

Starting up

Do you believe everything you read in the news?
 Have you heard about 'fake news'?

Vocabulary 1

Match the words from the article (1-8) to the correct definition. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. collaborative | a. with good knowledge |
| 2. in the wake of | b. money |
| 3. grant | c. encourage |
| 4. pot | d. following |
| 5. oversee | e. arrange |
| 6. informed | f. joint |
| 7. spur | g. looking forward to |
| 8. convene | h. subsidy |
| 9. flag | i. venture |
| 10.eager | j. manage |
| 11.foray | k. do well |
| 12.thrive | l. indicator |

Vocabulary 2 - online news

Match the word connected to online news in the box to the definitions 1-10. Use an up-to-date dictionary or the web if necessary.

misinformation	news literacy	journalism	publisher	venture
subscriber	media	meme	comment thread	viral

1. A discussion on the web
2. A story, image or video that passes very quickly across the web
3. All the different ways you can read or hear news
4. Being able to properly understand what you read in the news
5. Business project
6. Company that publishes news
7. News that isn't true, written to deceive readers
8. Person who pays to read news
9. Very popular online
10. Writing news professionally

Comprehension

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why did Facebook launch the project?
2. Academic institutions from how many countries are involved in the project?
3. What does the man in charge of the project teach?
4. What is the overall aim of the project?
5. What is the name of Facebook's other media literacy project?
6. How will the project aid news publishers?
7. Which major European event has been identified as a potential target for fake news?
8. Which organisation is watching out for fake news for the event in question 7?

Facebook launches \$14m collaborative news literacy project

Facebook has launched the News Integrity Initiative, a \$14m collaborative project to advance the public's news literacy, in the wake of strong criticism about the social network's role in the spread of misinformation online.

Grants from the research pot will be administered by The CUNY Graduate School of Journalism in New York, as well as academic institutions such as the London School of Economics in the UK, Sciences Po in France and others in the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark.

Along with Facebook, the initiative is funded by a range of non-profit groups including the Craig Newmark Philanthropic Fund, Ford Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Tow Foundation, and Mozilla, among others.

"I fancy myself a bridge builder* between publishers and platforms like Facebook and Google, it's very important that we work together. We can't continue to be at war with each other," said Jeff Jarvis, journalism professor at CUNY, who will oversee the project. "The bottom line is to find ways to improve the public conversation and figure out why things spread the way they do, and what conversations people are having."

The goal, according to Facebook, is to help the public make informed judgments about the news they read and share online. The fund will spur applied research and projects, and convene meetings with industry experts.

"One project I'm looking forward to working with Facebook is on providing researchers with data on how things operate on Facebook," Mr Jarvis said. "For example, the fact-checking flags Facebook puts on viral stories, I'm eager to see how that is working. There are theories that fact-checking flags may cause things to spread more."

The project is Facebook's latest foray into the world of media literacy, following the Facebook Journalism Project, which was launched in January.

The venture will help news publishers reach new subscribers, including a partnership with German publisher Bild, as well as the Washington Post, Fox News, El País and the Hindustan Times, among others, to develop ways to show more news to their readers.

Fidji Simo, director of product at Facebook, said: "We know that our community values sharing and discussing ideas and news, and as a part of our service, we care a great deal about making sure that a healthy news ecosystem and journalism can thrive."

In Europe, the social media group teamed up with Google, BuzzFeed and others to fight against fake news in France ahead of the presidential election in April, as part of Crosscheck, an industry coalition that helps the public gauge the truthfulness of online media.

The 17 organisations that make up Crosscheck would "find and verify content circulating publicly online, whether it is photographs, videos, memes, comment threads and news sites, with the French presidential election as its primary focus", the group said.

* 'I see myself as someone who brings people together...'



Grammar - prepositions

Choose a correct preposition for each sentence.

1. There has been strong criticism _____ the new rules _____ press reporting.
2. What has your role _____ the new project been?
3. We got a grant _____ the university.
4. The subsidies are funded _____ the government.
5. We had meetings _____ the bosses of the five media companies.
6. She has been working with them _____ the project.
7. It's their first foray _____ online news.
8. People make judgements _____ what is real news.
9. I don't care _____ the news.
10. Who is leading the fight _____ fake news?

Further discussion

Do you think online news can be trusted? Why/ Why not? Is online news less reliable than other news sources? Give reasons for your answer.

Group work

In pairs, research some news online and summarise a story (particularly an unusual one). Now invent a fake news story.

Tell your two pieces of news to another pair. The other pair have to guess which one is true.

Key

Vocabulary 1

1f 2d 3h 4b 5j 6a 7c 8e 9l 10g 11i 12k

Vocabulary 2

1. comment thread
2. meme
3. media
4. news literacy
5. venture
6. publisher
7. misinformation
8. subscriber
9. viral
10. journalism

Comprehension

1. Because of criticism about their role in the spread of misinformation online.
2. 6
3. Journalism
4. To help the public make informed judgments online news.
5. Facebook Journalism Project
6. They could reach new subscribers.
7. French presidential elections
8. Crosscheck

Grammar

1. about/ of for /on/ about
2. in
3. for / from
4. by
5. with
6. on
7. into
8. about
9. about
10. against

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