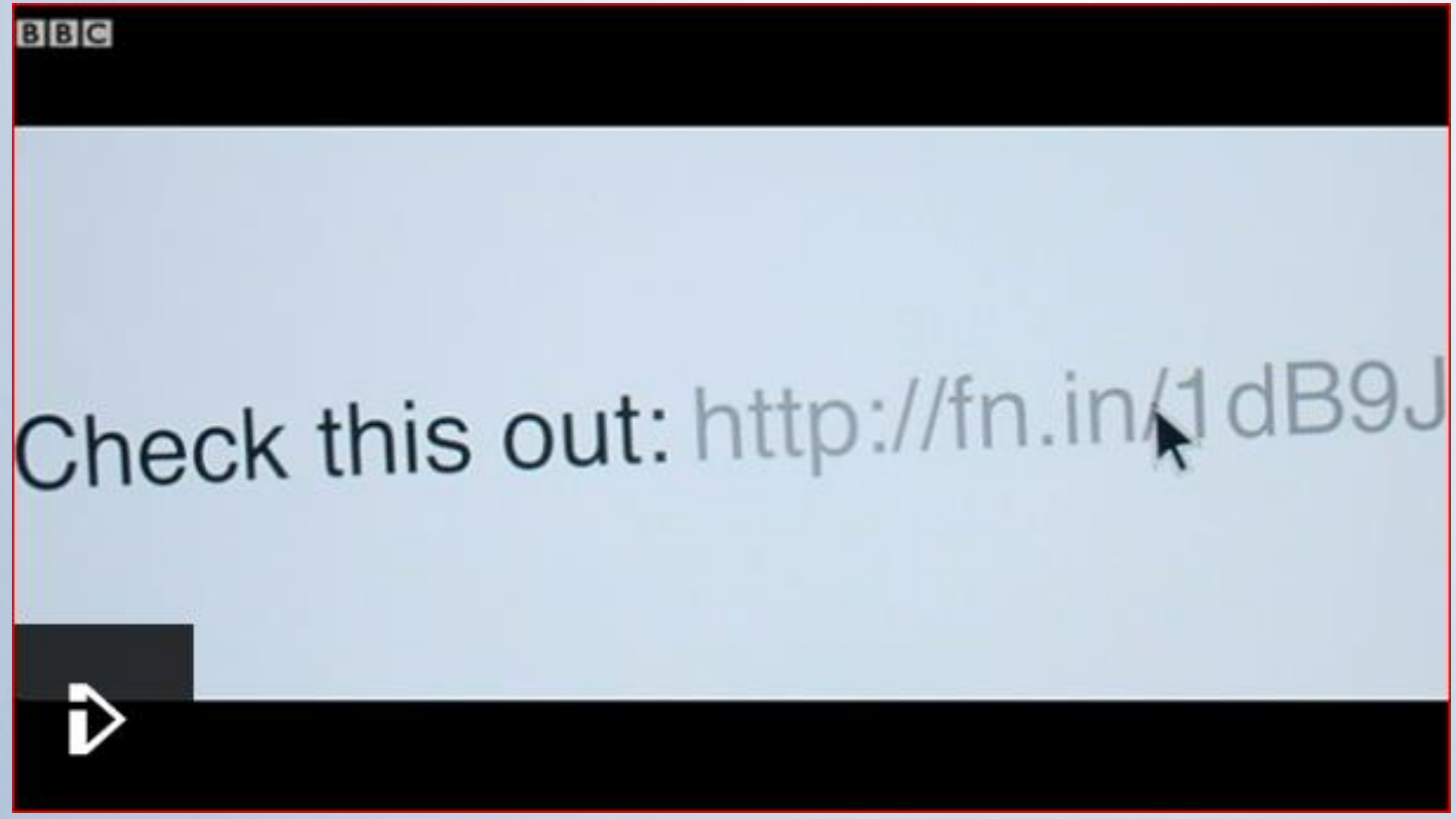
# FAKE OR FALSE NEWS? HOW CAN YOU SPOT IT?

