

Knight News Forum Notes

Library Convening

Eve Pearlman / Spaceship Media <https://spaceshipmedia.org/>
Reimagining the Civic Commons <http://civiccommons.us/>

News Literacy Project <https://newslit.org/> [NLP recently received \$5M from Knight]

CHECKOLOGY <https://checkology.org/>

Can students tell the difference between fact and fiction?

The Sift Newsletter <https://newslit.org/educators/sift/>

We sort through the recent rumors, hoaxes and other misinformation to bring you the best teachable moments in news literacy.

News Literacy Camp

Do you know how to detect if a twitter posting is real or not?

Do you know how to do a reverse image search?



How to recognize sockpuppet accounts.

[A sockpuppet is an online identity used for purposes of deception. The term, a reference to the manipulation of a simple hand puppet made from a sock, originally referred to a false identity assumed by a member of an Internet community who spoke to, or about, themselves while pretending to be another person.

The term now includes other misleading uses of online identities, such as those created to praise, defend or support a person or organization, to manipulate public opinion, or to circumvent a suspension or ban from a website. A significant difference between the use of a pseudonym and the creation of a sockpuppet is that the sockpuppet poses as an independent third-party unaffiliated with the puppeteer. Sockpuppets are unwelcome in many online communities and may be blocked. - Wikipedia]

New Literacies Collaborative <https://newlit.org/>

The New Literacies Collaborative (NLC) is comprised of a multidisciplinary team of researchers and educators who promote research, teacher professional development, and global connections with new literacies. New literacies emerge from the theoretical and practical intersection of literacy, evolving technologies, and media. Research areas include: game-based learning, online comprehension and navigation, social networking, video, and online teaching and learning. We explore how these areas are changing student learning and teacher education in the 21st century.

Media Forum Convening

Danah Boyd, Founder and President of Data & Society
The Fragmentation of Truth

Number 1 news source for millennials and younger: YouTube
PewDiePie over 87M subscribers
Referenced Rebecca Lewis's article (below)

Influencers:

Frank Luntz

PragerU, short for Prager University, is an American non-profit organization that creates videos on various political, economic and philosophical topics from a conservative or right-wing perspective. The videos are posted on YouTube and usually feature a speaker who lectures for about five minutes.

ClaimBuster and Squash

Machine learning programs that checks facts real time and can display on the screen whether a statement was accurate or not. The project is being developed at Duke University and lead by Bill Adair, the founder of PolitiFact.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XSMtno5avy4uVWAF019fpggqCAMIN_W1/view

Squash The other product is a previously secret project we've code-named Squash. It's our first attempt at fully automated fact-checking. It converts speech to text and then searches our database of fact-checks from the Post, FactCheck.org and PolitiFact. When it finds a match, a summary of the fact-check pops onto the screen.

<https://reporterslab.org/during-state-of-the-union-a-failure-and-a-glimpse-of-squash/>

Local Voices Network

I was able to meet with Deb Roy from LVN. When I met up with Deb, he happened to be with a small group that included Alberto Ibargüen, President of the Knight Foundation. He introduced me to Alberto and briefly talked about MPL's involvement in the LVN project. Alberto seemed to be aware of the project and was impressed. [It was recently announced that the Knight Foundation awarded Cortico with a \$2M grant.] Also in the group was Joy Lin, VP of Journalism at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Upon hearing about LVN, she was very excited about possibly covering the project.

Deb and I were able to discuss the progress of the project so far. He and his team were very happy with the partnership with MPL, the current results, and the potential to expand on the project due to the recent funding. He also shared that there were more funders interested in the project and he was hoping to have sufficient funding for the next 5-10 years. He opened up the current LVN website to show how the work has been progressing. They had just implemented a universal search tool to allow you to search term(s) across all conversations at once. He also demonstrated the analytics on a metrics tab that is only available to site administrators. It was fascinating to see each speaker's average length of conversation; how many times the facilitator interrupted speakers [in one case they intervened with some additional training with a facilitator due to this measurement]; word counts for every speaker and

more. As I was reviewing the capacity of the program I was beginning to see how we could take this technology and apply it to many other programs we do at the library. So I am hoping to maintain this positive relationship so we can continue to have access to the technology and potentially begin to explore other possible uses.

Networking

There is quite a variety of people to connect with at this convening, which is one of the best takeaways from participating at the Knight Media Forum. Besides library people, there are journalists, several different types of funders, and a variety of individuals currently working on Knight funded projects. For example, I just happen to be next to the Executive Director of *Libraries Without Borders* at breakfast. I was able to visit with him about some meetings MPL has had with the city of Kanifing, Madison's sister city in The Gambia, about a possible library project.

Recommended Reading:

Rebecca Lewis
Alternative Influence

Meredith Broussard
Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World (The MIT Press)

Dr. Francesca Tripodi
Searching For Alternative Facts

Searching for Alternative Facts is an ethnographic account drawn directly from Dr. Francesca Tripodi's research within upper-middle class conservative Christian* communities in Virginia in 2017. Dr. Tripodi uses Christian practices of Biblical interpretation as a lens for understanding the relationship between so-called "alternative" or "fake news" sources and contemporary conservative political thought.

Report can be downloaded at:

<https://datasociety.net/output/searching-for-alternative-facts/>