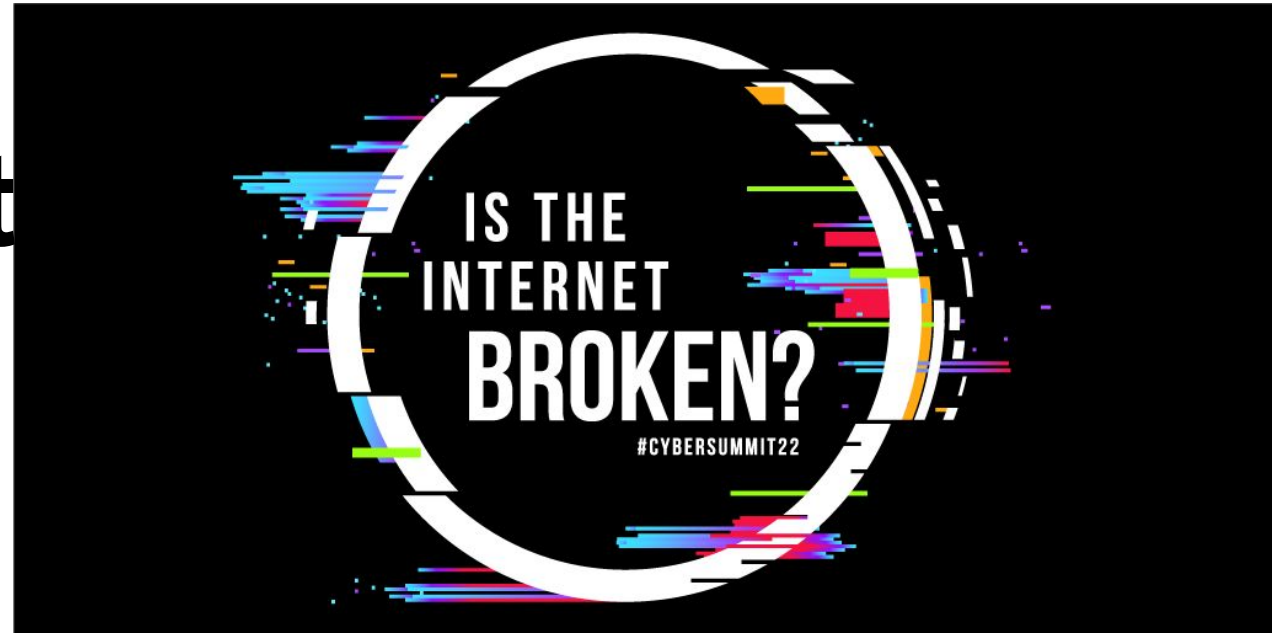


**You can't handle the truth,
or can you?**



**Kris Hodgson-Bright, MA, Digital
Communications and Media
instructor at Lethbridge College**



LETHBRIDGE
CAMPUSMEDIA.CA

The logo for Lethbridge College features a stylized green and blue wave or leaf shape above the text.

Lethbridge
College



Misinformation and fake news – who cares?

All of us technically should care.

But who can trust the mainstream media?





Kathy English, chair of The Canadian Journalism Foundation

- "Journalism matters to every citizen of the world."
- Without facts, freedom and democracy can fail.
- **Journalism** at its best can – and does – **make a difference in the lives of individuals, our communities, our countries, and the future of our planet.**
- We celebrate the power of fact-based journalism to make a difference."



Warren Fernandez, President of the World Editors Forum (WEF) and Editor-in-Chief of *The Straits Times* in Singapore

- As the world around us grows more complex and crisis ridden, audiences seek out credible voices **to help them make sense of developments.**
- This is how professional newsrooms make a difference. They interpret events and **help people join the dots, adding perspective and context.**
- World News Day a timely reminder of **why good journalism matters."**

Let's take a snapshot of the trending topics of the past two years

Vaccines

Healthcare

Freedom

Who owns Twitter now?



When you think of those topics they usually have a trigger effect

- You may feel one or more of these feelings
- Positive - happy, supported, loved and taken care of by your family, your neighbourhood, professionals and your government.
- Or
- Negative - Fear, distrust, being held back from different forces and being worried about the future.



