

This section contains some basic information about fake news and how to recognize them, as well as additional sources and links on the subject.

In short, "fake news" are those news stories that are false: the story itself is fabricated, with no verifiable facts, sources or quotes.

Sometimes these stories may be *propaganda* that is intentionally designed to mislead the reader, or may be designed as "clickbait" written for economic incentives (*the writer profits from the number of people who click on the story*).



In recent years, fake news stories have proliferated via *social media*, in part because they are so easily and quickly shared online.

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.

The universe of "fake news" is much larger than simply false news stories. Some stories may have a nugget of truth, but lack any contextualizing details. They may not include any verifiable facts or sources.



Source : IFLA / Uni of Missouri

Additional Sources

- 1 A list of **Fake News Websites** can be found on Wikipedia, most of which produce fake political news
- 2 **Fact v. Fiction – Fake News**: a useful website containing examples of fake news, fake news websites, quiz and online games for practicing identifying and recognizing fake news
- 3 Another source of articles about fake news can be found on **Columbia Journalism Review (CJR)** website.
- 4 A useful website about **Identifying Fake News Sources**
- 5 **NewsGuard** - a well maintained website about fake news (*USA focused*)
- 6 Leslie Stebbins offers an interesting book *Finding Reliable Information Online: Adventures of an Information Sleuth* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015) in which each chapter presents an example of one online search for information, from a question like *is red wine good for health* to *where to go on a holiday*. She follows **search engines** such as *Google* and specialized websites and searches for sources and roots of information to show which are good and **reliable sources**.
- 7 **Balkan websites** and initiatives for **exposing fake news**:
 - fakenews.rs
 - raskrinkavanje.ba
 - raskrikavanje.rs
 - istinomer.rs