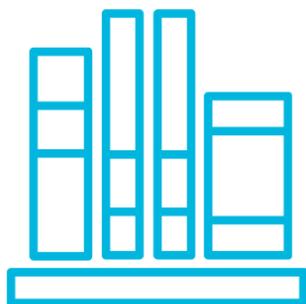


WHY DON'T WE USE THE TERM "FAKE NEWS"?

Created by William Dance (@williamdance).



A HISTORY OF THE PHRASE

Whether it is "disinformation", "misinformation", or "false news", there are many ways to talk about deceptive content. The most notorious is "fake news". In some languages the term dates back to the early 2010s, but in English it first became popularised around 2015.

WHY DON'T WE USE IT?

The reason some researchers and journalists avoid using the phrase is due to its use as an insult. Labelling political opponents and unfavourable news reports as "fake news" became a common strategy in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. It is still used this way in 2020.

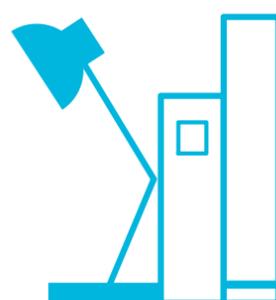


WHAT SHOULD WE USE?

When talking about the term "fake news", you can put it in quotes, italicise it, or even stylise it as "f*ke news". It is also important to acknowledge the usage of the term, because for many people it is still the phrase of choice. Another commonly used term is "disinformation".

WHAT IS DISINFORMATION?

Disinformation is intentionally factually incorrect news that is published to deceive and misinform its reader. This term is favoured because it can be contrasted to misinformation, when people unknowingly and unintentionally provide others with false information.



WORD OF THE YEAR

In 2017, the Collins English Dictionary named "fake news" as their word of the year. A year later, the American Dialect Society did the same. This demonstrates the meteoric rise of "fake news" from a little-known term to being in everyone's vocabulary.

AROUND THE WORLD

Many of the world's languages have reacted differently to disinformation. In French, the word "infaux", a combination of info + faux (meaning "wrong"), has gained popularity. The Russian word for disinformation "Дезинформация" dates back to the 1920s.



For more resources, visit www.fakebelieve.blog/resources and follow @FakeBelieveBlog.