NEVER NEUTRAL: RESISTANCE, PERSISTENCE, INSISTENCE

SALIS/AMHL 2018 MAY 1-4 · BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, USA

CHRISTINE GOODAIR BA (HONS) FRSA, ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON




http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/aboutthebbc/entries/84e0f9a4-e82d-449f-b095-90a3d46cd9ae

# CONTENT

- What is it?
- Where is it Media, academia …. Or elsewhere?
- What are the drivers of fake news?
- Fake News is older than we think…
- The Information Sector’s Perspective
- How is fake news being addressed in the UK and Europe


False News
Fake News
Misinformation
Propaganda
Alternative facts

# WHAT IS FAKE NEWS

Dictionary definitions

false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/fake-news

false stories that appear to be news, spread on the internet or using other media, usually created to influence political views or as a joke: https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fake-news

Other descriptions

- Completely false or fabricated information, photos or videos purposefully created and spread to confuse or misinform
- Information, photos or videos manipulated to deceive - or old photographs shared as new, impersonation of genuine sources
- Satire or parody which means no harm but can fool people

# SOURCES OF FAKE NEWS

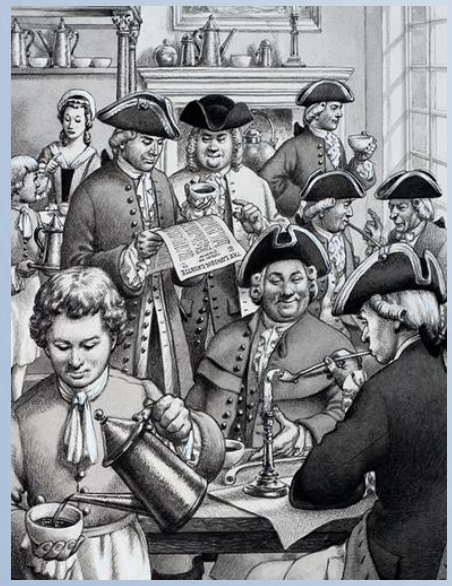
- News Channels , Newspapers,
- Websites – designed with intent to Spread Disinformation
- Posts on Social media, through forums and messaging boards etc. – Twitter , Facebook,
- Inaccurate information shared via closed Messaging Apps – WhatsApp, Messenger Facebook…
- Visual Posts on Social media sites – Instagram, Youtube… inaccurate or Manipulated PhotoGraps
- Inaccurate comments or content on various Consumer review sites like Tripadvisor

