

Young Migrant Integration Leaders [EXEMPLAR]

IO1 – Integration Leaders Curriculum

Module 8: IT and Social Media

Self-directed Learning Content

Introduction to the Module:

This is the eight module of the Integration Leaders Curriculum. This module addresses the topic “IT and Social Media” which focuses on the identification of trustworthy information and strategies on how to distinguish between credible sources and fake news. Participants learn how to search for specific content and how to verify content. In the second part, they learn how the internet has evolved and how to interact properly online.

Learning Outcomes Achieved:	Knowledge: recognise characteristics of trustworthy sources and resources; recognise characteristics and repeating patterns of fake sources and resources; recognise characteristics of intentional negative and provocative social media interactions (trolls); search for specific information and filter the results effectively; recognise limitations of filter bubbles and echo chambers and be aware of their mechanisms; recall the evolution of the internet and web 1.0 to 4.0 in a general overview
	Skills: use effective techniques for searching and finding specific content; analyse and validate the credibility of information, news, and sources critically before sharing their content; understand, explain, and demonstrate how to verify the accuracy and credibility of (re)sources; comply to basic netiquette; surpass borders of filter bubbles and echo chambers
	Attitudes: search for possible solutions to a problem/challenge on the internet confidently; recognise the potentials as well as the limitations of online information; act as role model concerning netiquette and responsible internet usage; debunk fake news shared online by peers using trustworthy sources

Unit 2.1 Finding Tory (trustworthy original resources yourself)

Trustworthy Original Resources Contain Credible Information

There are thousands of websites on the Internet. Some of them do not only spread true stories but also questionable ones. When you are reading information on websites it is important to question these sources as well. Pay special attention to the following aspects: authority, accuracy, objectivity, currency, and coverage (Coates S.2019).

Fake News

The opposite of credible information is fake news. It is important to spot fake news in order to stop spreading them and to counteract. Fake news and fake content is often paired with emotional provocation, often written in CAPITAL LETTERS to gain more attention and sometimes introduced with click baits such as “You will NEVER believe what happened...” or similar. An expert tip is to check if a certain website is marked in the Wikipedia list of fake news: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fake_news_websites

Sometimes it can be difficult to find out if a story is true or not (sometimes it is very obvious). Searching additional information on Google is advised, and it works even better when using Google Search Operators. These can be found here: <https://ahrefs.com/blog/google-advanced-search-operators/>

Unit 2.2 The EXEMPLAR’s guide to the internet – A story of social media, trolls, and fake news.

The Word Wide Web (www) has become a crucial part of our professional and private life. It is controlled by nobody and everybody at the same time, as there is no singular authority in charge of the internet. There are of course laws, and most of them are national, but some are international, issued for example by the European Union.

One such law representing the European Union in social media and on the internet is the law called "right to be forgotten". This means that if you have deleted your social media profile, but a month later your profile picture still appears on Google when you search for your name, you can ask the social media platform to remove your pictures from the Internet (European Union 2019).

Despite these rights, it is very difficult to remove information and data from the Internet. Since the internet is an ever-changing place, information that was once uploaded is almost impossible to delete. Information can be shared all over the world in just a few seconds, so that even if the source removes the original information, many others have already shared and commented or taken a screenshot of it. This can unfortunately result in information never disappearing completely from the internet. Authorities depend on users to report illegal or offensive content, which means that every single user has responsibility as well. It is, therefore, really important to be careful with personal data and photos on the internet.

Filter Bubbles, Echo Chambers, Big Data

Social Media is not really free as you are paying with your personal data. Website operators are making profit by analysing the data of all their users, hence the term “big data”. „Big data“ means that huge data sets are analysed and patterns, trends, and associations are estimated and interpreted. The results are used to create more appealing and more personalised advertisements to make you buy more products or services.

Especially in social media networks our online behaviour very observable. And Algorithms prefer to show us content that is similar to the content we consume. This results in co-called filter bubbles and echo chambers.

Filter Bubble

Due to this filter bubble, we get limited information about our online behaviour. We only receive information that the algorithm considers interesting for us, which is why this is called "thinking inside the box".

Echo Chamber

There is no information flow from the "outside", which means that an algorithm decides which posts and information newsfeeds receive. Existing opinions, ideas, and beliefs are reinforced – this results in the so-called Echo Chamber and leads to people being empowered in their thinking instead of taking on new perspectives.

Online Threads

“Mr. Google” always has an answer to your questions. If there is no direct answer on Google, you will be referred to various forums and threads. Caution is advised on these websites, as people frequently give information about topics they know nothing about. So-called fake news can be spread very fast. People who have little or no knowledge about a topic but still feel the need to “inform” the public, they likely to post anonymously or take on fake identities in these threads.

This anonymization can tempt people to write mean things about others or even lead to severe forms of cyber bullying. However, it is important to know that behind every screen there is a person who can be hurt by such comments and behaviour. Advice on good internet netiquette can be found in the next section.

Netiquette

In regards to netiquette, it is important not to forget that behind every screen there is a person you should treat respectfully. You should also respect the privacy of others, as well as cultural differences. Always keep in mind that you should behave online the same way you would behave offline.

Resources

Coates, S. (2019). *What Makes a Source Credible?* Retrieved from <https://sites.google.com/site/evaluatingsourcecredibility/for-students/what-makes-a-source-credible>

European Union (2019, June 14). *Data protection and online privacy*. Retrieved from https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/consumers/internet-telecoms/data-protection-online-privacy/index_en.html

Hardwick, J. (2018, May 22). *Google Search Operators: The Complete List (42 Advanced Operators)* [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://ahrefs.com/blog/google-advanced-search-operators/>

McLean, C. (2017, June 8). *How to Deal Effectively With Online Trolls*. Douglas Magazine. Retrieved from <https://douglasmagazine.com/deal-effectively-online-trolls/>

NoName [Minutevideos]. (2016, December 28). *Filter Bubbles and Echo Chambers* [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://youtu.be/Zk1o2BpC79g>

NoName [Code.org] (2016, June 27). *What is the Internet?* [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://youtu.be/Dxcc6ycZ73M>

Ross, S. T. (2011): *THE CORE RULES OF NETIQUETTE*. Retrieved from <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>