



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

February 22, 2017

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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



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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 \ˈtriɪ-the-ns\ *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

/ˌmɪsɪnfərˈmɑːʃ(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"



Alternative
Facts!

VS.



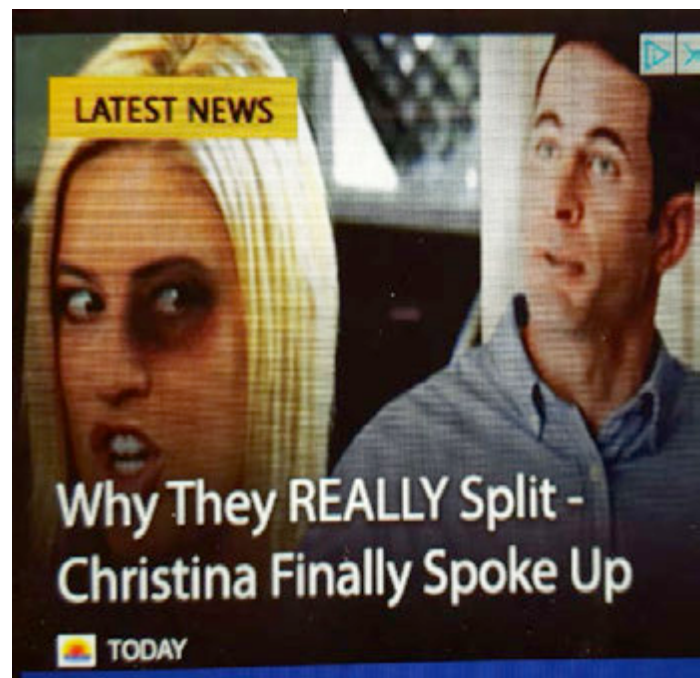
Propaganda

disinformation definition of disinformation in English | Oxford ...
<https://www.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.'

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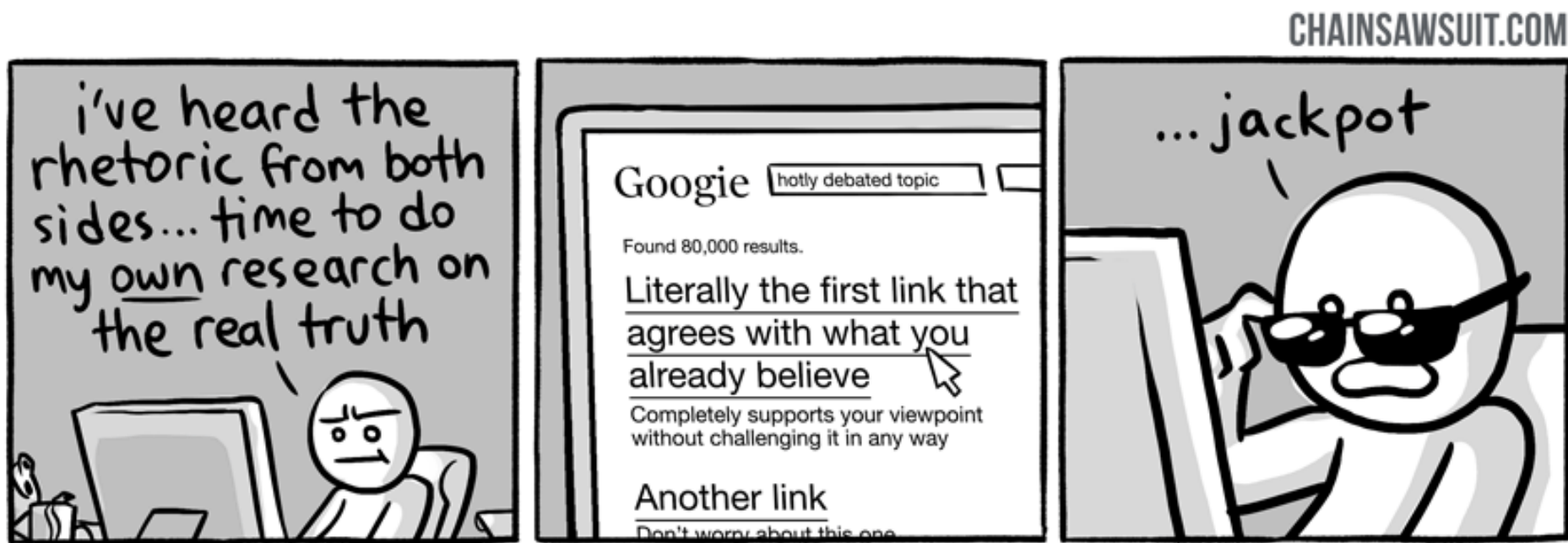
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The Information Behavior of It All