*Wardle, C (2018)*

# DRIVERS OF FAKE NEWS

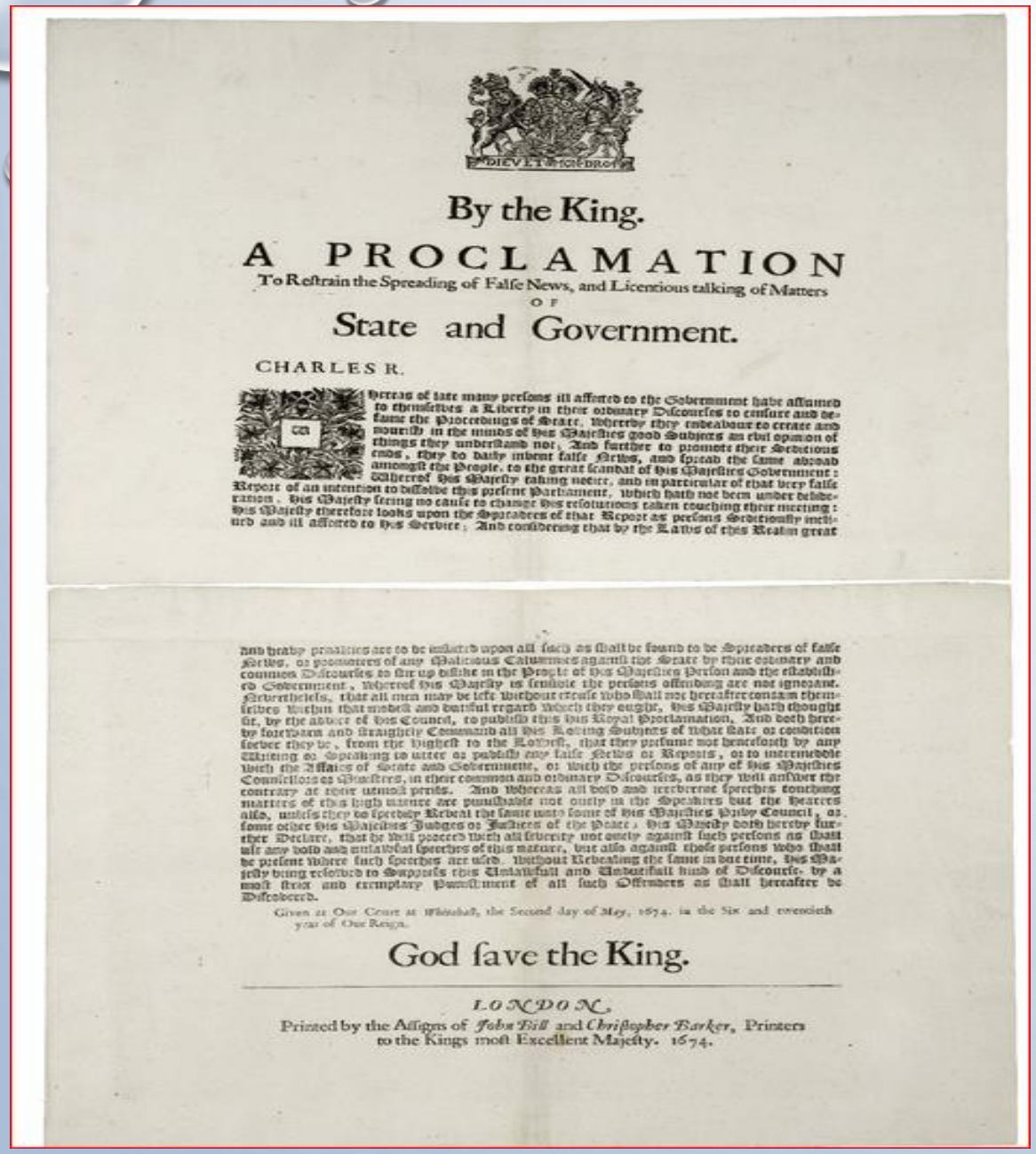
- Financial - Make Money
- Political – Gain Votes
- Social – Cause unrest
- Drama and Effect – Amuse or not
- SATIRE –Show absurdity

# FAKE NEWS IS OLDER THAN WE THINK……



- King Charles 2nd 1660-1685

In the 17th-century, panic gripped British royal circles that these newly established drinking salons had become forums for political dissent. In 1672, Charles II issued a proclamation “to restrain the spreading of false news” that was helping “to nourish an universal jealousie and dissatisfaction in the minds of all His Majesties good subjects”.



By the King.

# A PROCLAMATION

To Restrain the Spreading of False News, and Licentious talking of Matters of State and Government.

CHARLES R.

Wereas of late many persons ill affected to the Government have assumed to themselves a Liberty in their ordinary Discourses to censure and defame the Proceedings of State, whereby they endeavour to create and nourish in the minds of her Majesties good Subjects an evil opinion of things they understand not, And further to promote their Seditious ends, they do daily invent false Newes, and spread the same abroad amongst the People, to the great Scandal of his Majesties Government: Wherefore his Majesty taking notice, and in particular of that very false Report of an intention to dissolve this present Parliament, which hath not been under deliberation, his Majesty seeing no cause to change his resolutions taken touching their meeting: his Majesty therefore looks upon the Spreaders of that Report as persons Seditiously inclined and ill affected to his Service; And considering that by the Laws of this Realm great

and heavy penalties are to be inflicted upon all such as shall be found to be Spreaders of false Newes, or promoters of any Malicious Calumnies against the State by their ordinary and common Discourses to stir up dislike in the People of his Majesties Person and the established Government, wherein his Majesty is sensible the persons offending are not ignorant. Nevertheless, that all men may be left without excuse who shall not hereafter contain themselves within that modest and dutiful regard which they ought, his Majesty hath thought fit, by the advice of his Council, to publish this his Royal Proclamation, And doth hereby forewarn and straightly Command all his Loving Subjects of what Rate or condition soever they be, from the highest to the Lowest, that they presume not hereafter by any Writing or Speaking to utter or publish any false Newes or Reports, or to intermeddle with the Affairs of State and Government, or with the persons of any of his Majesties Councellors or Ministers, in their common and ordinary Discourses, as they will answer the contrary at their utmost perils. And whereas all bold and irreverent Speeches touching matters of this high nature are punishable not only in the Speakers but the Hearers also, unless they do speedily Reveal the same unto some of his Majesties Privy Council, or some other his Majesties Judges or Justices of the Peace; His Majesty doth hereby further Declare, that he will proceed with all severity not only against such persons as shall use any bold and unlawful Speeches of this nature, but also against those persons who shall be present where such Speeches are used, without Revealing the same in due time, his Majesty being resolved to Suppress this Unnatural and Undutifull kind of Discourse, by a most strict and exemplary Punishment of all such Offenders as shall hereafter be Discovered.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the Second day of May, 1674. in the Six and twentieth year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

