Fact or Fake?
Helping Students Get the Facts

Holly Gabriel, University of North Dakota
Susanne Caro, North Dakota State University

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Learning Objectives

After this presentation, you will be able to:

► Define misinformation
► Evaluate websites and resources for credibility
► Identify government sources of information
► Locate credible government websites to verify the accuracy of a story
► Identify ways to work with patrons to address misinformation
Defining Misinformation

Misinformation is:
- False or inaccurate information, especially that which is deliberately intended to deceive.
- Synonyms: lies, lying & hypocrisy
Scope of the Problem

How much of the Internet is fake?

- Studies suggest that less than 60% of web traffic is human
- Fake people with fake cookies and fake social-media accounts, fake-moving their fake cursors, fake-clicking on fake websites

Why is this a Problem? Is it a Problem?

Erosion of trust
- Difficulty finding trusted sources
- Questioning generally good sources
- Resorting to questionable sources

Justified mistrust
- Incidents lead to justified mistrust
- Mistrust is very difficult to reverse
“At the intersection of media manipulation and social media lies the threat of disinformation designed to negatively influence viewers and stir unrest.”

The Semantic Forensics Program will develop technologies to automatically detect, attribute, and characterize falsified multi-modal media assets (text, audio, image, video) to defend against large-scale, automated disinformation attacks.
The use of the “fake news” label to denote organizational untrustworthiness is a related concern, as it portrays media watch-dogs as entities that operate to deliberately misinform.

The rising culture of institutional rejection in the United States and United Kingdom has resulted in a coup for fringe politics, encouraging xenophobia and hate speech.

(Anderson-Nathe & Gharabaghi, 2017)
What are Fakes?

- Satire
- Poorly researched content
- Bad information
- Intentionally misleading
- Sensational
- Altered information
- Attempts to influence by foreign nations
- Advertising
What is fake news?

1) Propaganda
2) Bias
3) Humor/Satire
4) Scam
5) Rumor
6) Junk Science
7) Clickbait
8) Foreign Influence
9) Misinformation
10) Anything I don’t agree with
Why Fakes?

Can You Spot a Fake?

SPOTTING COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY

1 **Border**
Genuine bills have crisp and clear edges, while fake bills often have blurry or indistinct margins.

2 **Paper**
In paper-based currency, tiny red and blue lines are embedded in the paper. Counterfeit money try to replicate it, but the lines are only printed, not inside the paper.

3 **Facial detail**
The portraits from real bills are more life-like and stand out from the background.

4 **Serial number**
The numbers should be distinct and evenly spaced and are printed in the same color ink as the treasury seal.

5 **Federal Reserve and Treasury seals**
The saw tooth grooves on the seals should be pronounced and sharp, not blunt or uneven.

Information from http://www.secretservice.gov/money Detect.shtml
Gallup Poll: Rural Whites Prefer Ahmadinejad To Obama

CHARLESTON, WV—According to the results of a Gallup poll released Monday, the overwhelming majority of rural white Americans said they would rather
Where to Start?

- What seems wrong?
- Snopes
- Polifact
- FactCheck.org
- Reverse image search
- Are any trusted news sources reporting on this?
- Are there sources that might have the facts?
Critical Thinking

Topic: What is the subject?
Source: Source/ references?
Authority: Authors, publishers, bias?
Purpose: What is this trying to accomplish?
Interpretation: What conclusions can be drawn?
Intention: Why is this being published?
Assumptions: Underlying assumptions?
Points of view: Points of view expressed?
Conflict of Interest: Who benefits?
Do you approve of the job President Trump is doing?
- Yes: 44%
- No: 55%
Submit Poll

Should Trump end the DACA Program for illegal immigrant children?
- Yes: 57%
- No: 42%
Submit Poll

Do you think they should raise age to buy rifles to 21?
- Yes: 64%
- No: 35%
Submit Poll

News Stories

Trump Officials Signal Trump may end DACA

Trump Officials are saying that it is imminent that Trump will rescind the DACA protections put in place by Obama Administration. The changes to the program which protects illegal immigrant children will probably come by Monday.

Donald Trump Jr. agrees to Senate Interview

Donald Trump Jr. will have a transcribed interview with Senate Judiciary Committee Panel. They are looking to get information from him about meetings he may have had with Russian Groups before the election.

