

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

Using the IFLA Infographic in Libraries

Freedom of expression online is at risk. Meaningful access to information on the Internet has been hampered by shutdowns and limited media pluralism, while the propagation of blatantly false news has weakened confidence.

IFLA's infographic on [how to spot fake news](#) was developed as a tool for libraries to help fight back. The infographic has been a big success, translated into 37 languages, and has featured in newsletters, course-packs, and on CNN.

It was created in the belief that education is key for critical thinking and information literacy, and that libraries are in a great position to act. Its success is the result of the creative thinking of information professionals who used the infographic in different ways, tailoring it to local needs. This report offers you an overview of just some of what libraries are doing around the world to fight fake news and misinformation, using the infographic.

Finland



Librarians from the Library of Parliament in Finland, used the poster of *How to spot fake news* for the Committee of the Future of the Parliament of Finland in an event they organized to publish their latest report. The report was about best practices when utilizing background information in committee meetings. The poster proved an effective discussion-starter about information literacy and quality of information, and worked well with different audiences.



Georgia

The National Parliamentary Library of Georgia translated the infographic into Georgian and shared it with over a thousand people on social media.

Germany



Students in the library and information management Bachelor program at Hochschule der Medien, Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences, used IFLA's infographic to develop a flyer on criteria for information quality. The work has

been featured by the DBV (German Library Association) on Bibliotheksportal“ (Germany’s library website) and in their [newsletter](#).



Librarians at the Kolej Disted, a premier non-profit college in Penang, Malaysia, displayed the poster in the computer terminals where most students gather to complete assignments and work on projects. As they were searching for materials online, students were therefore reminded to think critically about what they were reading.



Mexico

In Mexico, the Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas y de la Información (UNAM) used the infographic as a part of the Information and Society Seminar on "Ethical use of information and post truth" in which librarians spoke on several topics regarding the post truth era and how it affects the library environment, and in particular on Fake News and Social Media and IFLA's infographic.

In addition, 6-10 November the Institute will host "Ethical Use of Information Week" along with the National Colleague of Librarians and Academic Libraries. There will be roundtables on Fake News and a workshop on how to spot them. On that occasion, IFLA's infographic will also be used.



At the [University Library, University of Medical Sciences](#), Ondo City, Nigeria, the Infographic was used for an article in their bi-monthly bulletin, UNIMED LibInfo. The article was titled "Do you have the skill to spot fake news?" and is featured on page 4 of the second edition of the Bulletin. UNIMED LibInfo is widely read in our University and even among academics across Nigeria.



Hong Kong

The Education and Training Officer of the Hong Kong Library Association shared the infographics with 30 class teachers and 3 school middle-managers.

The poster was used as part of the teachers' professional development. The training officer plans to post the IFLA infographic in each class next school year. The goal is to ensure that all 30 classes, with over 800 students, can benefit from the IFLA infographic.

The infographic will also be integrated into training material for school districts outside Hong Kong. In addition, the message from IFLA about "How to spot fake news?" was posted on the Hong Kong Library Association Facebook on Jun 19, 2017.



[Librarians from Sweden](#) exhibited four translations of the infographic in Swedish, English, Arabic, and Romanian at a maker party, held on the occasion of Welcome Refugee Days at Kista bibliotek. The infographic was very popular among librarians and library visitors alike.



In the UK, the infographic was used in the March edition of CILIP Update. The PDF created for the CILIP Update recognizes IFLA timely advice on fake news and how libraries can help tackle the problem. IFLA, the piece continues, "has produced a blog and infographic, which can be downloaded and re-used for free, explaining how to spot it. The blog and infographic posts highlights how library and information professionals have a role to play in helping users find and understand information that can be trusted. Libraries and their users can have a positive role in developing the tools that help people check up on what they are reading".



At the college of Central Florida, an article on fake news which utilized the IFLA poster on the subject has been published in [Toastmasters Magazine](#), calling on anyone involved in public speaking to make sure that they check facts before sharing them.



A visiting librarian from Poland currently at the University of Danang provided classes to students and organized some information literacy/soft skills/21st century skills seminars and workshops. The *How to Spot Fake News* infographic was included in the teaching. Students' reaction was very positive. It raised awareness and developed their information literacy skills in a fun and informative way. The more advanced classes on searching and retrieval of scientific information also used IFLA infographics. Librarians found it very useful to combine the IFLA infographic with teaching materials provided by Elsevier, entitled *Literature Search: a librarian's handout to introduce tools, terms and techniques*.