PROJECT INFORMATION LITERACY

News Study Dataset

October 2018

Survey Instrument

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PART ONE: HOW DO YOU GET YOUR NEWS?

News coverage of events happening all around the world is more widely available to us than ever before. In this part of the questionnaire, we want to find out which kinds of news you read, listen to, or view for personal use in your life.

QUESTION 1: How often, if at all, has your news come from one of these sources during the past week?

	Several times a day	Once a day	2-3 times this week	Once this week	Didn't use this source at all this week
Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)	0	0	0	0	0
News feeds (e.g., Apple News, Feedly, or alerts)	0	0	0	0	0
Print newspapers or magazines	0	0	0	0	0
Online newspaper sites (e.g., nytimes.com)	0	0	0	0	0
Television	0	0	0	0	0
Radio	0	0	0	0	0
Podcasts	0	0	0	0	0
Discussions with peers (i.e., online or face-to-face)	0	0	0	0	0
Discussions with teachers/professors (i.e., online or face-to-face)	0	0	0	0	0
Discussions with librarians (i.e., online or face-to-face)	0	0	0	0	0

QUESTION 2: In the past week, how often have you read, listened to, or viewed news items about the following topics, given what's going on in the world around you now?

	Several times a day	Once a day	2-3 times this week	Once this week	Didn't follow this news at all this week
Traffic and weather	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental and natural disasters	0	0	0	0	0
My town or city (e.g., local issues, events, politics)	0	0	0	0	0
National government and politics	0	0	0	0	0
Business and the economy	0	0	0	0	0
Crime and public safety	0	0	0	0	0
International or foreign issues	0	0	0	0	0
Health and medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Political memes (i.e., a humorous image, video, or piece of text)	0	0	0	0	0
Schools and education	0	0	0	0	0
Science and technology	0	0	0	0	0
Race and immigration	0	0	0	0	0
Sports	0	0	0	0	0
Entertainment and celebrities	0	0	0	0	0
Lifestyle (e.g., hobbies)	0	0	0	0	0
Art and culture	0	0	0	0	0

QUESTION 3: If you had only one of these five sources available to you this week, which one would you choose for getting news about the U.S. national government and politics? (Click ONLY one)
O BBC News
O BuzzFeed
○ CNN
○ Fox News
O New York Times
O None of these
O I'm not sure, since I don't follow the news much.
PART TWO: HOW DO YOU USE SOCIAL MEDIA SITES FOR NEWS?
Some students get their news from social media network sites. In this part of the questionnaire, we want to find out which social media sites you use for news for personal use in your life.
QUESTION 4: How often, if at all, did your news come from one of these social media sites during the past week?

	Several times a day	Once a day	2-3 times this week	Once this week	Didn't use this source at all this week	l don't use this social media source at all
Facebook	0	0	0	0	0	0
Instagram	0	0	0	0	0	0
LinkedIn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pinterest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reddit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snapchat	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tumblr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twitter	0	0	0	0	0	0
YouTube	0	0	0	0	0	0

QUESTION 5: How often, if at all, have you shared or retweeted a news item on the social media sites that you use about one of these topics during the past week?

	Several times a day	Once a day	2-3 times this week	Once this week	Not once this week	I don't share or retweet news items about this
Traffic and weather	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental and natural disasters	0	0	0	0	0	0
My town or city (e.g., local issues, events, politics)	0	0	0	0	0	0
National government and politics	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business and the economy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crime and public safety	0	0	0	0	0	0
International or foreign issues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and medicine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Political memes (i.e., a humorous image, video, or piece of text)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schools and education	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science and technology	0	0	0	0	0	0
Race and immigration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Entertainment and celebrities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lifestyle (e.g., hobbies)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Art and culture	0	0	0	0	0	0

QUESTION 6: Why do you share news items, if at all, on the social media sites that you use? Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	l don't share or retweet news items at all
Sharing news helps me define my online presence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharing news lets my friends/followers know about something I think they should know	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharing news lets me provoke responses from others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharing news is a way to entertain my friends/followers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharing news is a way to entertain myself	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharing news gives me a way to have a voice about a larger cause in the world	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharing news gives me an opportunity to help change the views of my friends/followers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharing news gives me a break from what I'm currently doing	0	0	0	0	0	0

QUESTION 7: When you're deciding to share 'breaking news'—a special news event that is currently developing—on social media, how do you evaluate the quality of the information that you share, if you do at all?

	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	l don't share breaking news at all
Check how current information is	0	0	0	0	0	0
Check to see what the hashtag (#) is, if there is one	0	0	0	0	0	0
Check to see who posted or tweeted news item	0	0	0	0	0	0
Check the URL to see where the source originated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Compare and fact check the news item using a different source	0	0	0	0	0	0
Read the comments, if there are any, about the news post	0	0	0	0	0	0
See how many times the news item was 'liked'	0	0	0	0	0	0
See how many times the news items was shared/retweeted	0	0	0	0	0	0
Read or view the entire news story from start to end and then decide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Take a screenshot of the news item to ask a friend what they think	0	0	0	0	0	0
Go with my gut feeling to decide whether a news item is legitimate or not	0	0	0	0	0	0

PART THREE: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE NEWS, IN GENERAL?

