



FUTURE LIBRARIANS FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Who We Are

Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom, or FLIF, is a student organization at the University of Alberta. As graduate students pursuing Master's degrees in Library and Information Studies, the group's mission is to encourage freedom of expression and social responsibility, while rejecting censorship, within the library and information studies field and beyond.

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School Library Standards Survey

The government of Alberta is proposing new standards that will affect school library collections across the province. These standards focus on limiting the inclusion of material with sexual content, and would therefore take choice out of the hands of parents and library professionals. If you care about intellectual freedom and want your voice heard, **fill out [this survey](#) before June 6th**. Join FLIF in the fight against censorship.

FLIF'S Annual Book Drive

Earlier this month, FLIF held a book drive to collect books of all genres and subjects for donation to local Edmonton organizations. Through this event, we sought to promote intellectual freedom by increasing access to books and resources for those in our community. With the help of our donors, we were able to collect approximately 600 books this year! Thank you so much to everyone who came out to support us, spread the word, or even stopped by to say hello!



Local News

Edmonton author Timothy Caulfield takes aim at misinformation in new book

By: Justin Bell

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Timothy Caulfield, law professor at the University of Alberta and research director of the Health Law Institute, asserts that the spread and prevalence of misinformation is prominent. In his new book, *The Certainty of Illusion: What You Don't Know and Why it Matters*, Caulfield discusses the why and how of misinformation in the digital age, utilizing plain language and examples to reach a broader audience.

Digital misinformation and manipulation: common methods and tactics used online

By: Government of Alberta

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The Government of Alberta provides insight into the common tactics used to promote digital misinformation and manipulation, and the indicators that people should look out for when browsing. These tactics include Fake News, Deepfakes, Computational Propaganda, Meme Shells, Google/Link Bombs, and Troll Farms.

Misinformation isn't just an online problem — it's a public health crisis

By: Dr. Pamela Roach

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In early March, over 350 Albertans gathered for a town hall, hosted by the O'Brian Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary, to discuss health misinformation. It's clearly an important topic to many Albertans. The author of the article highlights the ways in which knowledge about healthcare and healthcare practices can impact a community, providing readers with steps to combat health misinformation.

How to research

By: University of Alberta

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The University of Alberta provides a micro-course on Evaluating Information and Avoiding Misinformation, in addition to helpful resources and tips for avoiding misinformation while researching.

National News

Surprises and old patterns: AI and misinformation in the 2025 federal election campaign

By: Penny Daflos

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Daflos explains the expectations vs. realities of AI use in Canada's 2025 federal election, how it differs from the United States, and the bigger sources of misinformation. She also links to further studies on the effects of AI and foreign interference in federal elections, as well as sharing a resource to report false information.

Detecting and reporting disinformation

By: The Privy Council Office

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The Privy Council Office of Canada provides practical advice for identifying and countering misinformation online. This page also links to additional resources from the Government of Canada, Elections Canada, non-government sources within Canada, and even international sources.

Explainer: How disinformation, fake news and foreign interference threaten Canadian election

By: T'Cha Dunlevy

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Speaking with an assistant professor from McGill University and a PhD candidate from the University of Toronto, Dunlevy explores questions around how Canada's 45th federal election is different from previous elections, how geopolitical relationships affect the spread of misinformation, and what other countries are doing to promote information and digital literacy.

Three quarters of Canadians say misinformation affected the federal election: poll

By: Catherine Morrison

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This article reveals the results of the Leger poll, which sampled more than 1,500 Canadian adults after the election. Although the poll cannot be assigned a margin of error because it was conducted online, it may reveal some demographic differences in Canadians' reactions to this year's federal election, such as between province, age, gender identity, and political leaning.

International News

Undermining Ukraine: How Russia widened its global information war in 2023

By: the Digital Forensic Research Lab

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This article explains how Russia has been able to affect outside support for Ukraine through misinformation techniques like propaganda. While initial sanctions against Russia at the outbreak of the war did limit their reach through traditional media, a shift toward social media has allowed Russia to influence several of Ukraine's allies.

The failure of Russian propaganda

By: Dr Jon Roozenbeek

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Tracing back to 2014, Roozenbeek analyses how Putin, the Kremlin's propaganda strategists, and insurgents in the "People's Republics" of Donetsk and Luhansk have attempted to spread a false ideology of "Novorossiya," or "New Russia," to justify the war in Ukraine. And yet, these efforts have largely failed as a result of strong Ukrainian identity and nationhood.

Access to internet infrastructure is essential, in wartime and peacetime

By: Jillian C. York and Paige Collings

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Like propaganda, deliberately blocking access to information is another tool of war. York and Collings briefly describe how internet blackouts have been weaponized by limiting peoples' ability to organize, bring visibility to their situation, or remain free from censorship, surveillance, arrest, and violence. This topic is contextualized within the recent conflicts in Iran, Sudan, and Palestine.

Conflicts trigger globe's highest rate of internet shutdowns in 2024: NGO

By: Al Jazeera

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Remaining on the subject of internet shutdowns in the face of conflict, this article outlines why 2024 was a record breaking year for this kind of "digital violence." Al Jazeera also reveals the widespread nature of this new tool of war across several regions, including the Middle East and North Africa, Myanmar, India, and Ukraine.

Scholarly Spotlight

Sin, S.-C. J., & Kim, K.-S. (2025). Undergraduates' appraisal and coping responses to dis/misinformation issues on social media: Implications for information literacy education. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 51(2), N.PAG. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2025.103019>

Situated in research on both information literacy and behavioural research relating to mis/disinformation, and research on social media and coping, this study investigates how academic librarians can approach information literacy more holistically by taking into account the affective responses to mis/disinformation. To study this issue, the researchers analysed the behaviour of undergraduate students on X (formerly Twitter, as it was called at the time the research was conducted), which revealed patterns that have implications for information literacy training and research.



FLIF

We appreciate feedback.
Please don't hesitate to
reach out to us.

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