Confirmation
Bias

Filter
Bubbles /
Echo
Chambers

Repetition
Theory

Information
Overload

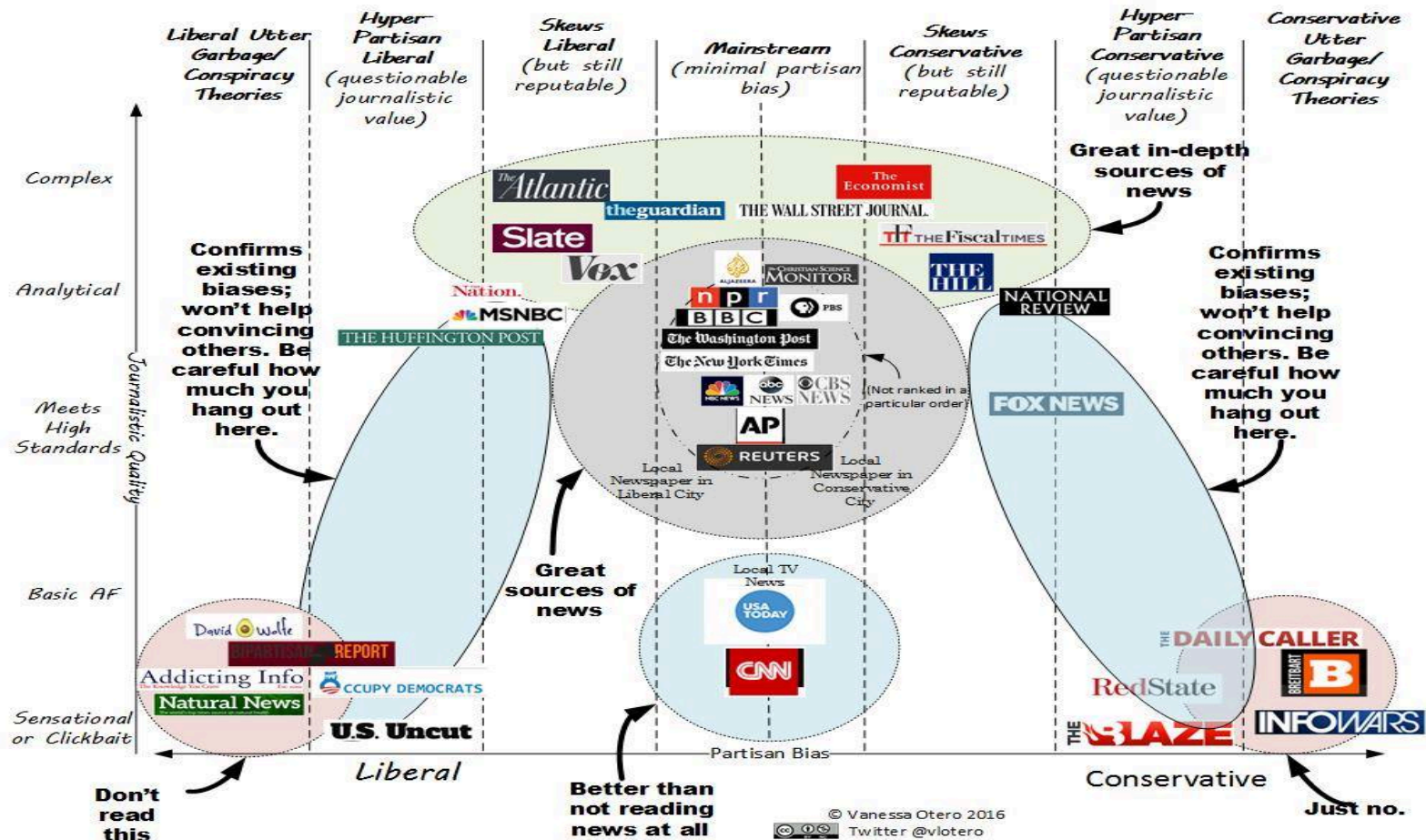
Information
Avoidance

Satisficing

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The Illusion of Choice

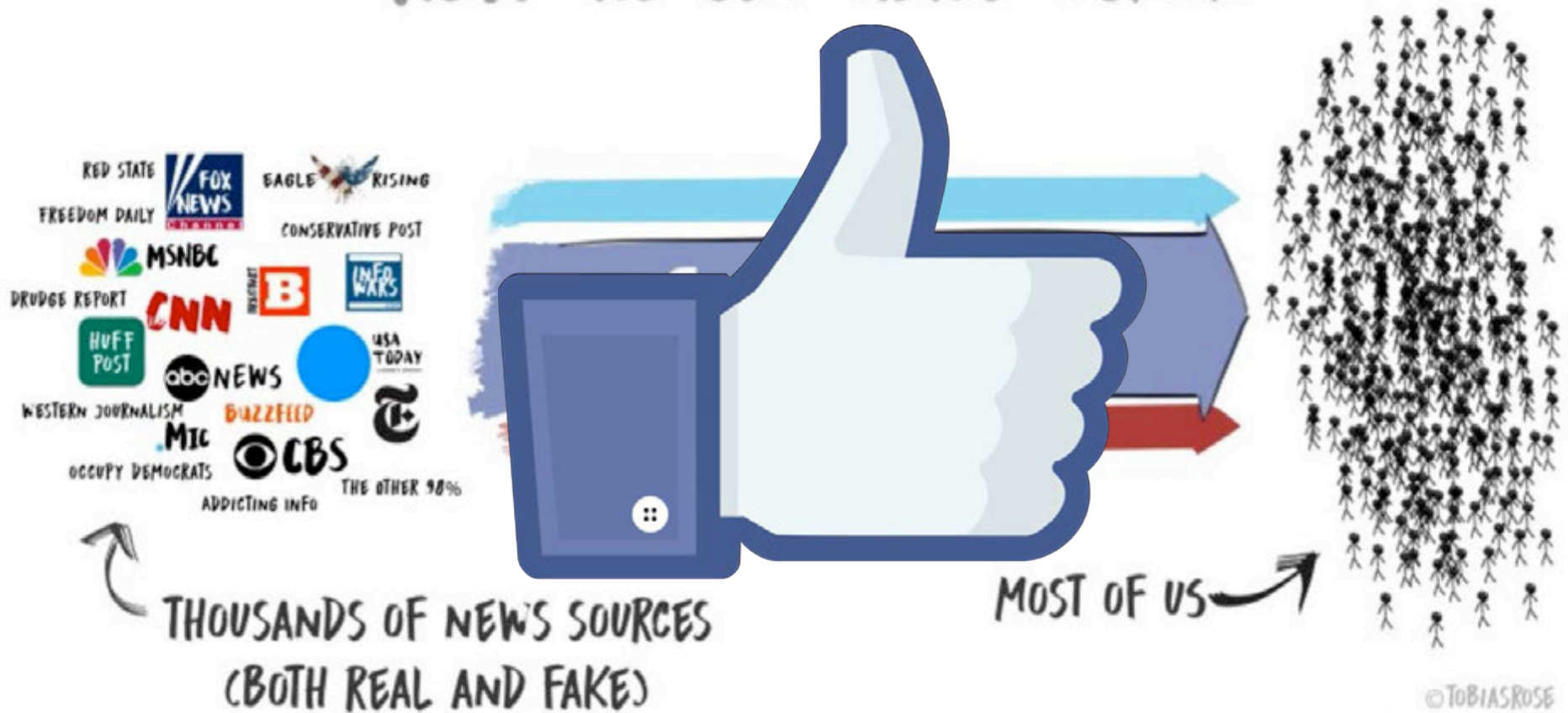


<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10155015975956062&set=a.136581636061.137713.668051061&type=3&theater>
<http://www.npr.org/sections/alltechconsidered/2016/10/28/499495517/big-media-companies-and-their-many-brands-in-one-chart>

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HOW WE GET NEWS TODAY:



