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News Literacy: Teaching Students to Be Informed Citizens

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News Literacy: Get News

Search this Guide

Search

Get News

Recognize Bias

Spot Fake News

Teach News Literacy

News Literacy Guide

Your Filter Bubble

How to Stay Informed

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.

- Evaluating news and media stories
- Distinguishing between news and opinion
- Recognizing bias or slant
- Identifying when news is false
- Checking credibility of news
- Using multiple formats and sources to get news
- Understanding perspectives and beliefs other than your own
- Being an informed citizen

When reading news and searching online, consumers experience the "filter bubble." The content is filtered by websites and search engines to present the content you see, in news and search results. Results are personalized based on your interests, location and past clicks. It means you may not see important news. Eli Pariser coined the term. Check out his TED talk and book.

Eli Pariser: "We are online."



- Get the whole story, not just the headline
- Get news from multiple sources
- Check news regularly to stay informed but not constantly for every update
- Why? Breaking news might be corrected later as more facts come out.
- Seek perspectives other than your own
- Understanding liberal, conservative, and middle viewpoints is a great place to start. Know that there are more perspectives,

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**

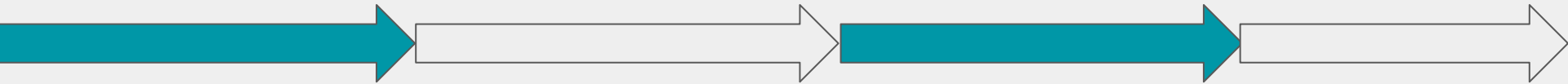


- Launch LibGuide
- Launch 15-min. class sessions

**March
2017**



- Make evaluation infographics

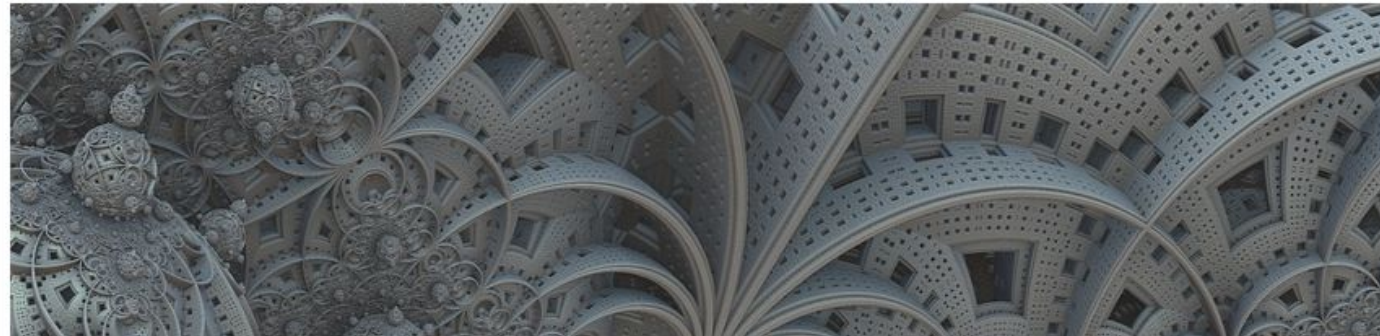




Information Resources for the Twenty-First Century: Home

[Home](#)[News Sources on the Web](#)[Public Opinion](#)[Freedoms/Rights](#)[Other Modes](#)[RSS Feeds](#)

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



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

Search this Guide Search

Home **News Sources on the Web** Public Opinion Freedoms/Rights Other Modes RSS Feeds

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.
- **Newseum**
View PDFs of today's front pages for more than 700 news sources. View as gallery, list, or regional map.
- **NewsMap**
Newsmap offers a visual representation of content from the Google News 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.
- **USNPL: US Newspapers**
Index of online news sources organized by region. Includes radio and television stations.

World News

- **Al Jazeera**
- **allAfrica.com**
The largest electronic distributor of African news and information worldwide. Content in English and French. Includes an extensive searchable archive of the Africa News Service dating back to 1997.
- **Asia Times Online**
Reporting and analysis of geopolitical, political, economic and business issues, "from an Asian perspective."
- **Associated Press**
- **BBC News**
- **BBC News Country Profiles**
- **The Christian Science Monitor**
- **The Economist**
- **France Presse Global News (AFP)**
- **The Globe and Mail**
Canadian English-language daily newspaper based in Toronto.
- **Guardian UK World News Guide**
- **International New York Times**
- **The Jerusalem Post**
- **Latinamerica Press**
News and analysis on Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **NPR World News & International Headlines**

National Newspapers and Television Networks

- **The Boston Globe**
- **Chicago Sun-Times**
- **Los Angeles Times**
- **The New York Times**
- **The Wall Street Journal**
- **The Washington Post**
- **ABC News**
- **CBS News**
- **CNN News**
- **Fox News**
- **NBC News**

Newspaper Databases

- **America's News** 
Search over 1,800 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 1980.
- **Lexis Nexis 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

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.
- **Independent Media Center**
A collective of independent media organizations and hundreds of journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate coverage.

screenshot of "News Sources on the Web" page, on the "Information Resources for the Twenty-First Century" LibGuide

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>

www.smokescreens.org/lungcancer.htm

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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 Theoretics website at this location: <http://www.journaloftheoretics.com/Editorials/Vol-1/e1-4.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"^{1,2}, but the more that I looked into how biased the literature, professional organizations, and the media are, I modified ~~this 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 "cause."**

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

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.

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

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

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.

Discussion

Why is it important to teach news literacy?

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 are ways that you burst out of your filter bubble?

What news literacy resources do you find helpful?

How do you identify fake news?

Questions?
Comments?

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HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

References

Donald, B. (2016, Nov. 22). Stanford researchers find students have trouble judging the credibility of information online. *Stanford Graduate School of Education News Center*. Retrieved from <https://ed.stanford.edu/news/stanford-researchers-find-students-have-trouble-judging-credibility-information-online>

Stanford History Education Group. (2016). *Evaluating information: The cornerstone of civic online reasoning, Executive Summary*. Retrieved from <https://sheg.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Executive%20Summary%2011.21.16.pdf>