

Information Resources – WEBSITES, ARTICLES, REPORTS

Monmouth University Guggenheim Memorial Library: Media Literacy & Misinformation

https://guides.monmouth.edu/media_literacy/getting_started

A valuable, comprehensive site that covers: Evaluating Sources, Tips & Tools, Reporting the News, How Misinformation Spreads, Social Media & Conspiracy Theories – how it spreads , Reliable Sources

SourceWatch <https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/SourceWatch>

From The Center for Media and Democracy. Tracks corporations, profiles activities of front groups, PR spinners, industry-friendly experts, industry-funded organizations, and think tanks trying to manipulate public opinion on behalf of corporations or government.

FAIR – Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting <https://fair.org/>

Offering well-documented criticism of media bias and censorship since 1986. Advocates for greater diversity in the press, scrutinizes media practices that marginalize public interest, minority and dissenting viewpoints. They expose neglected news stories and defend working journalists when they are muzzled.

Open Secrets, Center for Responsive Politics <https://www.opensecrets.org/about/>

Nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit, the Center for Responsive Politics is the nation's premier research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. A good source for discovering how much and where candidates get their money. They also track lobbying groups and whom they are funding.

The Sunlight Foundation <https://sunlightfoundation.com/>

A national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that uses the tools of civic tech, open data, policy analysis and journalism to make our government and politics more accountable and transparent to all. Focuses on money's role in politics. Gets high ratings for transparency.

Poynter Institute <https://www.poynter.org/>

They are a leader in distinguished journalism and produce nothing but credible and evidence-based content. If Poynter reports it, you can count on it being true.

Pew Research Center <https://www.pewresearch.org/>

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, media content analysis and other empirical social science research. Pew Research Center does not take policy positions.

Media Bias/Fact Check <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>

Media Bias/Fact Check (MBFC), founded in 2015, is an independent online media outlet. Dedicated to educating the public on media bias and deceptive news practices. Aim is to inspire action and a rejection of overtly biased media. Want to return to an era of straight forward news reporting.

Ballotpedia <https://ballotpedia.org>

Ballotpedia is a nonpartisan online political encyclopedia that covers American federal, state, and local politics, elections, and public policy. Goal is “to inform people about politics by providing accurate and objective information about politics at all levels of government.”

Project Censored: the news that didn't make the news. <https://www.projectcensored.org/>

Educates about the importance of a truly free press for democratic self-government. Exposes and opposes news censorship and promotes independent investigative journalism, media literacy, and critical thinking. Annual publication: *Censored: the top censored stories and media analysis of [year]*.

Misinformation Monitor <https://www.newsguardtech.com/misinformation-monitor-august-2020/>

A free monthly newsletter published by NewsGuard covering misinformation, disinformation and false news online with data from the US, UK, France, Germany and Italy.

AllSides <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>

A news website that presents multiple sources side by side from Left-Center-Right perspectives in order to provide the full scope of news story. Media bias ratings are provided for ca. 800 media outlets. Includes “How to spot 11 types of media bias”

The Conversation <https://theconversation.com/us>

An independent, nonprofit publisher of commentary and analysis authored by academics and edited by journalists for the general public. Publishes short articles by academics on timely topics related to their research. Their mission is “to promote truthful information and strengthen journalism by unlocking the rich diversity of academic research for audiences across America.”

A Starting Point <https://www.astartingpoint.com/>

A video-based civic engagement platform created by Chris Evans, Mark Kassen, and technology entrepreneur Joe Kiani. Mission is to create a bipartisan channel of communication and connectivity between Americans and their elected officials with the goal of creating a more informed electorate. Videos from elected officials across the United States include two-minute answers to common questions, or discussions between two members of the Senate or House of different parties.

Ground News <https://web.ground.news/>

A news comparison site that looks at each individual news story, via an algorithm, and then lets you know what type of outlets are mostly covering that specific event. Tells you if a particular news story is being widely covered or if it's just a big topic of conversation between the news outlets within your ideological bubble.

The Trust Project Newsroom Transparency Tracker <https://www.newsroomtransparencytracker.com/>

The Trust Project with PEN America. Shares the information published by media outlets with respect to four Trust Indicators, transparency standards re: ethics codes and related commitments, how it does its work, and the expertise of its journalists. Resources for educators, newsrooms and research.

Transparify <https://www.transparify.org/>

Provides a global rating of the financial transparency of major think tanks and rates the extent to which they publicly disclose their sources of funding, the amount of funding, and the specific research projects supported by the funding. Not-for-profit, based in Georgia. Funded by Open Society Foundations, an organization set up by George Soros.

