Notes from the March 8 Listening Tour: Fake News

We were pleased to host a large group at our listening tour on fake news. This timely topic has been discussed at numerous meetings over the past several months. As MLS works to empower and strengthen the Massachusetts Library Community, we felt that meeting with members to hear their views, issues, and possible solutions to problems was a worthwhile endeavor.

Our members never disappoint us. Many valuable insights and ideas were shared. We wish we could solve everyone’s problems, however, we are pleased that this discussion addressed many pressing issues.

The format for the session was brainstorming on “Now – Wow – How.” We asked members to consider ideas that could be quickly implemented (Now); ideas that would Wow us; and other items for future consideration that might require a great deal of thought (How).

Please let us know how MLS can be valuable to your library in these areas.
Now

Discussion group at library could use a book to center it around
I could post links to ALA/MLS resources etc. on my school website to combat this issue
Individual = offer a program highlighting Gale databases or others
Book discussion group: 1984 or other title to illustrate impact of Fake News.
Encourage patrons to read outside their bubble
Remind patrons to be critical of what they read
MLS - more programs or presenters on "Effective Communication" - 3 pt. series being offered at West Brookfield.

MLS - What is librarian's role in this fake news society - take a stand? Try to balance between polarized sides, etc. especially when we might feel strongly one way or other
Don't shame anyone! (Be careful / aware of inadvertent shaming)
Promote Databases as trustworthy.

MLS could sponsor workshops on how librarians can proactively engage in conversation about fake news
Update Teen Services portion of the library website to include helpful / credible research tools / resources
Displays of books / novels (?) such as 1984 out as reading ideas
Staff "Fake News" Training.
Gale Webinars / Trainings.
Librarians armed with suggested reading material

Invite several journalists to participate in a discussion panel about the Trump-era media
Program on validating sources
Staff training re: "Fake News"
Outreach to Schools on Resources at Library.
Displays? aimed at YA - ways to fact check sources
Promote Gale databases more among library youth
Individual library - encourage librarians to engage their patrons in conversations 'bout fake news
Creating book group that presents / discuss[es] books on the topic

Speakers - who can explain how journalism gets info

Subscribe to reputable print media & make it easy for patrons to find

Links on website directing patrons to Resources (More than just Gale Pages button)

1st Rule of Research: USE MULTIPLE SOURCES!
Encourage use of vetted sources of info

Maintain access to database: "Opposing Viewpoints"

Simple Handout of reliable news outlets
Display of propaganda from WWII

To open minds don't state your facts, ask questions about their facts

Wikipedia fine to reinforce or remind you of past "knowns" but not good for academic research

Program for YA groups teaching how to use library resources (supporting what they do in school)
**Wow!**

Highlight just a few fact-checking resources...

Find out how schools teach about news so public libraries can replicate.

Share ideas on statewide listservs.

I could run a "Fake News" seminar of my own (Middle School library) for parents in my learning community.

I could partner with my local public library to run a seminar, invite a speaker.

Make good information easier to access (remove obstacles)

Have program / discussion RE: psychology of our perceptions of reality. (Not just news, but focus on news)

Work with MLS to create webinars & workshops to be facilitated by library staff.

Collaborate w/ a local media literacy program to facilitate a fake news / media literacy series for youth.

A computer guide to how to deal with information - on welcome page

Connecting to other libraries to co-op programs

Community discussion red / blue

Bring in speakers (reporters, sociologists, etc.) to explain how they assess information

Provide info on how social media targets users w/ specific topics

Engage K12 kids on fake news police.

Workshop on cleaning up privacy settings in various social sites Google, Facebook, et al.

Expand library / research lessons to include video clips of journalists...

Create catchy videos & put them on local cable station

Flyers at public computers - How to identify "fake news"

Bulletin board of outrageous news stories
How?

Co-created = plan similar program about databases jointly (or offer same program @ multiple libraries in area)

Collections - in the age of FAKE NEWS issues

One on one training at websites

Several communities could join an the same page group read, centering on journalism, e.g., "Muckrakers," etc.

How can libs keep rep[utation] as trusted resource?

MLS facilitated - helpful for staff training (how to evaluate - more webinars, articles, etc. to be aware of)

MLS - Face to face how to work with patrons on fake news when there exists confirmation bias - bring in a psychologist, etc.

MLS might offer small grants so school libraries / smaller publics could host speakers / experts

Facilitate conversations among folks w/ diverse opinions

MLS - how to talk to people on other side

Hear why some folks don’t trust NBC, CNN, and NYT

Host community conversations on contentious issues

Staff customer service training

How do we decide & vet what is fake news - use of resources we don’t have

Co-create: A plan regarding fake news to help libraries - decipher "Fake News"

Program tour to libraries of similar demographics co-created

How to keep [it might say "help"] patrons when we are “fake news" exhausted

Work with each other - monthly meetings to brainstorm ideas with neighboring libraries

Panel of - journalists - academics - psychologists to talk @ issue

Presentation deconstructing articles / images on Facebook

Individual library - expand fake news conversations in comp. Literary wkshps

Find a way to make reputable sources look exciting

Help patrons with their online searches & encourage them to use reputable sites

Encourage active listening

Shared signage depot 4 grabbing public signage on fake news

Maybe focus on YA programming if adults are not open to learning

"A Day Without Media" community diet

Call it something other than "Fake News" - too late

Joint program with neighboring library with journalists & academics

Host community conversations

Present at one another's libraries as visiting experts

Co-create school-public-academic collaboration to shed light(?) on fake news

Let the computers break & turn off wifi

Series of social media post[s] directing patrons to legit sources

Work with school partners to facilitate conversations