©TOBIASROSE

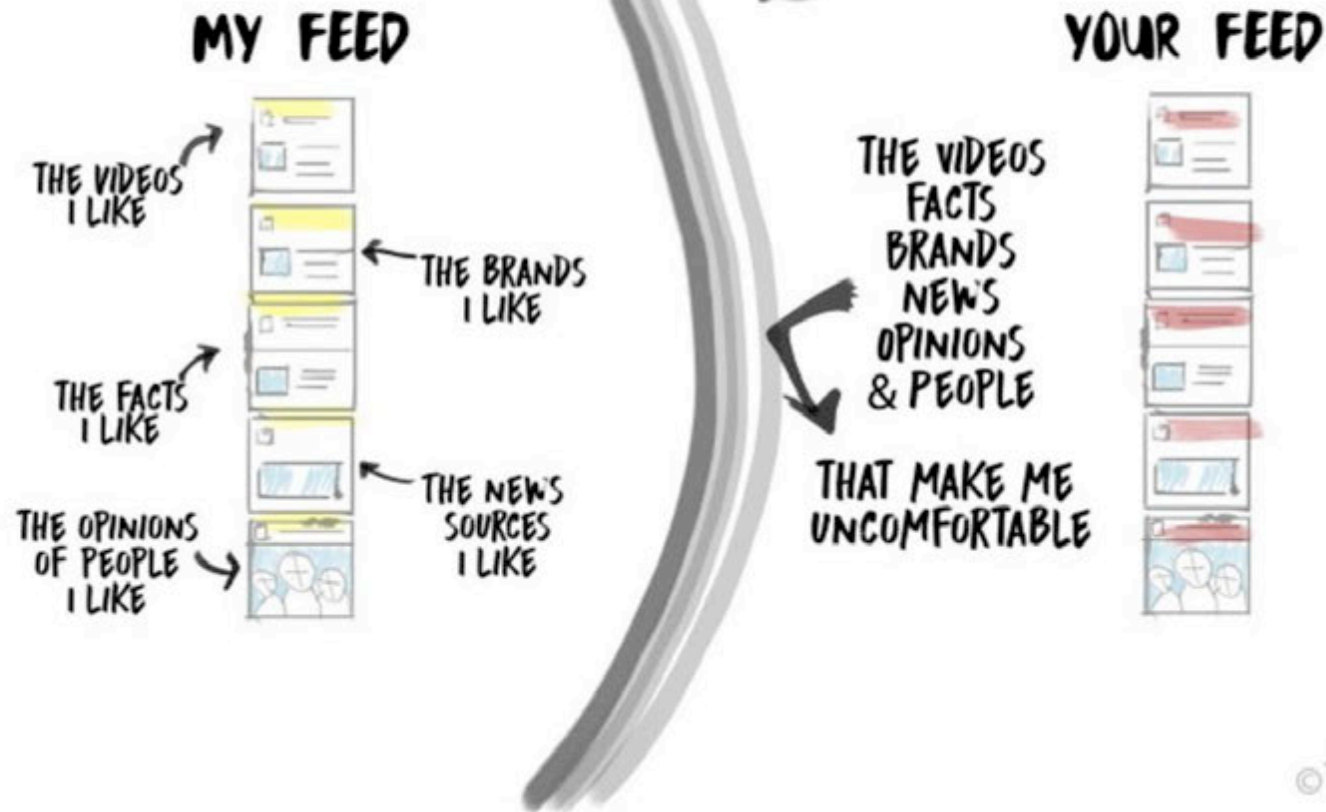
SOURCE: 2016 PEW RESEARCH CENTER STUDY

<https://medium.com/@tobiasrose/empathy-to-democracy-b7f04ab57eee#.100kciuhj>

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THE FILTER BUBBLE:



<https://medium.com/@tobiasrose/empathy-to-democracy-b7f04ab57eee#.100kciuuj>

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The Political Economy of It All



<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/jul/12/how-technology-disrupted-the-truth>

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What Now? Metaliteracy

Metaliteracy (Mackey & Jacobson, 2011)

