

Classroom Media Literacy Tools for Combatting Disinformation and Fake News

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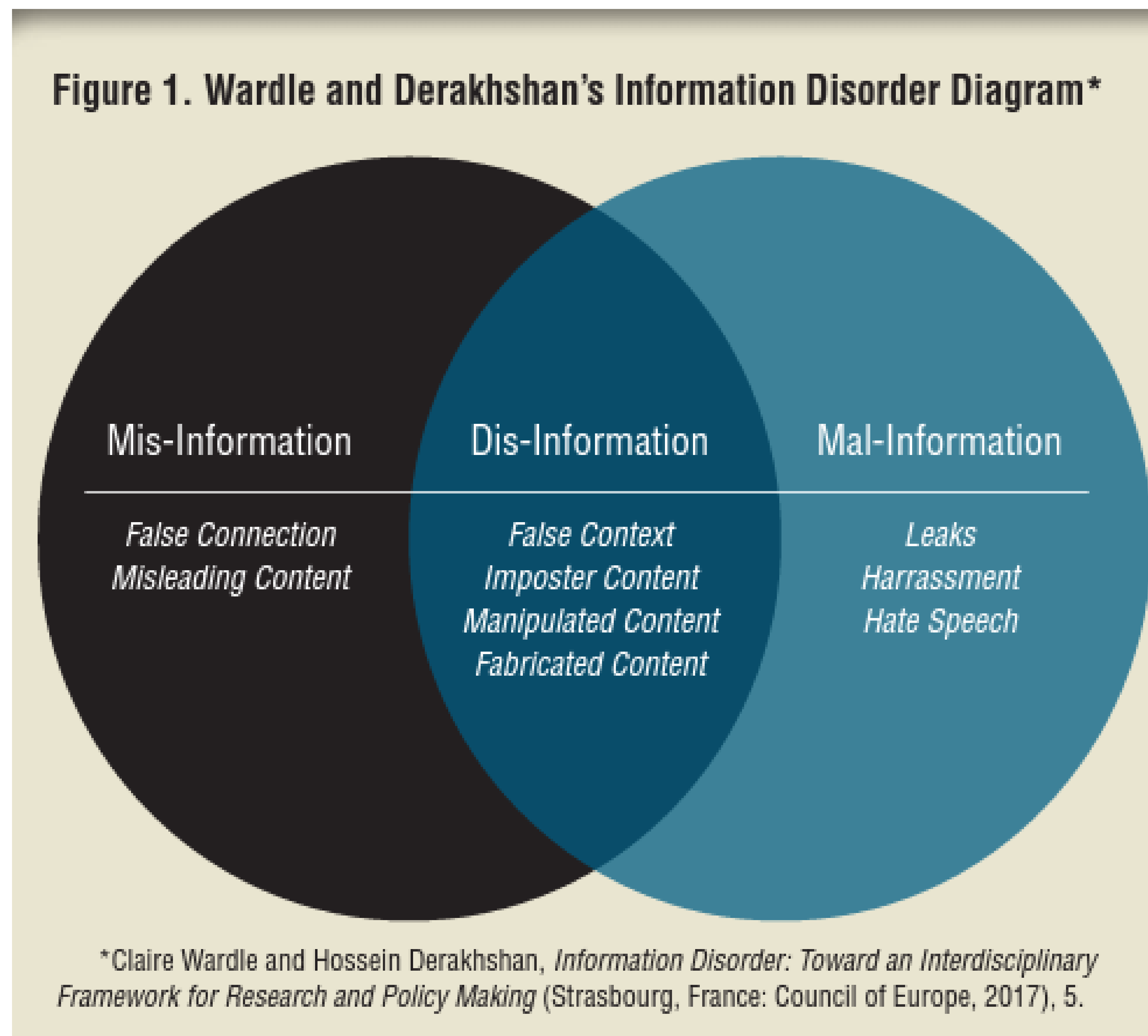
Introduction

The great increase in consumption and sharing of news on social networks without previous analysis made possible what McIntyre calls “fertile ground” for fake news. While in the past students previously used more books and encyclopedias to conduct their research and complete their schoolwork, most now use online search engines such as Google. Fake news can be information that is misleading, incorrect, or false (misinformation), and it can be false information that is purposefully disseminated (disinformation). Hunt points out that in the case of fake news, the user’s difficulty in analyzing the content occurs because fake news is often manipulated to look like credible content in order to maximize circulation. This study provides teachers with tools to effectively teach students to critique sources of information.

A Growing Challenge

- Most students are unaware of these forms of manipulation of information.
- In a report published by the *Commission on Fake News and the Teaching of Critical Literacy Skills* based on a survey of 388 primary students, 1,832 secondary students, and 414 teachers within the UK, 61 percent of teachers expressed concern that fake news will affect student behavior.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and several other NGOs and media companies have supported initiatives that study how media education prevents the spread of false news.

Mis-Information, Dis-Information, and Mal-Information



Stop the Spread!

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR
Do a quick search on the authors. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the sight and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS
Ask a librarian or consult a fact-checking site.

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[Link to Notes and References](#)

<https://jae.adventist.org/2020.82.2.7>

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