

PROJECT INFORMATION LITERACY

News Study Dataset

October 2018

Survey Instrument

Principal Investigator

Alison J. Head, Ph.D.

Co-Investigators

John Wihbey

P. Takis Metaxas, Ph.D.

Margy MacMillan

Dan Cohen, Ph.D.

PIL Survey Team

Erica DeFrain, Ph.D.

Kirsten Hostetler

Elizabeth Berman (Fellow)

Bridget Peery (Fellow)

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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
News feeds (e.g., Apple News, Feedly, or alerts)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Print newspapers or magazines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online newspaper sites (e.g., nytimes.com)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Television	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Podcasts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discussions with peers (i.e., online or face-to-face)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discussions with teachers/professors (i.e., online or face-to-face)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discussions with librarians (i.e., online or face-to-face)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental and natural disasters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My town or city (e.g., local issues, events, politics)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National government and politics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business and the economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crime and public safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International or foreign issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Political memes (i.e., a humorous image, video, or piece of text)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schools and education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Science and technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Race and immigration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Entertainment and celebrities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lifestyle (e.g., hobbies)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Art and culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...news is factual stories that grab my interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...news is any story that helps me understand the world	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...news consists of objective reporting of facts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...news is necessary in a democracy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...following the news is a civic responsibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...it's difficult to tell the most important news stories on any given day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...it's difficult to tell real news from fake news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...the sheer amount of news on any given day is overwhelming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...I don't think much about what news means to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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
...I do not trust the news, no matter what the source is	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...fake news has made me distrust the credibility of any news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...without knowing the source of the news--where a news item originated--I can't trust news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...I trust news from traditional sources produced by professional journalists, more than social media sites where anyone can post news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...journalists deliberately insert their own bias into news stories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...journalists make mistakes but generally try to get their news stories right	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

- Very confident
- Confident
- Somewhat confident
- Slightly confident
- Not confident at all
- 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)

	For academic assignments	For personal use
I rely on news found in library databases searches (e.g., ProQuest).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I rely on news stories from non-traditional sources (e.g., BuzzFeed, Reddit).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I rely on news stories that teachers or professors recommend.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I rely on news from social media networks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I rely on news from news apps on my mobile devices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I rely on news that's from print newspapers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I rely on news from television broadcasts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I rely on news from radio broadcasts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't rely much on the news.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUESTION 12: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about how you get news when looking for course assignments vs. for use in your personal life?

NOW TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOURSELF.

We have just a few more questions to find out a little more about you...

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

- Belmont University
- Brandeis University
- California State University Maritime Academy
- DePaul University
- 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
- Wellesley College
- Other

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

- High school student
- College 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)

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

This question was only asked of the high school survey respondents, not of the college participants.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to state
- Other
- 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?

- 18-20 years old
- 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
- 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
- Very liberal
- Prefer not to state
- Other

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 —

;