LONDON,

Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1674.

Proclamation to restrain the spreading of false news, and licentious talking of matters of state and government. Given at our court at Whitehall, the second day of May, 1674. in the six and twentieth year of our reign

http://collections.folger.edu/detail/by-the-king-a-proclamation-to-restrain-the-spreading-of-false-news-and-licentious-talking-of-matters-of-state-and-government/f3d78b2e-83b5-4264-b7d3-0bd693c48c5f




What is the Information Sector's perspective?

# THE INFORMATION SECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

- "As a profession that is committed to access to information, we are concerned about efforts to define 'fake news' that could have an unintended impact or chilling effect on the ability of information intermediaries including libraries to provide access to information"
- "Role Libraries have an essential role in preserving and stewarding the historic, scientific and cultural record – especially in the case of digital content to guard against deletion or revision"

http://www.rluk.ac.uk/about-us/blog/rluk-evidence-published-in-culture-media-and-sport-fake-news-inquiry/

# THE INFORMATION SECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

- "it is our view that librarians and information professionals can, and already do, play an important role in helping people in both formal education and other settings to develop a critical approach to their use of information sources. Librarians in schools college and universities run engaging and innovative teaching which encourages students to verify and check stories that are reported on social media and the internet. They have also developed a wide range of resources, including infographics, guides and online tutorials that can be used by teachers and other professionals. We would strongly advocate that we can be part of the solution to tackling fake news, and can offer a breadth of experience about what works across the public, education and workplace sectors."
- But …….

*FROM InformAll and the CILIP Information Literacy Group*
*SUBMISSION TO FAKE NEWS  INQUIRY*

# TOOLS AND SKILLS

- Critical thinking is a key skill in media and information literacy, and the mission of libraries is to educate and advocate its importance.
- Discussions about fake news has led to a new focus on media literacy more broadly, and the role of libraries and other education institutions in providing this.
- Education – to include how to overcome Confirmation Bias – tendency to seek out what Information that fits with our worldview.
- Information Literacy – Distinguish between Opinion and Hard News
- Run SafeWeb Use Workshops, Digital skills
- Gatekeepers
- Set criteria For Identifying fake news
- Provide lib guides – for example the CRAAP Test http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/evaluating/craap




https://www.ifla.org/node/11584

# CHALLENGES FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

- As a matter of collecting policy, do we acknowledge the existence of such a thing as absolute and objective truth, or is it our position that all truth is socially constructed?
- In light of our library's position on the first question, what criteria will we apply when deciding what constitutes a factually reliable source?
- Do factually unreliable documents have a place in the library collection? If so or if not, why?

*Anderson (2017)*

# RESOURCES


False News
Fake News
Misinformation
Propaganda
Alternative facts

# EDUCATIONALRESOURCES

- LESSON PLAN: HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS https://www.channelone.com/blog_post/lesson-plan-how-to-spot-fake-news/

