From Fake News to Infodemic: where are librarians?

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Occurrences of «Infodemic»

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NOW (News on the Web) Since 2010</th>
<th>Web of Science Since 1900; 1975</th>
<th>Scopus Since 1995- (1788)</th>
<th>PubMed Since 1780s</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1**</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOT</td>
<td>1709</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1063</td>
<td>629</td>
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</table>

* 2010: «The bed bugs infodemic»
## Occurrences of «Fake news»

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NOW (News on the Web) Since 2010</th>
<th>Web of Science Since 1900; 1975</th>
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<th>PubMed Since 1780s</th>
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<td><strong>753</strong></td>
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</table>
Fake news vs. Infodemic occurrences

Data sources:
- Web of Science
- Scopus
- PubMed
- NOW
- Web of Science
- Scopus
- PubMed
- NOW
Infodemic

«An infodemic is **too much** information including **false** or **misleading** information in **digital** and **physical** environments during a disease outbreak. It causes **confusion** and **risk-taking behaviours** that can harm health. It also leads to **mistrust** in health authorities and undermines the public health response»

*World Health Organization, 2020*

https://www.who.int/health-topics/infodemic
Fake news: definition

- "False information that is broadcast or published as news for fraudulent or politically motivated purposes"
  - Lexico.com, 2017
- "News that conveys or incorporates false, fabricated, or deliberately misleading information, or that is characterized as or accused of doing so"
  - OED, 2019
Information disorder

- Digital effects
- Psychological aspects
  - Confirmation bias
  - Echo chambers
  - Conspiracy theories
  - Hate speech
  - Us/Them
- Emotion vs cognition
  - Belonging, not understanding

Photo by Alessandro Gallotta
Information literacy

«Information literacy is the ability to think critically and make balanced judgements about any information we find and use. It empowers us as citizens to develop informed views and to engage fully with society»

CILIP, 2018

https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/421972/What-is-information-literacy.htm
Meaningful access to information

- ... Meaningful **access** to information [...] only [...] if **everyone** is able to use this **information fully**
  - *DA2I IFLA/TASCHA, 2019*
Libraries & Librarians

- Communication skills
- Internet & devices
- Access for all
- Collections: preserving & organising information in all formats
- Lateral reading: librarians look at paratext
«You see, only one who wanted to find the stone - find it, but not use it – would be able to get it, otherwise they'd only see themselves making gold or drinking the Elixir of Life»

Albus Dumbledore

Different competences?

• «The core mission of librarians and other information workers is to ensure access to information for all for personal development, education, cultural enrichment, leisure, economic activity and informed participation in and enhancement of democracy»

IFLA Code of ethics, 2012

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