Trump Approval Ratings near low

Trump approval ratings have turned down and are close to historic lows. The Rasmussen Poll shows his approval rating at 42% and the Gallup Poll shows his approval rating at 35% in their latest poll numbers.

Joe Biden criticizes Trump for handling of Charlottesville

Former Vice President Joe Biden did not mince words in a commentary posted in The Atlantic yesterday. He said the following, “Today we have an American president who has publicly proclaimed a moral equivalency between neo-Nazis and Klansmen and those who would oppose their venom and hate.” and “If it wasn’t clear before, it’s clear now: We are living through a battle for the soul of this nation.”

Trump again calls for Mexico to pay for wall

Trump tweeted the following Sunday morning, “With Mexico being one of the highest crime nations in the world, we must have THE WALL, Mexico will pay for it through reimbursement/other.”

Trump Renews Call that U.S. may Pull out
WHEN MORE IS NOT ENOUGH

HAVIDOL is the first and only treatment for dysphoric social attention consumption deficit anxiety disorder (DSACDAD).

Use the ZING SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL

Take the Quiz

NEW!
HAVIDOL gift ideas in the shop

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION
Problems can be avoided if you take HAVIDOL only when you are able to immediately benefit from its effects. To fully benefit from HAVIDOL, patients are encouraged to engage in activities requiring exceptional mental, motor, and cognitive coordination. HAVIDOL is not for you if you have abruptly stopped using alcohol or sedatives. HAVIDOL should be taken indefinitely. Side effects may include mood changes, muscle strain, extraneous thinking, blurred vision, impulsive induced consumption, excessive salivation, hair growth, markedly delayed sexual desire, inter-axillary communication, taste perversion, tremor, insomnia, and oral inflammation. Very rarely users may experience a need to change physicians. Talk to your doctor about HAVIDOL.
CRAAP Test for Websites

- **Currency** – updated regularly
- **Relevance** – quality support for your argument
- **Authority** – author’s credentials, method of contact, and generally be a .gov, .edu, .org or .net site.
- **Accuracy** – supported by evidence and reviewed
- **Purpose** – accurate, objective information
Rashida Tlaib Under Investigation For Election Fraud

Inside sources have revealed that Michigan Democrat Representative Rashida Tlaib is under FBI investigation for alleged election tampering in her own election.

Worried About Rising Funeral Costs? North Dakota Seniors

It is alleged that Tlaib, in her zeal to win and attempt to take down the president, rigged voting machines in her district to allow her name to appear as a voting option. This after her Republican rival, whose company manufactured the machines, had erased any mention of her on the ballots.

Promoted Content

Are Democrats like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez good for America?

Yes
No
Not sure

Panel of 16 Judges Agrees: Barr Has Enough to Indict Clinton and Obama

Things are about to get interesting. […] Click to Read
Resources You Can Trust

- Go to the original source
- Use a fact checking organization
- Check other sources
- Make sure a site is real
Non-Partisan Resources

**Pew Research Center**
Conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and data-driven social science research. They do not take policy positions.

**USAFacts | Non-partisan Government Data**
Makes government information available to the public. Partners include the Penn Wharton Budget Model, the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), and Lynchburg College.

**OpenSecrets.org: Center for Responsive Politics**
Tracks money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy.

**Congressional Budget Office**
Budget estimates, projections, reports
Why indeed didn't Mueller interview Julian Assange? @aaronjmate in @thenation notes, "his absence from Mueller's voluminous witness sheet is a glaring omission."

These Questions for Mueller Show Why Russiagate Was Never the Answer
The former special counsel still has a lot he can clarify.
thenation.com
Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election

Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III
Submitted Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.8(c)

Washington, D.C.
March 2019
Frequently Asked Questions about the Julian Assange Charges

April 22, 2019

After spending nearly seven years in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, Julian Assange was arrested by British police, was convicted for violating the terms of his bail in the U.K., and had an indictment against him unsealed in the United States—all in a single day. Despite the swiftness of the recent action, the charges against Assange raise a host of complex questions that are unlikely to be resolved in the near future. This Sidebar examines the international and domestic legal issues implicated in the criminal cases against Assange.

Background on Julian Assange
Report: 2019 Hurricane Season Will Have 14 Named Storms

The Atlantic and Tropics could see three major hurricanes this year, according to predictions from The Weather Company.

