Tackling Disinformation Face to Face: Possibilities for Progress

#Disinfo2019  @LieDetectorsOrg

Lie Detectors is funded by Hansjörg Wyss and the Wyss Foundation, and accredited by the King Baudouin Foundation.

Lie Detectors is a member of the EU High Level Expert Group on Online Disinformation and Fake News.
The Problem: Disinformation and Truth Decay

• Going underground: fakes spliced with facts, hard to spot, easy to believe

• No space for reason: emotional triggers online hollow out centrist debate

• Insidious erosion: disinformation outside election season

• Waning of trust in facts: attacks on information channels, journalism in money trouble

• Targeting young audiences: via chatrooms, Instagram & YouTube

• Generational gap: little guidance for young news consumers
Digital Livingroom:
Targeting German schoolchildren
...via Instagram
Solutions: What Lie Detectors Does

- deploy to deliver memorable interactive sessions
- train to show disinformation & verification
- prompt to explain news bias - how does media work?

Classrooms
- harness intuitive understanding
- create trust
- inspire curiosity

Teachers
- build confidence
- encourage awareness
- activate long-term engagement

Journalists
Progress Report

- **International approach**: May-June 2019: 120 classroom visits in six weeks, in Germany, Belgium, Austria
- **Multilingual**: approach transferred into English, German, French (and soon Dutch) and across national media landscapes
- **Diversity**: from Berlin Prenzlauer Berg to Wurzen; from Vienna to Molenbeek
- **Age range**: answering growing demand for material for younger audiences
- **Requests for expansion** into Poland, Netherlands, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, UK, Ukraine, Belarus, Brazil, India, Singapore, United States
- **Putting it on the agenda**: Lie Detectors chairs civil society section of European Commission’s advisory High Level Expert Group on Fake News; advised French, Belgian, Nordic governments and lawmakers
- **Advocacy success**: EU commits to push integration of media literacy into OECD school rankings; pledges funds to insert media literacy in teacher-training curricula. Expert group calls for independent funding mechanism.
- **2018 EU Digital Skills Award** for work in education
Lessons From the Classroom

Results

- **Helpful:** 95% of children find the sessions helpful and appropriate, and 70% want more of it in school
- **Teachers respond:** 100% of teachers report heightened interest & request follow-up

Learning points:

- **Create trust:** face-to-face time with journalists boosts credibility
- **Harness understanding:** leverage existing knowledge to create relevance for young people
- **Universal relevance:** no classroom is immune, all classrooms are relevant
- **Acknowledge the gap:** 50%+ teachers lag behind students online, learn from students during sessions
- **Create a reflex:** make source literacy non-political, fun, and accessible to teachers
- **Recognise the trend:** visual vs text literacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>English-speaking pages/material</strong></th>
<th><strong>Material for checking information (mainly for journalists). One of the most comprehensive portals addressing global issues of fact-checking.</strong></th>
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| First Draft News  
https://de.firstdraftnews.org/ | EAVI stands for European Association for Viewers’ Interests. Promotes media literacy and develops tools for the safe navigation of online media. |
| Center for Media Literacy  
http://www.medialit.org/ | US site. Transfers academic research findings into practical material for use in educational settings (training, further education). For teachers, parents and children. |
| UNESCO zu Media Literacy  
https://en.unesco.org/themes/media-literacy | Various information manuals and materials around the subject of media and information literacy. Curriculum for teachers here:  
http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001929/192971e.pdf |
| The News Literary Project  
https://newslit.org/ | Promotes critical use of digital content. Focus is on news. US non-profit based at Stony Brook University, USA  
http://www.centerfornewsliteracy.org/ |
| Mind over Media  
https://propaganda.mediaeducationlab.com/ | EU gefördertes Projekt. Fokus auf Propaganda. Material für Lehrer/innen:  
https://propaganda.mediaeducationlab.com/teachers |
| Digital Resource Center des Center for News Literacy  
http://drc.centerfornewsliteracy.org/ | Material zum Thema Nachrichtenkompetenz. Laut Eigenaussage geht es um „sharing the accumulating wisdom and materials of the News Literacy teaching community, which works to strengthen democracy by teaching students to pluck reliable information from the daily media tsunami.” Betrieben von Stony Brook University, USA, und gefördert von der McCormick und MacArthur Stiftung. |
| Center for Media and Information Literacy  
https://centermil.org/ | Gegründet 2012 am Klein College of Media and Communication an der Temple University “as a hub for research, outreach, education, and professional development on issues involving media literacy and information literacy locally, nationally, and internationally.   
Links zu weiteren Angeboten und Materialien hier:  
https://centermil.org/resources/ |
| Deutsche Welle Akademie  
MEDIA LITERACY in 30 minutes

SOURCE VERIFICATION without any political stuff

Source: Pierre Marcolini, with modifications
THE LIE DETECTORS TOOLKIT
Classroom Resources for Media Literacy and Fact-Check

INTRO
GAMES
EXERCISES
ARTICLES AND RESOURCES

All segments are sorted by age group, duration, tools needed and level of difficulty and annotated with source information and important information.
Laughing Aside: How to Spot a Hoax

Disinformation and How it Spreads

8 years upwards

01:44 length of video plus discussion

Computer and PowerPoint

Easy

ZDF

Short humorous video introducing digital disinformation

10-11 years upwards

02:40 length of video

internet access and video-playing facility.

Easy

Klickwinkel

Concise introduction to main themes
True or false?

10-11 years upwards depending on use, 5-30 minutes.
computer and internet access
Easy
ThoughtCo
Plenty of fun and interesting examples

Top Hoaxes of Summer 2018

from 14-15 years old depending on use and discussion, each of the eight questions can take 5-20 minutes
computer and internet access
medium to difficult
Buzzfeed
comprehensive and varied quiz about disinformation
CAUTION: Question 5 includes a swearword; Question 7 refers to bodily assault.
Photos, Videos and Instagram Posts: A Toolbox For VISUAL Checks

Photos, Videos and Instagram Posts: A Toolbox For VISUAL Checks

Eight Tools for Unravelling a Fake Story

13-14 years upwards
length of video 01:56, plus discussion and student’s own work on examples = one or two lessons
internet access and video-replay facility.
Medium
Bayrischer Rundfunk (BR 24)
Click here for more information...

10-11 years upwards, but also suitable for older students, depending on depth of discussion, 5-20 minutes per tool = 40+ minutes
Computer and PowerPoint
Easy to difficult
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, factcheck.org & Lie Detectors
(partial translation)

Click here for more information...
Thank you

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