ONLINE GAMES

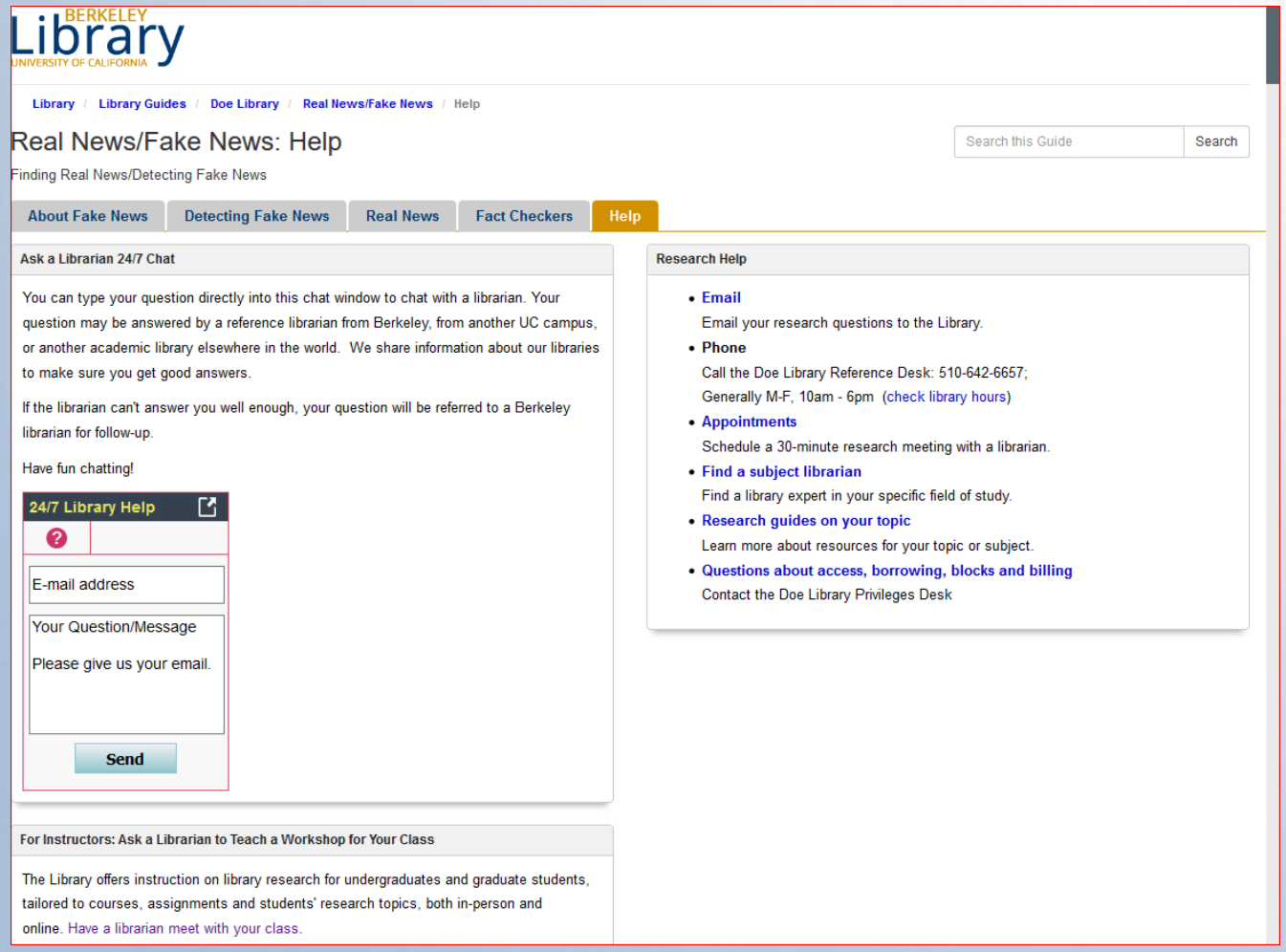
- "BAD NEWS" https://www.getbadnews.com/#intro
- BBC Ireporter http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-8760dd58-84f9-4c98-ade2-590562670096

Quiz Real or Fake https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/real-or-fake-news-quiz