BREATHE

I think we need a breather after that!

**We all have
a role to
play**

-
Journalists



**WITH GREAT
POWER**



**WITH GREAT
POWER
COMES GREAT
RESPONSIBILITY**



Rebel Media- Ezra Levant's group is not helping



•“Organizations like yours – that continue to spread misinformation and disinformation on the science around vaccines ... is part of why we’re seeing such unfortunate anger and lack of understanding of basic science,” said Trudeau.

“Frankly your – I won’t call it a media organization – your group of individuals need to take accountability for some of the polarization that we’re seeing in this country.”

•“I salute all extraordinary hard-working journalists who put science and facts at the heart of what they do and ask me tough questions every day, but make sure that they are educating and informing Canadians from a broad range of perspectives – which is the last thing that you guys do,” he said.

**We all have
a role to play**

Public

Critical thinking

C	Currency: The timeliness of the info
R	Relevance: How the info fits your needs
A	Authority: The source of the info
A	Accuracy: Reliability and correctness of the info
P	Purpose: The reason the info exists



What does critical thinking look like?

Checking out more than one site for a story



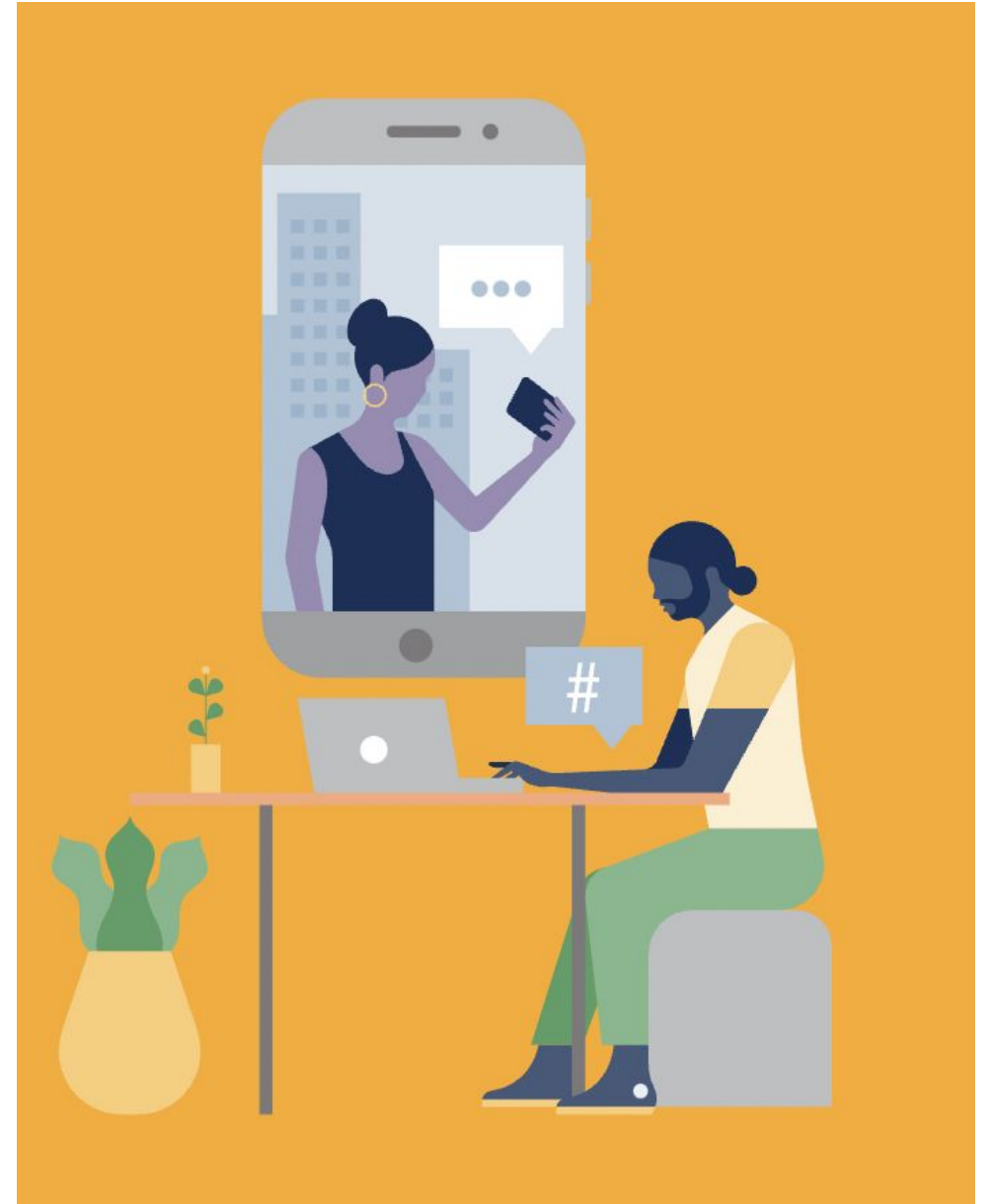
CBC



Hootsuite®

Hootsuite July
2021 article
by **Simon
Kemp**

**Half a Billion
Users Joined
Social in the Last
Year (And Other
Facts)**



JUL
2021

MEDIA CHANNELS USED FOR NEWS

PERCENTAGE OF WORLDWIDE SURVEY RESPONDENTS* WHO SAY THEY USE EACH MEDIUM TO ACCESS NEWS CONTENT

ONLINE MEDIA
(INC. SOCIAL MEDIA)



82%

FEMALE: 81%
MALE: 82%

TELEVISION
(BROADCAST & CABLE)



64%

FEMALE: 65%
MALE: 64%

SOCIAL MEDIA
(INC. MESSENGERS)



56%

FEMALE: 58%
MALE: 54%

PRINT
MEDIA



24%

FEMALE: 21%
MALE: 26%

BROADCAST
RADIO



26%

FEMALE: 24%
MALE: 29%

JUL
2021

USE OF SOCIAL PLATFORMS AS SOURCES OF NEWS

PERCENTAGE OF **WORLDWIDE SURVEY RESPONDENTS*** WHO SAY THEY USE EACH SOCIAL PLATFORM TO DISCOVER AND ACCESS NEWS CONTENT

