Post-Truth: Fake News and a New Era of Information Literacy

February 22, 2017
Welcome and Announcements

• Today’s webinar is a presentation of ALA’s Public Programs Office, with support from ALA’s Cultural Communities Fund. (www.ala.org/CCF)

• Visit www.programminglibrarian.org for more online learning sessions, program ideas and grant announcements.

• Tech issues on today’s webinar? Send a private message to Colleen Barbus.
Today’s Presenter

Nicole A. Cooke
Assistant Professor / MSLIS Program Director
School of Information Sciences
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Today’s Agenda:

• Fake news isn’t new

• Some definitions to frame the discussion

• Emotions of information consumption

• The illusion and economics of information choice

• Metaliteracy

• iSchool workshop and examples
FAKE NEWS INVASION

PROGRAMMING Librarian
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post-truth

adj. Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief:

‘in this era of post-truth politics, it’s easy to cherry-pick data and come to whatever conclusion you desire’

‘some commentators have observed that we are living in a post-truth age’
tru•thi•ness \'tri-i-the-ns\ \textit{n}

1: truth that comes from the gut, not books (Stephen Colbert, Comedy Central’s “The Colbert Report,” October 2005).

2: the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true (American Dialect Society, January 2006).
mis·in·for·ma·tion
/ˌmɪsnɪfərˈmɑːʃ(ə)n/
noun
false or inaccurate information, especially that which is deliberately intended to deceive. "nuclear matters are often entangled in a web of secrecy and misinformation".

VS.

Propaganda

disinformation · definition of disinformation in English | Oxford ...
https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/disinformation
noun. [mass noun] False information which is intended to mislead, especially propaganda issued by a government organization to a rival power or the media: ... 'Now that the curtain has fallen, information as well as disinformation travels in both directions.'
The Information Behavior of It All

Confirmation Bias
Filter Bubbles / Echo Chambers
Repetition Theory
Information Overload
Information Avoidance
Satisficing
The Illusion of Choice

How we get news today:

Thousands of news sources (both real and fake)

Most of us

https://medium.com/@tobiasrose/empathy-to-democracy-b7f04ab57eee#.100kciuhj
The Political Economy of It All

https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/jul/12/how-technology-disrupted-the-truth
What Now? Metaliteracy

Metaliteracy (Mackey & Jacobson, 2011)

Understand format type and delivery mode
Evaluate user feedback as active researcher
Create a context for user-generated information
Evaluate dynamic content critically
Produce original content in multiple media formats
Understand personal privacy, information ethics and intellectual property issues
Share information in participatory environments


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Fake News Workshop at the iSchool

Presentations from Dr. Nicole A. Cooke, Dr. Stephanie Craft, Dr. Barbara M. Jones, and Dr. Rachel M. Magee focused on defining fake news and discussing how it relates to literacy and information behavior. We'll conclude the session with hands-on exercises for addressing fake news in libraries and other information profession organizations.

Questions? Contact Rachel Magee

Location:
131 LIS & Online

Event Date:
Wed, 02/01/2017
6:00pm to 8:00pm

For disability-related accommodations, contact the event organizer or MT Hudson (217-333-0885, mthudson@illinois.edu).
Moving Past Fake News

• Triangulate
• Check your own biases
• Read outside your bubble
• Know the difference between satire, propaganda, infotainment, opinion and dog-whistling
• Check Snopes, Politifacts, FactCheck.org, Know-Your-Meme and other fact checking sources
Moving Past Fake News, cont.

• Click on the headline
  • Check the source
  • What’s their angle?
  • Is there an “about” page?
  • Is the language inflammatory?
  • Is the site overrun with ads?
  • Is there an author? Do you know them?
• Are there supporting sources?
  • Check the date
  • Are there citations?

Libraries Transform
Because alternative facts = fiction.

Libraries Transform
Because facts > feelings.

Graphics by Kaetrena Kendrick
Quiz Them!

Can you spot fake news?

These stories were all widely reported. Two of them are fake. Which one is true?

- Putin issues international arrest warrant for George Soros
- Black Lives Matter thug protests President Trump with selfie... accidentally shoots himself in the face
- Passenger allowed onto flight after security confiscate his bomb

Score: 0/7 Question: 1/7

Love Among the Ruins: The Vancouver Kiss Couple

Read more about this example!


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlzNQFcUQVU
Examples and Lesson Plans (Nicole’s Pinterest Board)

Thank you for your time today!

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