Building Resilience to Disinformation in a Digital Media Age

5 May 2023

Juliane von Reppert-Bismarck
www.lie-detectors.org
The Problem: Disinformation and Truth Decay

- **Going underground:** fakes spliced with facts, hard to spot, easy to believe
- **No space for reason:** emotional triggers online hollow out centrist debate
- **Insidious erosion:** disinformation outside election season
- **Waning of trust in facts:** attacks on information channels, journalism in money trouble
- **Targeting young audiences:** via chatrooms, Instagram & YouTube
- **Generational gap:** young news consumers navigate online with little guidance
Lie Detectors classroom training activities 2017-2022

- 300+ journalists trained
- 1,300+ visits per year
- 50,000+ students trained aged 10-15
- 3,500+ classrooms
- 2,000+ teachers
- 4 languages: EN, DE, FR, PL
- 6 countries+: AT, BE, CH, DE, LU, PL
- 2 formats: in person and on screen

Figures accurate on 31 December 2022
What journalist say about their work in the classroom
Teachers’ interest is rising

In your opinion, how important is it that your students learn fact-checking/disinformation/journalism at school?

- Fact checking: 97.7% (4+5 %), 0% (3 %), 2.3% (1+2 %)
- Disinformation: 98.8% (4+5 %), 0% (3 %), 1.2% (1+2 %)
- Journalism: 91.6% (4+5 %), 15.4% (3 %), 8.4% (1+2 %)

Base: 665 responses from teachers – Jan-July 2022
Teachers’ interest is rising

In your opinion, how important is it that your students learn fact-checking/disinformation/journalism at school?

... but action lags behind

How often have you raised the subject of fact-checking/disinformation/journalism with your students during the last year?

Base: 665 responses from teachers – Jan-July 2022
Challenges: generational gaps in information sources

- YouTube: 33.7%
- TikTok: 4.3%
- Instagram: 41.1%
- Snapchat: 1.0%
- Other: 22.9%
- Discord: 0.3%
- Fortnite: 0.3%
- Twitch: 0.3%
- WhatsApp: 49.7%
- Twitter: 4.6%
- Reddit: 3.4%
- Facebook: 34.4%
- Signal: 17.6%
- Telegram: 5.9%

Base: responses from 581 teachers; 11,219 students - January - July 2022. Question: *To find out general information: what social media did you use last week to keep yourself informed? (Select all the boxes that you used last week.)*
Challenges: generational gaps in information sources

Base: responses from 581 teachers; 11,219 students - January - July 2022. Question: "To find out general information: what social media did you use last week to keep yourself informed? (Select all the boxes that you used last week.)"
What teachers can do
Make it stick!

Keep it light

Give them tools and check lists

Not everything is harmful

Start with questions

Explore different elements
Breathe: pause before you share
Resources for teachers

A collection of websites we find useful
Lie Detectors News Challenge: Materials for Classrooms and Teachers

Good news, Wuhan's corona virus can be cured by one bowl of freshly boiled garlic water. Old Chinese doctor has proven it's efficacy. Many patients has also proven this to be effective. Eight (8) cloves of chopped garlics add seven (7) cups of water and bring to boil. Eat and drink the boiled garlic water, overnight improvement and healing. Glad to share this.
Newsroom 1: Garlic tea

• Is the report true or untrue?

• How did you find out, step by step?

• You can use this IFLA checklist as a guide:
Newsroom 2: the Shark

Believe it or not, this is a shark on the freeway in Houston, Texas. #HurricaneHarvey

1:00 AM - 28 Aug 2017

11,728 Retweets 12,971 Likes
Group Work Resources:
Use the IFLA Check List to help

**SOURCE CHECK**
By source we mean: where did it come from? Take a close look:
Where did you read or see this piece of news? What do the contact details and profile tell you?

**DIG DEEPER**
Don't just read the headline:
What's the whole story? Headlines often exaggerate to attract clicks. Are there links in the text you can click that could tell you more?

**AUTHOR**
Find out more about the author:
Who published this story? Is he or she credible?

**COMPARE**
Take a look at other sources and compare them:
What do others say about the issue? This is very easy to do with a search engine such as Google, Bing, Yandex or others.

**DATE CHECK**
Take a look at the date:
Is this a recent piece of news or has somebody just copied an image or story?

**HA HA!**
Is it a joke?
Does the report seem a bit crazy? It could be a joke or satire, so the true meaning might be different. Check the source and the authors.

**EXPERTS**
Talk to the experts:
What do well-informed people say about it?

**KNOW YOUR OWN MIND**
It's really important to think for yourself:
What are your own instincts telling you? Have you already formed an opinion about this issue that might be influencing you?

**IMAGE SEARCH**
Where does the image or video come from?
A reverse image search is easy to do and sometimes reveals a lot about the image.

This toolbox is based on resources produced by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Lie Detectors have added the information about the reverse search tool (bottom right-hand corner).
The debunking handbook
Guidelines for teachers: Tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy

Factitious (factitious.augamestudio.com/#/)
Get Bad News (getbadnews.com)

From fake news to chaos! How bad are you? Get as many followers as you can.

PLAY THE GAME

INVENT

About the game
For educators
PayPal - The safer, easier way to pay online!
Challenge
Verification sites

USA
• Politifact
• flackcheck.org
• Open Secrets
• Washington Post fact checker
• Media Matters

GERMANY
• Faktenfinder
• Hoaxmap

UNITED KINGDOM
• FactCheck
• Reality Check
• BBC Factcheck/Reality Check
• Full Fact

FRANCE
• Checknews.fr
• Le Decodeurs
• Le Vrai du Faux
• Cross-check
• Fake Off
• Factuel
• Les observateurs
• Lui President

CANADA
• https://trudeaumetre.polimeter.org/
• FactScan
• Detecteur de rumeurs

CROATIA
• Faktograf

GREECE
• Ellinikahoaxes

SPAIN
• El Objectivo con Ana Pastor
• Maldita.es

SWEDEN
• Dagens Nyheter

ITALY
• Lavoce
• Pagella Politica

NORWAY
• Faktisk

PORTUGAL
• Poligrafo

CZECH REPUBLIC
• Demagog
Lie Detectors provides media literacy training for teachers, educators and classrooms.

Get in touch to request a journalist-led session: info@lie-detectors.org
Thank you.

Juliane von Reppert-Bismarck
juliane@lie-detectors.org
What journalist say about their work in the classroom …

LINK: https://vimeo.com/694382454