

## **OLTD 506 Reflection #1: Information and Misinformation**

I chose the misinformation case study as my evidence as this area intrigued me in OLTD 506. Fake news is such a hot topic in the media, and there is so much mistrust of mainstream media. I have found that I am much more selective about what I watch and how I get my news now.

The key for me was how to identify misinformation. The Canadian Internet Registration Authority describes fake news as:

“fake news is information that is fictitious in nature and is either not supported by facts or only supported by an intentional misreading of available information. The spectrum within that fictional space ranges from misleading or incomplete context to outright fabrication. Too often, when fake news items are encountered on social media platforms, they compete with authoritative media reports and are given equal weight” (2020).

The other scary aspect of misinformation is how filter bubbles control us. This is especially important right now as Russia is controlling social media platforms for their citizens; they cannot access Instagram, for example.

All of the news filtered to us through these bubbles is very disturbing for our democratic way of life here in Canada. However, information is power, and I now know the distinction between the various phrases of information:

1. Mis-information is incorrect information and is shared with others without intending any harm. Most people who share misinformation see themselves helping others without realizing the information they are

sharing is factually incorrect. Unfortunately, this information spreads faster than factual information.

2. Dis-information is false information and is spread to harm.
3. Mal-information is factually correct information but is spread to cause harm to others.

In conclusion, this quote describes what I learned, "More concerning, however, are the long term implications of dis-information campaigns designed specifically to sow mistrust and confusion and to sharpen existing socio-cultural divisions using nationalistic, ethnic, racial and religious tensions" (Wardle et al., 2017).

### Resources:

Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA). (2020). Canadians deserve a better Internet. <https://www.cira.ca/resources/state-internet/report/canadians-deserve-a-better-internet-0>

Wardle, C., Derakhshan, H., Burns, A., & Dias, N. (2017). Information disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making. Council of Europe Report DGI (2017)09. <https://rm.coe.int/information-disorder-toward-an-interdisciplinary-framework-for-research/168076277c>

Parole Stili. (2020). *What is fake news? Tips For Spotting Them - Fake News for Kids* [Image]. Retrieved 24 March 2022, from <https://youtu.be/D0Cd9-eJ-No>.