In this part of the questionnaire, we want to find out what you think about the quality of news that is available to you.

QUESTION 8: News can be defined in different ways depending on your point of view. In this question, we want to learn what news means to you and the role that news plays in your life. From your perspective, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about what constitutes news, whether it comes from social media feeds, news sites, or print sources?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
news is information that is useful to my life	0	0	0	0	0	0
news is factual stories that grab my interest	0	0	0	0	0	0
news is any story that helps me understand the world	0	0	0	0	0	0
news consists of objective reporting of facts	0	0	0	0	0	0
news is necessary in a democracy	0	0	0	0	0	0
following the news is a civic responsibility	0	0	0	0	0	0
it's difficult to tell the most important news stories on any given day	0	0	0	0	0	0
it's difficult to tell real news from fake news	0	0	0	0	0	0
the sheer amount of news on any given day is overwhelming	0	0	0	0	0	0
l don't think much about what news means to me	0	0	0	0	0	0

QUESTION 9: News stories sometimes contain factual errors. From your perspective, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about news stories, and the journalists that produce them?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
l do not trust the news, no matter what the source is	0	0	0	0	0	0
fake news has made me distrust the credibility of any news	0	0	0	0	0	0
without knowing the source of the newswhere a news item originatedI can't trust news	0	0	0	0	0	0
I trust news from traditional sources produced by professional journalists, more than social media sites where anyone can post news	0	0	0	0	0	0
journalists deliberately insert their own bias into news stories	0	0	0	0	0	0
journalists make mistakes but generally try to get their news stories right	0	0	0	0	0	0

QUESTION 10: 'Fake news' is a term we hear and see a lot these days. How confident do you feel with recognizing fake news?

0	Very confident
0	Confident
0	Somewhat confide
0	Slightly confident
0	Not confident at al
\bigcirc	Don't know

QUESTION 11: Now we'd like to ask you about something different. Some, but not all, students say there are differences between how they get news for fulfilling academic assignments vs. how they get news for personal use in their lives. How do you get news for fulfilling academic assignments vs. news for personal use in your life? (Click ALL that apply)

QUESTION 14: What's your current status as a student (e.g., first-year, sophomore, junior, or senior, or otherwise)?

QUESTION 13: Where are you currently enrolled as a student?

Belmont UniversityBrandeis University

O DePaul University

O Wellesley College

High school studentCollege first-year student

College sophomore or second-year student
 College junior or third-year student
 College senior or fourth-year student
 College fifth-year student or beyond

Other type of undergraduate student (e.g., exchange student)

Other

John Tyler Community College
 Oklahoma State University
 Saint Mary's College of California
 University of Alaska Anchorage
 University of Michigan
 University of Texas at Austin

O California State University Maritime Academy

This question was only asked of the high school survey respondents, not of the college participants.
○ Yes
○ No
O Prefer not to state
Other
O Don't know
QUESTION 15b: What is your major area of study? (Click ALL that apply)
The question was only asked of college survey respondents, not of the high school exploratory sample.
Architecture and Engineering
Arts and Humanities
Business Administration
☐ Computer Science
☐ Education
General Education (includes AA, breadth requirements, undeclared)
Mathematics
Occupational Training (includes nursing, 2-year, 4-year programs)
Social and Behavioral Science
Life and Physical Sciences
Other
QUESTION 16: What is your age today?
QUESTION TO. What is your age today:
○ 18-20 years old
21 - 22 years old
21 - 22 years old
21 - 22 years old23-25 years old
21 - 22 years old23 - 25 years old26 years or older
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years old 26 years or older Prefer not to state
21 - 22 years old23 - 25 years old26 years or older
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years old 26 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as?
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years old 26 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as?
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years old 26 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state
 21 - 22 years old 25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state Please fill in the blank
 21 - 22 years old 25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state Please fill in the blank
 21 - 22 years old 23 - 25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state Please fill in the blank QUESTION 18: How do you describe yourself politically? (Click ONLY one)
 21 - 22 years old 23 - 25 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state Please fill in the blank QUESTION 18: How do you describe yourself politically? (Click ONLY one) Very conservative
 21 - 22 years old 23 - 25 years or older 26 years or older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state Please fill in the blank QUESTION 18: How do you describe yourself politically? (Click ONLY one) Very conservative Conservative
 21 - 22 years old 23-25 years older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state Please fill in the blank QUESTION 18: How do you describe yourself politically? (Click ONLY one) Very conservative Conservative Moderate Liberal
 21 - 22 years old 23 - 25 years older Prefer not to state QUESTION 17: What do you identify yourself as? Female Male Transgender Prefer not to state Please fill in the blank QUESTION 18: How do you describe yourself politically? (Click ONLY one) Very conservative Conservative Moderate

QUESTION 15a: Are you planning to attend college next fall?

QUESTION 19: If you are a Twitter user, will you share your Twitter username/handle with us?

As part of this study, we will use your username to conduct a computational analysis of tweets, likes, and retweets by you and other Twitter users who have made their usernames available. Your Twitter username will be kept confidential. Your username will be grouped with usernames and only used internally for our research so that we may study Twitter use across all of the participants.

QUESTION 20: Are you interested in telling us more about how you get your news?

— End of Survey —