Algorithm Watch <http://www.algorithmwatch.org/en/>

A non-profit research and advocacy organization committed to evaluating and shedding light on algorithmic decision-making processes that have a social relevance, meaning they are used either to predict or prescribe human action or to make decisions automatically.

REPORT: Are Algorithms a Threat to Democracy? The Rise of Intermediaries: A Challenge for Public Discourse / Stark & Stegmann, with Magin and Jurgens. 26 May 2020.

<https://algorithmwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Governing-Platforms-communications-study-Stark-May-2020-AlgorithmWatch.pdf>

What is an algorithm, anyway? by Rachel Kraus. Mashable.com August 31, 2020.

<https://mashable.com/article/what-is-an-algorithm/>

Algorithms control your online life. Here's how to reduce their influence. By Chris Taylor. Mashable.com August 31, 2020.

<https://mashable.com/article/how-to-avoid-algorithms-facebook-youtube-twitter-instagram/>

How Disinformation Has Morphed for the 2020 Election. by Alyza Sebenius. Bloomberg.com May 14, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-05-14/how-disinformation-has-morphed-for-the-2020-election-quicktake>

Political microtargeting: the good, bad and ugly. Rob Lever. AFP (via Yahoo News) Nov. 26, 2019

<https://news.yahoo.com/political-microtargeting-good-bad-ugly-024249611.html>

REPORT: Online Political Microtargeting: Promises and Threats for Democracy / Frederik J. Zuiderveen et al. Utrecht Law Review 14(1), pp.82–96, 09 Feb. 2018.

<https://www.utrechtlawreview.org/articles/10.18352/ulr.420/galley/391/download/>

Top 50 Fake News Websites and Blogs on the Web in 2020 FeedSpot.com August 30, 2020.

https://blog.feedspot.com/fake_news_blogs/

Here are all the 'fake news' sites to watch out for on Facebook: It's a minefield out there, folks. The DailyDot.com Apr 14, 2020 Andrew Coutts.

<https://www.dailydot.com/debug/fake-news-sites-list-facebook/>

10 Ways to Pop Your Filter Bubble by Eli Pariser.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150317092532/http://www.thefilterbubble.com/10-things-you-can-do>

How to go incognito in Chrome, Edge, Firefox and Safari By Gregg Keizer Computerworld, June 5, 2020.

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3356840/how-to-go-incognito-in-chrome-firefox-safari-and-edge.html>

How to escape your social media bubble before the election by Matt Binder Sept. 5, 2020.

<https://mashable.com/article/how-to-burst-social-media-filter-bubble-election/>

From Surveillance To Agency: How To Center The Internet On Humanity. Konstanze Frischen interview with Richard Whitt, the founder of GLIANet. Ashoka Contributor Grp. Forbes, July 23, 2020.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ashoka/2020/07/23/from-surveillance-to-agency-how-to-center-the-internet-on-humanity/#b793166cc0d4>

REPORT: Who shares the most fake news? New study sheds light By Lisa Marshall CU Boulder Today, June 17, 2020 <https://www.colorado.edu/today/2020/06/17/who-shares-most-fake-news-new-study-sheds-light> Link to the research in the article: <https://academic.oup.com/hcr/advance-article/doi/10.1093/hcr/hqz022/5840447?guestAccessKey=e1548abf-a0ae-469a-98f5-a9a04b0b769e>

REPORT: U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided

Deep partisan divisions exist in the news sources Americans trust, distrust and rely on
The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center.

<https://www.journalism.org/2020/01/24/u-s-media-polarization-and-the-2020-election-a-nation-divided>

REPORT: Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policymaking
/ By Claire Wardle, PhD and Hossein Derakhshan. With research support from Anne Burns and Nic Dias. Published by the Council of Europe, September 27, 2017. 2nd revised edition, August 2018.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/information-disorder>

REPORT: American Views 2020: Trust, Media and Democracy; A Deepening Divide. A Gallup/Knight Foundation Survey.

<https://knightfoundation.org/reports/american-views-2020-trust-media-and-democracy/>

Link to the full Survey: <https://knightfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/American-Views-2020-Trust-Media-and-Democracy.pdf>

REPORT: 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report by James G. McGann. Think Tank and Civil Societies Program, University of Pennsylvania. Published 2020.

International survey of over 1,950 scholars, public and private donors, policy makers, and journalists who helped rank more than 6,500 think tanks using a set of 18 criteria developed by the TTCSP.

https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1018&context=think_tanks