# LIBRARY RESOURCES

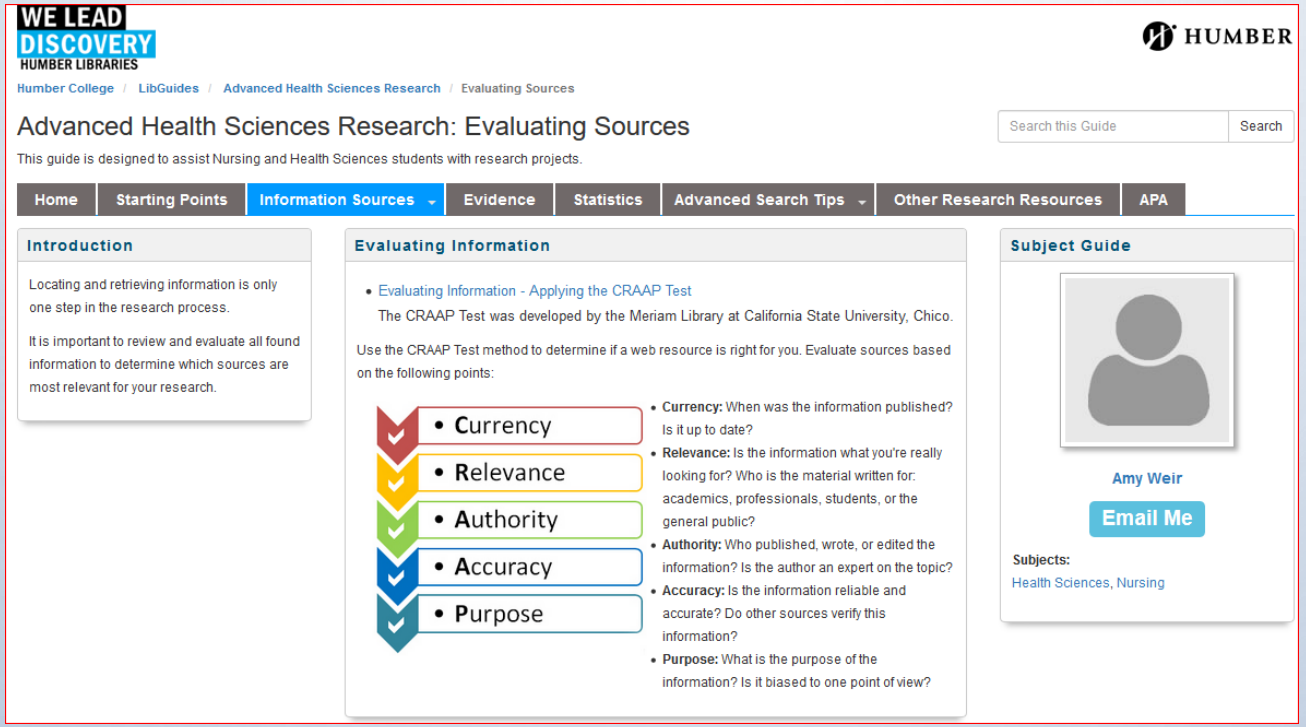
- FAKE NEWS: A LIBRARY RESOURCE ROUND-UP (2017) ALA PUBLIC PROGRAMS OFFICE http://www.programminglibrarian.org/articles/fake-news-library-round
- Harvard University Library Fake News, Misinformation, and Propaganda https://guides.library.harvard.edu/fake
- Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test Meriam Library California State University, Chico http://libguides.csuchico.edu/c.php?g=414299&p=2822727

# BERKELEY LIBRARY REAL NEWS FAKE NEWS




http://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/c.php?g=620677&p=4333443

# CRAAP TEST




http://libguides.humber.ca/healthsciencesresearch

BAD NEWS

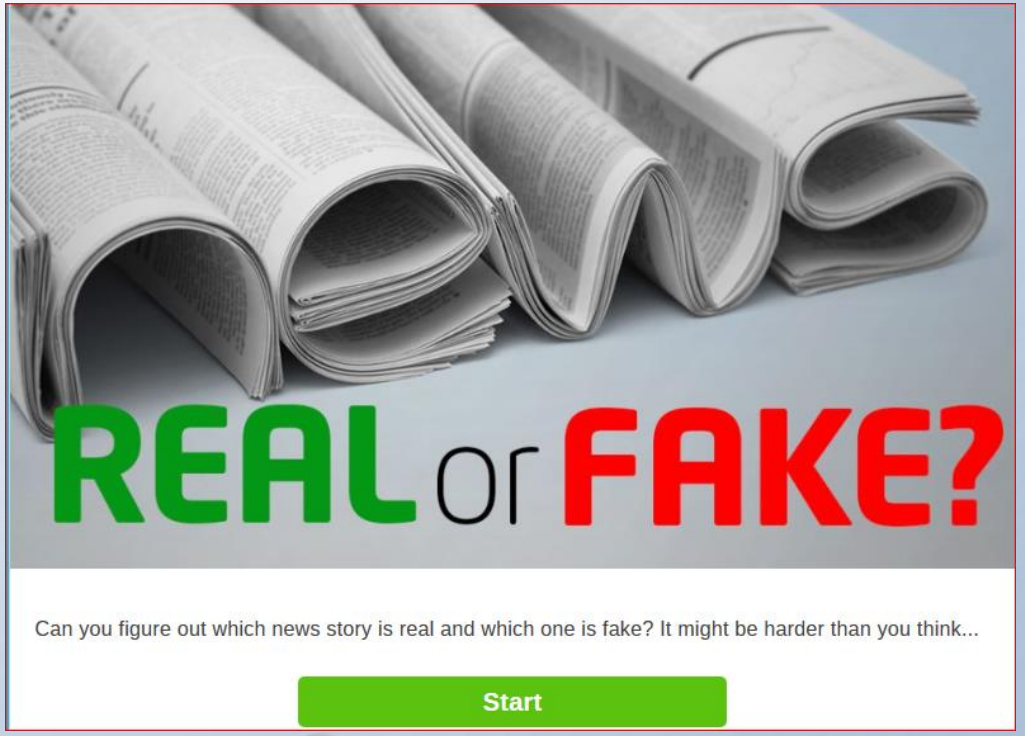
BBC journalists return to school to tackle ‘fake news’






