



Unmasking fake news

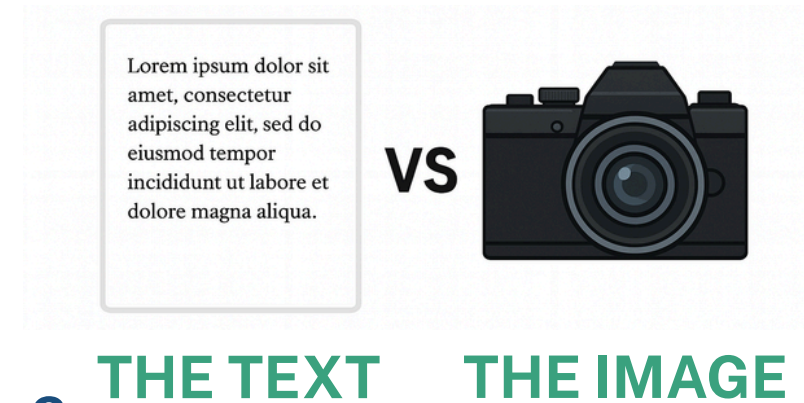
What do we mean by misinformation?

Disinformation is false or misleading information that is intentionally created and spread to manipulate people.

Its purpose is to influence opinions, create confusion, divide society, or discredit ideas and institutions.

Its consequences can be serious, as it affects people's decisions, undermines trust in reliable sources, and weakens the functioning of democracy.

Two major channels of disinformation



How do we prevent disinformation?

1. Verify before sharing

Ask yourself: Who published it? Does it make sense? Could it be false?

2. Cross-check with several reliable sources

Look for whether the news also appears in recognized media outlets.

3. Think before reacting

If it makes you feel angry or surprised, pause and review the information.

4. Ask for real evidence

Avoid content without sources, with errors, or using alarmist language.

5. Detect fallacies and biases

Don't trust something just because a famous person says it or because everyone believes it.

6. Consult experts

Check what scientists, specialized journalists, or reliable institutions say.

7. Discuss it with others

Sharing opinions helps resolve doubts and detect deception.

8. Train critical thinking

Sharing opinions helps resolve doubts and detect deception.

9. Cultivate protective values

Honesty — Do not spread information without verifying it.

Responsibility — Think about the impact of what you share.

Intellectual humility — Accept that you can be wrong.

Empathy — Consider how it affects others.

Target audiences:  Librarians,  Professors,  Students

REFERENCES

UNESCO (2025a). Media and information literacy for all: closing the gaps: global analysis of current state of play of media and information literacy. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396030>

UNESCO (2025b). AI Can Make Mistakes: Why Media Literacy Matters More Than Ever. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-can-make-mistakes-why-media-literacy-matters-more-ever>

GEDIS project context

This resource is part of the European project GEDIS (Gender Diversity in Information Science), which promotes open educational tools to tackle gender inequalities in higher education, with an emphasis on disciplines related to Information and Library Science.

GEDIS - Gender Diversity in Information Science: Challenges in Higher Education. <https://ub.edu/gedis>

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Three concrete steps to work on fake news using images



1. Discern where the images come from

You should verify the image before using it. It is advisable to consult archives, libraries, or museums that guarantee authenticity and quality.

2. Assess the quality and characteristics of the image

Resolution, proportions, and color can indicate whether the image is reliable. Avoid retouched or colorized images that alter the original.

3. Identify the intentions behind the images

Some images are used out of context to influence perception. Analyze details and context to avoid falling into misinformation.