cancer...

The following article was written by James P. Siepmann, MD. It first appeared on the Journal of Theoretical website at this location: http://www.journaloftheoretics.com/Editiorials/111/1/4.htm

I have added emphasis to key points he makes, the emphasis as bold red, the bold regular font is in the original article...

Smoking Does Not Cause Lung Cancer

(According to WHO/CDC Data)

By: James P. Siepmann, MD

Yes, it is true, smoking does not cause lung cancer. It is only one of many risk factors for lung cancer. I initially was going to write an article on how the professional literature and publications misuse the language by saying “smoking causes lung cancer” but the more I looked into how biased the literature, professional organizations, and the media are, I modified the article to one on trying to put the relationship between smoking and cancer into perspective. (No, I did not get paid off by the tobacco companies, or anything else like that.)

When the tobacco executives testified to Congress that they did not believe that smoking caused cancer, their answers were probably truthful and I agree with that statement. Now, if they were asked if smoking increases the risk of getting lung cancer, then their answer based upon current evidence should have been “yes.” But even so, the risk of a smoker getting lung cancer is much less than anyone would suspect. Based upon what the media and anti-tobacco organizations say, one would think that if you smoke, you get lung cancer (a 100% correlation) or at least expect a 50% occurrence before someone uses the word “cancer.”

The domain is .org, which indicates a nonprofit. Just because it's a nonprofit doesn't mean you don't need to do your research on what it is and who they are.

The author's name and medical degree are listed, but no other information about his credentials is provided. A Google search showed that he is a general practitioner, not a specialist or researcher.

The text has footnotes, and there are references at the end. It is up to the reader to verify the information.

Correlation and causation are not the same. However, this article is inflammatory and contains questionable evidence.

It doesn't cost anything to read this article by going to the website.

Why is this in red?

Bolding, underlining, and different colors of text influence objectivity. It plays on emotions. A credible article would have plain text. The only color would be from hyperlinks, which help back up claims.

Old! This article shows a copyright date of 2009 on the Smoke Screens website. The original article was published in a journal in 1999.

What is the purpose of this article? It's not stated here, but this article is an editorial or opinion piece.
Discussion

What is at risk when reading fake news?

Where do you go to get news? What tips do you give students?

What are challenges that you see in teaching news literacy to students?

What news literacy resources do you find helpful?

What are ways that you burst out of your filter bubble?

How do you identify fake news?

Why is it important to teach news literacy?
Questions?
Comments?

Martha Stuit
Librarian, WCC Bailey Library
User Information Services Assistant, U-M Library
mstuit@wccnet.edu ◆ stuitm@umich.edu
References