Understand format
type and delivery
mode

Evaluate user
feedback as active
researcher

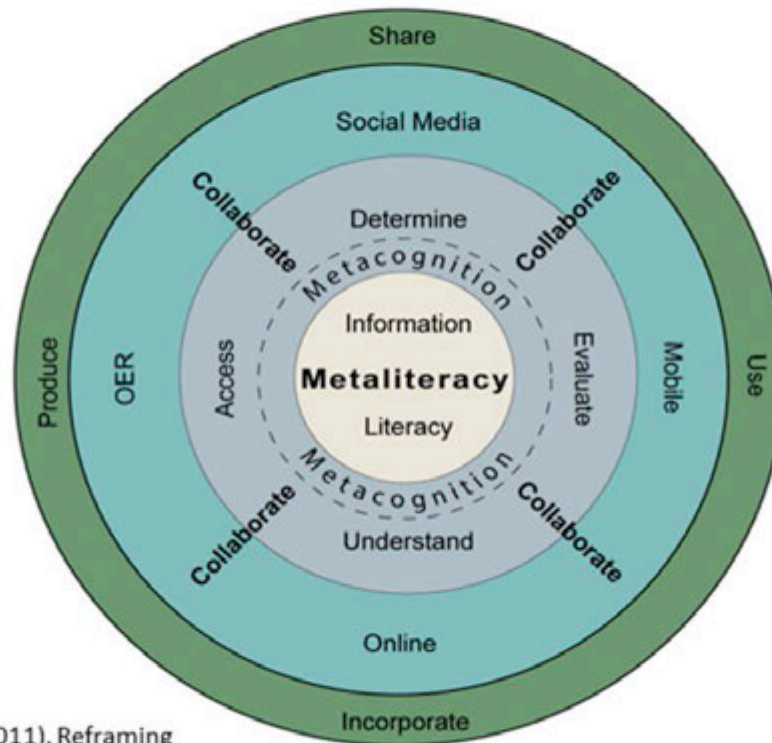
Create a context
for user-generated
information

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



Mackey, T.P., & Jacobson, T.E. (2011). Reframing information literacy as metaliteracy. *College & Research Libraries*, 72(1), 62-78.

Image retrieved from <http://metaliteracy.cdlprojects.com/what.htm>

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Fake News Workshop at the iSchool



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School of
Information Sciences
The iSchool at Illinois

[Home](#) » [Newsroom](#) » [Events Calendar](#) » Fake News Workshop

Fake News Workshop

HEADLINES

[Get to know Kristy Rieger \(MS '14\),
K-12 library/information specialist](#)

[Hill selected as 2016-2018 iSchool
research fellow](#)

[Expert on technology and innovation
policy to speak at CIRSS seminar](#)

[Career Services hosts Job Search
Month activities](#)

[Weekends with Max and His Dad
receives Gryphon Award](#)

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

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



<http://ischool.illinois.edu/newsroom/lectures>

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Moving Past Fake News



Graphics by Kaetrena Kendrick

- 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.



Graphics by Kaetrena Kendrick

- 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?

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

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-38005844>

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Love Among the Ruins: The Vancouver Kiss Couple



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIzNQFcUQVU>

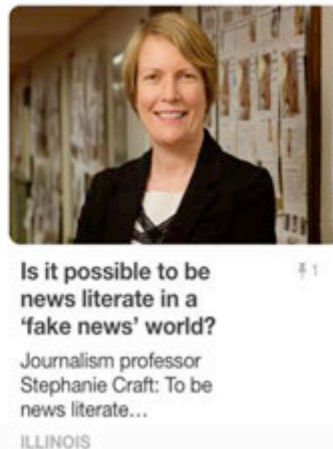
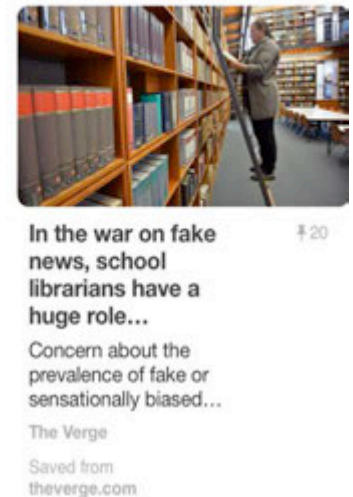
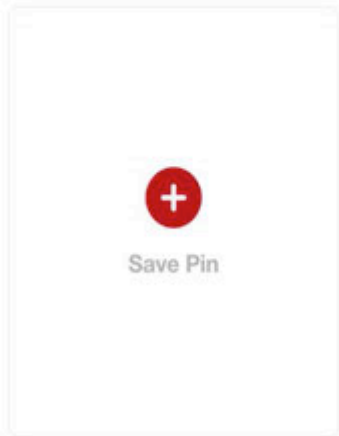
Read more about this example!

1. <http://youthandmedia.org/teaching-and-outreach/workshops/information-quality-news-literacy/lamp-camp/>
2. <https://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/06/24/overlooked-vancouver-video-shows-kissing-couple-was-knocked-down-by-riot-police/>
3. <http://dlrp.berkman.harvard.edu/node/25>

Examples and Lesson Plans (Nicole's Pinterest Board)



Fake News / Alternative Fact...



<https://www.pinterest.com/nicolecooke/fake-news-alternative-facts-critical-literacy/>

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Thank you for your time today!

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