By Cecelia Smith-Schoenwalder, Staff Writer  May 6, 2019, at 9:42 a.m.
Where You Can Look

Topic: Weather, Climate Change

- Report: 2019 Hurricane Season Will Have 14 Named Storms

Sources for more information:

- National Hurricane Center
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
June 2019 was hottest on record for the globe

Antarctic sea ice coverage shrank to new record low

AROUND NOAA //

Citizen scientists take to the streets to map the hottest spots in 10 U.S. cities

NOAA early career scientists honored for innovative research

Where there's fire, there's smoke — and secrets for science to uncover

Airborne research finds East Coast cities emit twice as much methane as estimated
New Pill Reverses Memory Loss in an Amazing Way

Developed by top Israeli doctor; study shows key ingredient reverses years of mental decline and may also prevent dementia; initial users in America report improvements in memory, concentration, and thinking power.

Daniel Ward, Sr.
Associated Health Press

AHP - It is not often that another country beats the US to a medical breakthrough. So when it happens, you know it’s something special. That’s why doctors and patients are so excited that Israel’s new memory pill is now available in America.

Sold under the brand name Lipogen PS Plus, the new pill contains a key ingredient that redevelops cells in the part of the brain that stores memories, which improves memory, concentration, and thinking power.

The phenomenon of growing new brain cells is known medically as...
Folic Acid
pronounced as (foh’ lëk)

Why is this medication prescribed?
Folic acid is used to treat or prevent folic acid deficiency. It is a B-complex vitamin needed by the body to manufacture red blood cells. A deficiency of this vitamin causes certain types of anemia (low red blood cell count).

How should this medicine be used?
Folic acid comes in tablets. Usually, it is taken once a day. Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully, and ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand. Take folic acid exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

If you are taking folic acid to treat a deficiency, you probably will feel better quickly, often within 24 hours. However, do not stop taking this drug until your doctor tells you to do so.

Other uses for this medicine
This medication is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.
Government Sources

• Medline Plus- U.S. National Library of Medicine
• CDC- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• NIH- National Institutes of Health
• USA.gov
• Census Bureau
• Congress.gov
• Attorney General’s Office (scam prevention)
Hope all is well. Can you please do me a favor.

Thanks
Susanne Caro
Scam Prevention

A few simple precautions can help prevent scam artists from being successful.

What you need to know

1. Scam artists pretend to be people we want to trust, like government officials, law enforcement, bank staff, prospective employers, or even family members;
   - Never give out personal information or send money in response to an unexpected contact, no matter how urgent it may seem.

2. Don’t trust your Caller ID – it’s not who you think it is.
   - Repeatedly available technology makes it easy to create a fake name and number to display on Caller ID or as the “sender” of a text message.

3. If you are asked to send or wire money, or to buy prepaid cash cards, stop!
   - A legitimate government agency or business will never ask you to wire money, buy prepaid cards (including prepaid gift cards such as iTunes, Best Buy, etc.), or deposit money into another person’s account. If the supposed government agency or business sends you a check to deposit first so you are “not out any money” this is a sure sign it’s a scam.
   - As soon as you complete the transaction or read off the numbers from the back of the prepaid card, your money is gone. It is not possible to get that money back.

4. Hang up, every time.
   - Don’t “press 1” to be taken off a call list; all it does is confirm that you listened to the message, which will result in more calls.
Research report

Involvement of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase and insulin-like growth factor-I in YXLST-mediated neuroprotection

Xin Yan a, b, Hua Shen b, Marian Zaharia c, Jun Wang b, Delia Wolf d, Feng Li e, Garrick D. Lee f, Wei Cao g

Show more

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brainres.2004.01.068
Working with Patrons

Address misinformation & encourage critical thinking:

- Reference interview with open-ended questions
- Use CRAAP Test
- Look for source of information
- Know when to stop and communicate your boundaries
Situation 1

A student comes to the desk and needs help. He has been assigned a debate speech to cover the benefits of coal energy.
Situation 2

Mr. Jesson has come in after attending a seminar; he now believes he doesn’t need to pay income tax. He wants more information to back his claim to the IRS.
Mrs. Miller is very upset. She received a call informing her she will no longer be receiving social security benefits.
Resources


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Questions? Contact Information

Holly Gabriel, University of North Dakota
► holly.gabriel@und.edu
► 701-777-4642

Susanne Caro, North Dakota State University
► susanne.caro@.ndsu.edu
► 701-231-8863