



ANNEX 4

How to recognize fake news

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) published a summary in diagram form to assist people to recognize fake news. Its main points are:

1. Consider the source (to understand its mission and purpose)
2. Read beyond the headline (to understand the whole story)
3. Check the authors (to see if they are real and credible)
4. Assess the supporting sources (to ensure they support the claims)
5. Check the date of publication (to see if the story is relevant and up to date)
6. Ask if it is a joke (to determine if it is meant to be satire)
7. Review your own biases (to see if they are affecting your judgment)
8. Ask experts (to get confirmation from independent people with knowledge).

When you read the news try to answer the question:

- Does it make you mad? False reports often target emotions with claims of outlandish spending or unpatriotic words or deeds. If common sense tells you it can't be true, it may not be.
- If it's real, other news sites are likely reporting it.
- How is the writing? Caps lock and multiple exclamation points don't have a place in most real newsrooms.
- Who are the writers and the people in the story? Google names for clues to see if they are legitimate, or not.
- What are fact-checking sites like Snopes.com and FactCheck.org finding?
- It might be satire. Sometimes foolish stories aren't really meant to fool.