BBC iREPORTER

GET READY TO MAKE THE HEADLINES!






How is fake news/disinformation being dealt with in the UK and Europe?

# UK

January 2018 The UK government is to establish a new unit to counter "fake news", Downing Street has said.

Spokesperson for UK prime minister Theresa May told journalists:

*"We are living in an era of fake news and competing narratives. The government will respond with more and better use of national security communications to tackle these interconnected, complex challenges".*

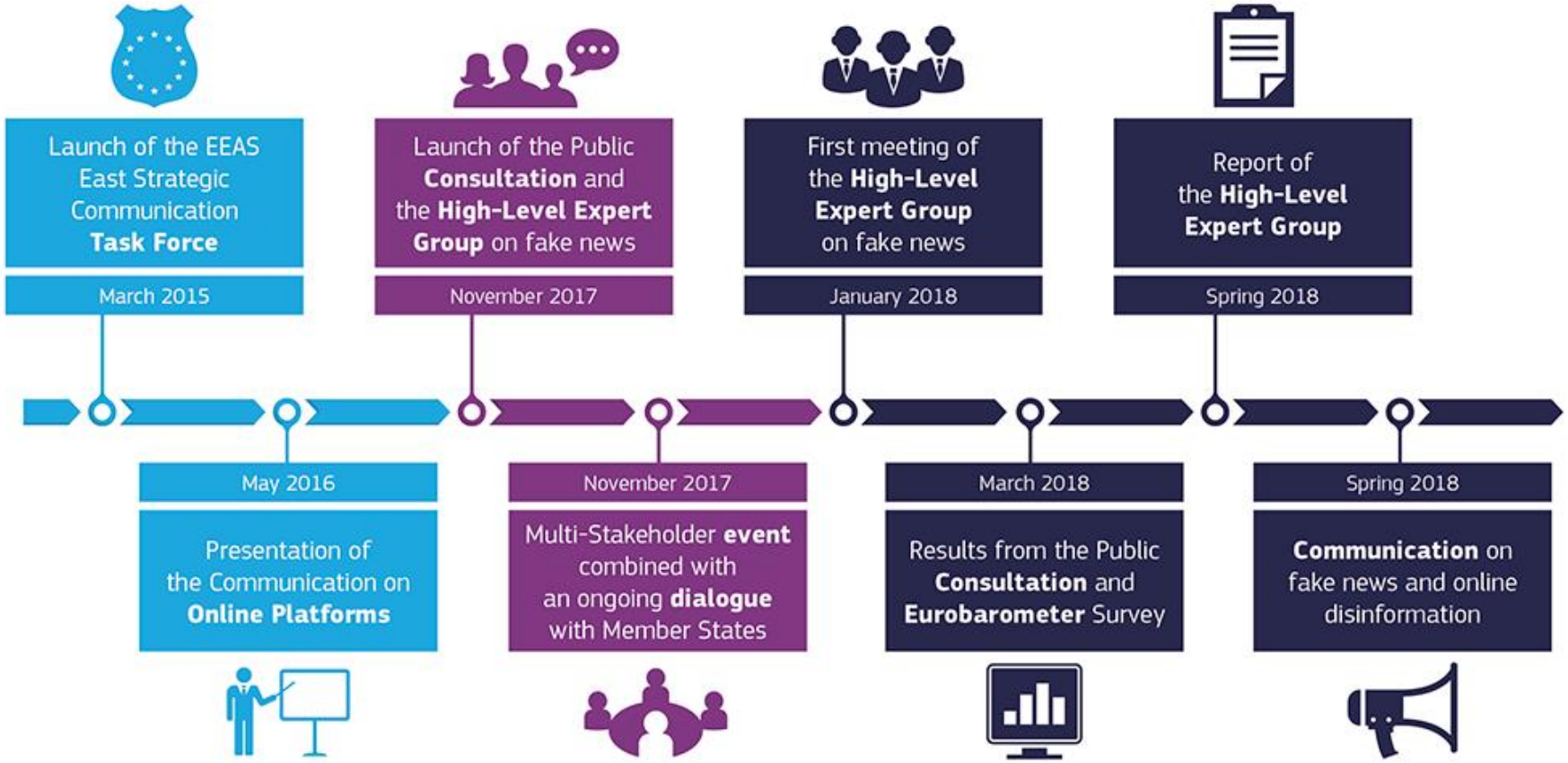
*"We will build on existing capabilities by creating a dedicated national security communications unit. This will be tasked with combating disinformation by state actors and others. It will more systematically deter our adversaries and help us deliver on national security priorities."*

