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## LibGuide Blog Reflection

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COMM 140

LIBGUIDE BLOG REFLECTION

April 29, 2018

This semester we covered many topics and issues surrounding digital communication and privacy. For each topic, we turned to the news to find current information or issues that pertained to that week's curriculum. As someone who generally doesn't keep up to date on the news, I was a little concerned about finding anything of note a couple times. However, I learned that just because I don't hear or think about certain issues it doesn't mean that they aren't important or big enough to warrant thorough journalism.

While every topic we covered was important and necessary to understand, I personally found the week about fake news the most meaningful. As a future librarian, I find information literacy to be a very valuable, necessary, and under-taught skill. We are in an age where information can be spread very quickly and it isn't always accurate. Sensationalism and click-bait articles are becoming more and more common and not everyone has the skill- or mindset to avoid them. By being aware of how we can recognize fake news and by improving information literacy skills, we can slow the spread of false information and improve digital communication exponentially.

Before this project began, I knew that information literacy was important, but I had very little real-world connection to exactly *why* it was important. By actively looking at the current news and searching for a connection to the topic of the week, I was able to deepen my understanding of the subject and actually make those real-world connections. By then writing

about an article I found particularly compelling or informative and sharing it with others, I was able to spread that knowledge and hopefully improve my audience's understanding of the topic as well. When we open up conversation about a topic and make connections to things we can relate to, we can raise more awareness of these issues and make them easier to understand and overcome.

Through this assignment I have learned about things about digital communication that I didn't even realize were issues—like how we have such a large digital divide even just in our country—and if I had just read about them, I would have possibly forgotten about them in a few months. Researching and then discussing the issues in a blog, however, really made me pay attention to the subject and further my understanding of it because I was creating conversation about the issues and finding ways it related to things I already understood. Overall, this assignment was very beneficial in helping me understand several issues surrounding digital communication at a deeper level than I would have otherwise. It is my hope that the connections or relationships I found and talked about in my blog will help any readers also make those connections and understand the topic with me.