

**Introduction to
Fact-Checking
and Verification
- Workshop for
the Wayuu
People**

Workshop introduction and objectives

What is fact-checking?

Fact-checking: A process to verify the factual accuracy of a fact; in other words, to confirm a certain fact is based on verifiable information.

“Preliminary analysis”

What does “verifying” involve?

What is verified?

How does it work?

Definition of verification and the aspects being verified in a piece of news. Methods used for verification.

Difference between information and evidence

Information refers to the presented facts, while evidence includes the probatory elements that support said facts. Information provides details about an event or topic, while evidence is concrete proof backing the authenticity of information.

Evidence can include testimonies, documents or research. It is crucial to ensuring the credibility and reliability of news. Evidence allows readers or the audience to assess the veracity of information.

Examples.

Missing children were found after 40 days.

[El Espectador](#)

[El Tiempo](#)

[Revista SEMANA](#)

[RTVC Noticias](#)

What is behind the reporter's intention?

Suicide of Colonel Dávila.

[El País](#)

[Portafolio](#)

[Semana](#)

[RCN Noticias](#)

[La FM](#)

[Fiscalía \(District Attorney's Office\)](#)

What is information in the digital age?

In the digital age, ICTs have facilitated communication and access to information, but they have also paved the way for issues like misinformation (involuntary dissemination of fake news), disinformation (the intentional creation of fake news) and malinformation (authentic information used to inflict harm).

These issues affect democratic institutions and hinder informed and cognizant decision making.

Hyperlinks

Comparing a news article that provides hyperlinks to a Wikipedia entry that redirects readers to other articles.

Activity

- 1. Visit a news article by *Semana*, click on the hyperlinks it provides and assess their pertinence.**
- 2. Follow a chain of references in Wikipedia (they redirect the reader so they can check information and data).**

Live information - Transmedia

We get the news not only from the press, but also other forms of media: Podcasts, YouTube videos, tweets (X), TikTok posts.

Guided discussion

- **What media do you use to access news information?**
- **What media do your students and children use to access the news?**

Why is it important to verify information found online?

In a digitalized world, it is crucial to have skills to verify information and differentiate accurate data from fake or distorted data. Online mass dissemination of unverified or fake news can have serious consequences, including damages to a person's reputation, collective panic or harm to a wrongly accused person.

Therefore, we need to always verify the information we receive and share so that we can avoid these issues and their negative impact on society.

What are the main fact-checking techniques and tools?

The first question in fact-checking is: Is this information accurate? This means that the core of the process is verification.

Fact-checking focuses on public interest, so we need to ask:

Why is this information important for the public? Does it mean anything to me or does it provide clarity for someone else? Does the statement come from a political player? Or Does the statement come from a famous person?

There are 3 main steps in fact-checking:

Storing the information: It is important to keep a copy of the content needing verification. Tools like Wayback Machine or Archive Today can be used in order to store information in case the original source deletes it. Example.

Researching the statement: This involves verifying the information. Key words related to the statement can be looked up on search engines like Google or web pages belonging to newspapers or appropriate government institutions.

Verifying pictures or videos: It is necessary to go back to the original source of the publication to get information about the origin and context of related images or videos. If this is not possible, tools like Google Images can be used to look for the first publication or matches for an image. Other tools like Invid can be used to analyze videos and retrieve key images for verification.

Identifying reliable sources

How can we identify reliable sources of information? Let's make a list of reliable local information sources.

Activity

What sources do you usually consult? Which do you think are high, medium or low reliability sources? *National, regional and local sources.*

How can we assess the credibility of an online source?

Activity: “Just add ‘Wikipedia’”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-wijJ7ZaLk&feature=youtu.be>

<https://chequeado.com/aprender/>

How can we identify warning signs of fake or misleading information?

Information verification techniques

Verifying information involves asking who and what.

Identifying key words and looking them up on search engines or news pages. Conducting a reverse image search by using tools like Google or [Tineye](#) helps find previous publications and learn about the origin of an image.

How can we verify the veracity of statistics and data?

References to previous research or publications on other sites.

Example: Wikipedia's verifiability policy. Bots flagging material with "no references".

Discussion: Can we trust AI? We can ask ChatGPT for references.

How can we assess the veracity of content published on social media?

Digital pages and tools for verification widely used in Colombia:

<https://www.lasillavacia.com/la-silla-vacia/detector-de-mentiras/><https://colombiacheck.com/chequeos>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fact-checking_websites

But, how do they do this? Can I do it?

“We can ask experts or look up documents that can verify the accuracy of a statement.”

Fact-checking can be divided into three steps:

- **Verification of the source: Where did this information come from? Where did it originate?**
- **Verification of content: Is the content exactly what it says it is?**
- **Verification of relevance: Does it fit my research or is it applicable to my classroom?**

What can we do about WhatsApp messages that spread fake news?

“Verifying these messages is a way of getting involved in the conversations people are having and providing them with tools to form their opinions based on facts. Ninety percent of what we have checked in these first six months is fake, which suggests people share information through WhatsApp based on their emotions and interests.”

Let's go back to our initial news articles

<https://colombiacheck.com/chequeos/estas-fotos-que-circulan-en-redes-no-son-de-la-muerte-del-coronel-davila-sino-de-un>

<https://colombiacheck.com/chequeos/no-hay-evidencia-de-que-el-eln-haya-secuestrado-los-cuatro-ninos-indigenas-perdidos-en-la>

A commitment!

Fact-checking begins with curiosity and the intention to do some research. There is no need to have a political cause or go up against powerful institutions.

The tools provided by this workshop help develop a fact-checker mentality, which includes searching for, verifying and disseminating accurate information to empower citizens to make better decisions and improve their quality of life.

What can we do to commit to this in our everyday life?

Lunch! Finally!

Fact-checking practice (45 min.)

Analysis of practical cases and application of fact-checking techniques to determine the veracity of information.

We look at pieces of news from different sources and different media.

As a team, we identify fake or misleading news. We form teams to complete this activity and share our thoughts.

We form 3 or 4 groups of 3 or 4 people.

Assessment

Assessing the effectiveness of fact-checking in preventing the dissemination of fake or misleading information.

We search for local news

Participants implement the techniques learned: Wikipedia, fact-checkers, searching for the source of information. Finding bias in political agendas. Analyzing the pertinence of hyperlinks and sources.

From this compilation of local news:

Which are the existing information gaps?

How can we fill these gaps?

What are some potential risks of addressing this research topic to fill in these information gaps?

How can we minimize such risks? Devise a strategy to minimize risks.

On our end

How can we contribute to the fact-checking kit? What resources do we have and need to serve as a fact-checker in our community?

Discussion

Prototyping

Training for trainers and co-design

Group activity to make a prototype of the way in which fact-checking can be taught in the classroom under a creative name.

- **Selecting the best idea, which will be prototyped.**
 - **Consensus, no voting.**
 - **Sharing our thoughts.**

Links to access the kit and other tools

- 1 <https://kit.exposingtheinvisible.org/es/>: **Elements, methodology and field work.**
- 2 <https://kit.exposingtheinvisible.org/es/fact-checking.html> **# : The basics of fact-checking**
- 3 <https://kit.exposingtheinvisible.org/es/google-dorking.html>: **Dorking**