FACEBOOK



44%



YOUTUBE



29%



WHATSAPP



23%



INSTAGRAM



15%



TWITTER



13%

FB MESSENGER



12%



TELEGRAM



6%



TIKTOK



4%



LINKEDIN



4%

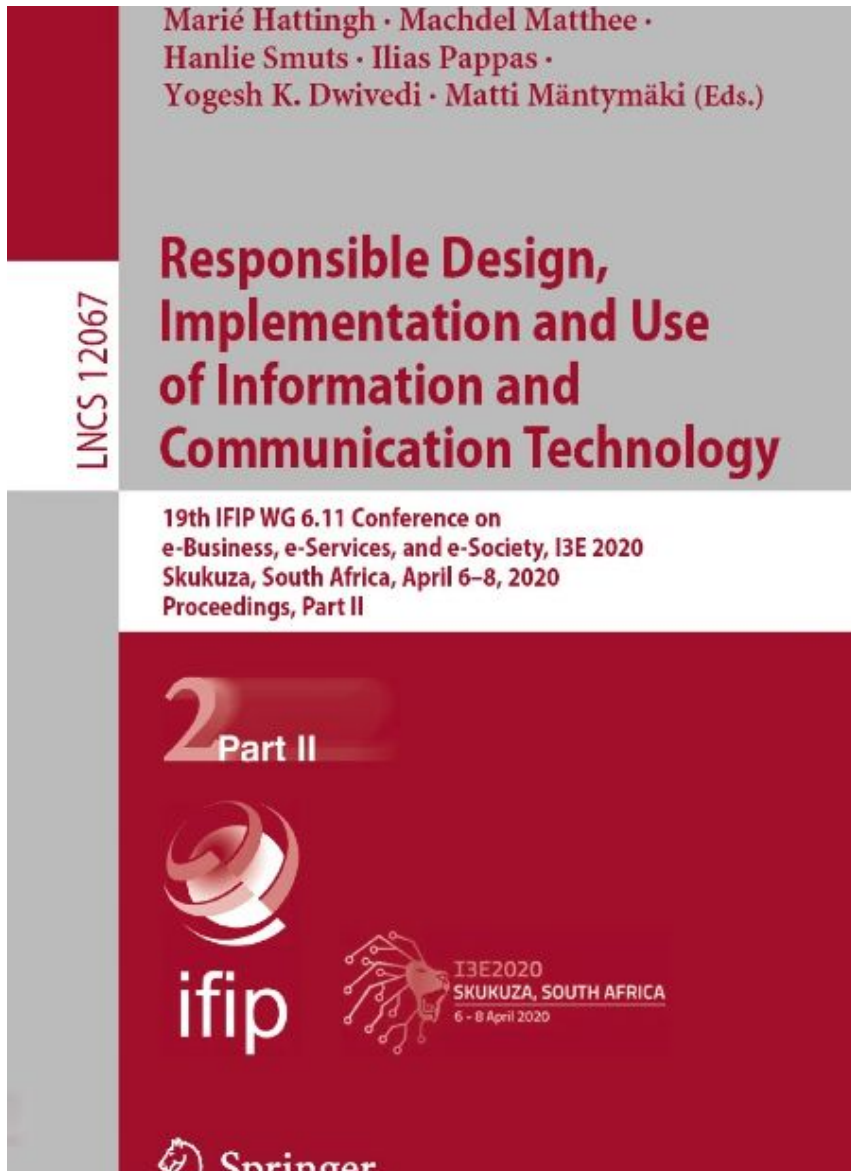


SNAPCHAT



2%

The use of critical thinking to identify fake news: A systematic Literature Review



- Published by Paul Machete and Marita Turpin
- Published on April 1, 2020



1.8 billion active users on Facebook

- 50% of traffic is related to fake news sites.
- Twitter has 400 million active users and comes in second
- Posts on these sites remain unchecked and spread rapidly as they grab our attention with little substantive information, “creating a breeding ground for dissemination of fake news.”

Who should be responsible?

- Some say onus should be on the social media organizations
- Curating and eliminating fake news and misinformation so as not to sway viewers.
- Others say participants should be responsible for verifying the content they read before posting it.
- 2016 American election had Russian bots and paid trolls to populate social media feeds with misinformation
- Clickbait headlines help generate traffic to original websites compelling content creators to create fake news to drive ad revenue even though they may not believe in the fake news themselves.



What is the Nieman Lab?

- The Nieman Journalism Lab was founded in **2008 at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts** and is an attempt to help journalism figure out its future in an Internet age.
- Established in 1938, the **Nieman Foundation for Journalism** at Harvard administers the oldest fellowship program for journalists in the world. More than 1,300 journalists of accomplishment from 88 countries have received Nieman Fellowships

Nieman Lab article

U.S. politicians tweet much more misinformation than those in the U.K. and Germany



This Sept. 22, 2022 article
was written *By* STEPHAN
LEWANDOWSKY *and* JANA
LASSER Sept. 22, 2022

Republican politicians were
found to share untrustworthy
websites more than nine
times as often as Democratic
politicians.”

9 times!



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Dr. Jana Lasser

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PostDoc [@tugraz](#) | Computational Social Science, Data Science, complex systems, comp. modelling | [#OpenScience](#), [#coder](#) | advisory board [@N2PhDNet](#) | she/her