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-42791218

# UK

- Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry in to Fake News. https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/digital-culture-media-and-sport-committee/news/fake-news-inquiry-launch-17-19/
- Terms of Reference
- What is 'fake news'?
- What impact has fake news on public understanding of the world
- Is there any difference in the way people respond to fake news?
- What has encouraged the growth of fake news?

# Tackling Fake News in the EU




The Commission's Representations in the EU Member States and external delegations in third countries will participate in the debate and gather information on national rules and initiatives addressing the spread of fake news in their countries.

#TackleFakeNews bit.ly/tacklefakenews

# Europe


European Commission
FL464
Fake News and Disinformation Online
Survey conducted by TNS Political & Social at the request of the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communications Networks
Survey co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM "Media Monitoring, Media Analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit)

# KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents perceive traditional media as the most trusted source of news: radio (70%), television (66%) and printed newspapers and news magazines (63%);
- 37% of the respondents come across fake news every day or almost everyday and 71% feel confident on identifying them;
- 85% of respondents perceive fake news as a problem in their country and 83% perceive it as a problem for democracy in general;
- In respondents' view, journalists (45%), national authorities (39%) and the press and broadcasting management (36%) should be the main responsible for stopping the spread of fake news.

http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/survey/getsurveydetail/instruments/flash/surveyky/2183

**European Commission** @EU_Commission · Mar 12

83% of Europeans perceive #fakenews to be a problem for democracy.
The High-Level Expert Group on Fake News and Disinformation presents its policy recommendations and insights today → europa.eu/!vF38vm **#tacklefakenews**




31 254 295

# HIGH LEVEL EXPERT GROUP RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Enhance transparency of online news,
- Promote  media and information literacy to counter disinformation
- Develop tools for empowering users and journalists to tackle disinformation
- Safeguard the diversity and sustainability of the European news media ecosystem, and
- Promote continued research on the impact of disinformation in Europe
- Evaluate the measures taken by different actors and constantly adjust the necessary responses.

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/final-report-high-level-expert-group-fake-news-and-online-disinformation

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Wardle C (2018) Written Evidence submitted by Dr Claire Wardle, Research Fellow at the Shorenstein Center for Media. Politics and Public Policy Harvard Kennedy School. https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/digital-culture-media-and-sport-committee/news/fake-news-us-evidence-update/

# AND TO CONCLUDE…

- April Fools Day is celebrated the world over as a pretext for practical jokes or a well-crafted hoax, with television often proving the perfect medium for a prank. It has been exactly 60 years since the BBC screened what may have been the first ever televisual 1 April prank, before going on to enjoy something of a golden age in the 1970s and 1980s.
- Today, with the term "fake news" being taken to mean something entirely different, there is something rather quaint about this selection from the BBC's archives. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-39411355