Graz, Austria [janalasser.at](#) Joined July 2018

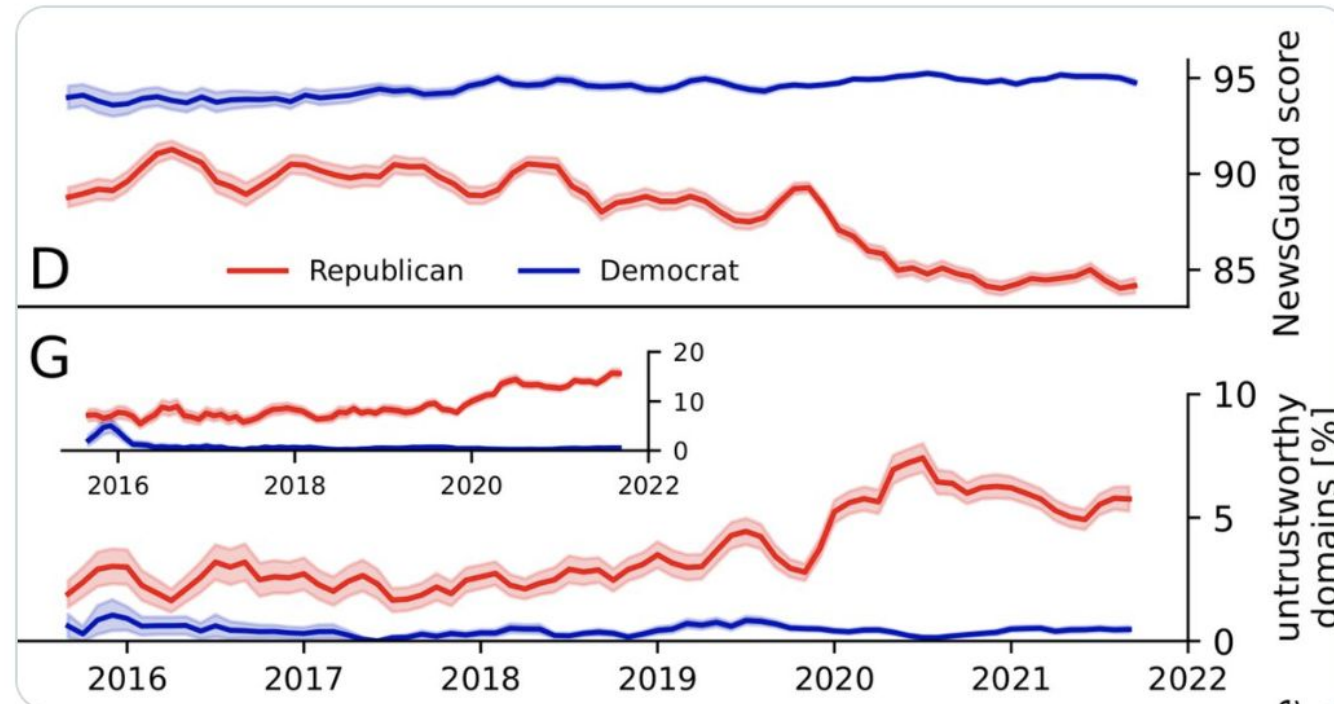


Dr. Jana Lasser

@janalasser · [Follow](#)

What is unique about the situation in the US is that there is a very clear temporal trend: sharing of untrustworthy news sources by Republican Congress Members has doubled between 2016-18 and 2020-22 while the proportion of untrustworthy links for Democrats stays stable:

6/12





What is needed for social media consumption?

- **Critical thinking education starting in K-12**

The Ultimate Cheatsheet for Critical Thinking

Want to exercise critical thinking skills? Ask these questions whenever you discover or discuss new information. These are broad and versatile questions that have limitless applications!

Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... benefits from this? ... is this harmful to? ... makes decisions about this? ... is most directly affected? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... have you also heard discuss this ... would be the best person to con ... will be the key people in this? ... deserves recognition for this?
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... are the strengths/weaknesses? ... is another perspective? ... is another alternative? ... would be a counter-argument? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is the best/worst case scenar ... is most/least important? ... can we do to make a positive ... is getting in the way of our ac
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... would we see this in the real world? ... are there similar concepts/situations? ... is there the most need for this? ... in the world would this be a problem? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... can we get more infor ... do we go for help with ... will this idea take us? ... are the areas for impr
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is this acceptable/unacceptable? ... would this benefit our society? ... would this cause a problem? ... is the best time to take action? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... will we know we've succeed ... has this played a part in ou ... can we expect this to chang ... should we ask for help with
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is this a problem/challenge? ... is it relevant to me/others? ... is this the best/worst scenario? ... are people influenced by this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... should people know about th ... has it been this way for so lo ... have we allowed this to happ ... is there a need for this today
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is this similar to _____? ... does this disrupt things? ... do we know the truth about this? ... will we approach this safely? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... does this benefit us/others? ... does this harm us/others? ... do we see this in the future? ... can we change this for our

The Global Digital Citizen Foundation

Great tips here!



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