Foraging for News

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A Non-Partisan Micro Lesson
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Non-Partisan?

- The intent of this Micro Lesson is to provide some **Non-Partisan** tips and techniques on how to **Forage for News**

- The current state of the news media makes it **impossible** to present in a non-partisan manner

- So, **observe the techniques** and apply them to your news sources.

Introduction

- Since all News is Fake News, **how do you learn what is true?**

  - See the Micro Lesson "Spotting Fake News"

- **Forage for News**

  - Get news from many sources, **diversify**

    - TV Networks, Cable News, Social Media, Independent Journalists

  - Know your **source bias**

  - Know your **source specialty**. Independent Journalists often have a focus.

  - Use social media **algorithms**

    - You need to take steps to influence what the algorithm gives you. This takes time.

Social Media Hints

- **Ignore** posts that are obvious trolls or false or foolish statements

- **Enjoy** the comedy, memes and sarcasm, but that is not news.

- Every post is greeted with **"If this is true…"**

Who to Follow on Social Media?

- **Reliable Sources**

  - vet your sources, follow the credible ones

- **Both Sides**

  - Deliberately select news sources from various political biases

- **Several News Outlets**

- **Independent Journalists**

  - They add vibrant insight to stories and often get there first

- **Politicians**

- **Government Agencies**

X / Twitter

- Twitter has both left and right contributors

  - But many on the left have moved to BlueSky

- "Following" gets you tweets from folks you follow

- "For You" is a great place to get vision to the "other news silo" because it will feed you other stuff

  - HOWEVER: **it works best if you click on sources from all news silos.   I mean the conservative person should click on tweets from progressive sources to see more progressive content.**

- **Read Community Notes !**   It's a great Fact Check that is crowd sourced.

- **Listen to Spaces** occasionally (X audio only discussion): it's a good way to hear contributors directly and gauge credibility.

BlueSky

- Similar App to X/Twitter and Truth Social

- Has a Following tab and a Discover tab

  - Discover is good to expand your reach in BlueSky

- BlueSky is left biased with almost zero conservative content

- BlueSky is a moderated platform

- It has lots of news outlets, most are left leaning

- I have not yet found any independent journalists on BlueSky, perhaps they are there waiting for me to find them

- BlueSky suffers from group-think, so proceed with caution

Truth Social

- Similar App to X/Twitter and BlueSky

- The Algorithm is likely similar to X/Twitter

- Truth posts are biased to the right

- So far I have found good right biased news sources, funny memes and normal trolls.

- I have not seen too much group-think, but a biased social media app is fertile grounds for it.

Other Tools

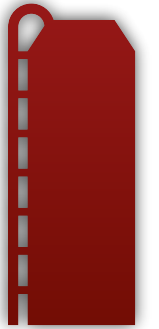- **Ground News** App tells you the bias of the source

News Outlets

Left News Silo

- CBS, NBC, ABC - left bias

- CNN - biased left, but does show right view points

- MSNBC - 100% left, no conservative views

- BBC - left bias, but excellent world news source

- NPR & PBS

- Most traditional newspapers
  - New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, etc

Right News Silo

- FoxNews - biased right but shows left view points, highest rated cable news network

- Newsmax - right bias, competes with Fox News, medium player

- One America News (OAN) - right bias, but a good source for world news. Small player

- DailyWire - conservative source of news and children's programs

- The Federalist - right bias

YouTube, TikTok, Truth

- **YouTube** has some news and lots of recreational videos. Some topics have good new content, search by the specific topic to find contributors.

- **TikTok** is rumored to have control over which videos go viral. A "heat button" that the Chinese Communist Party controls. Sounds like a conspiracy theory but the notion came from TikTok themselves.

  - So the risk is not your data, it's control and political or societal influence from a foreign power.

- **Truth Social** is like X and BlueSky

  - It has a Right/Conservative bias

  - Its news notifications tend to be correct (not fake news) and comes out in a timely manner. They are a mix or non-partisan news and Trump news.

Social Media Algorithms
As discerned by a user

- The Social Media app is watching your every move.

- It wants to feed you information that keeps your attention.

- It will feed you similar items in terms of topic, political bias or genre.

- You can influence it by clicking on items.

- So if a conservative wanted to see more progressive stuff, search for or click on posts by progressives.

Don't Spoil the Algorithm

- Don't search for evil stuff!!!

  - MAP, Pedo, sex stuff, crime stuff

  - Not "for science" or "expanding your knowledge" of how much dark side stuff is out there, is not worth spoiling your internet experience until the algorithm decides you are no longer interested.

  - Instead follow a contributor who reposts that stuff, like @LibsOfTikToc and @LibsofBlueSky on X/Twitter.

- The bad stuff gets trapped in the algorithm.

- Try this: in Google, search for "Ford Bronco" click on a nearby dealership and observe your browser adds for the next few weeks

Refresh the Algorithm

- X/Twitter shows you ~100 tweets at a time, this is not enough to see all the posts. The algorithm could box you into seeing posts from a few contributors.

- Every so often it's good to go into the list of people you follow and click on some of their posts.

- It gets their account back in the list of things the algorithm will present to you

Suggestions for X/Twitter Follows

- Disclaimer, this is the author's favorites, your mileage may vary.

- Add X/Twitter recommended follows for news, independent journalists.

- Follow politicians, government departments, and other official accounts

- Follow several independent journalists

Good Follows on X
Independent Journalists

- Mario Nawfal **@MarioNawfal** posts political and other news

- Michael Shellenberger **@shellenberger** is a brilliant independent journalist on many topics. His reports are deeps and thorough

- **@robbystarbuck** the guy who is persuading corporations to abandon DEI

- **@owengregorian** posts articles from various sources regarding politics and technology

- Insurrection Barbie **@DefiyantlyFree** posts political news and insight, from the right bias.

- Andy Ngo **@MrAndyNgo** reports on Antifa and other violent anarchists

- The Vigilant Fox **@VigilantFox** posts news and lists of the week's news items, from the political right.

- Mike Benz **@MikeBenzCyber**, a must follow. He reports on the deep state and their tactics, which he calls the "blob." He exposed the dirty tricks that were corroborated by USAID revelations.

- **@amuse**, an independent political journalist. Right leaning

- DataRepublican (small r) **@DataRepublican** exposes government waste and connections to NGO's.

Follow on Truth

- Many politicians and news outlets post on Truth

- Follow **@justthenews** for a good news source (biased right of center)

Podcasts

- **Podcasts give commentary and analysis from the host's POV. It's usually not "news" but it is useful.**

- **Coffee with Scott Adams** - Analysis of the day's news, he usually has an interesting new angle on his analysis. He teaches persuasion, and his philosophies on how to succeed in life. "Systems are better than goals" etc

- **The DershShow - Alan Dershowitz** - Analysis of a current topic from a Constitutional Law perspective. He is a liberal democrat, but his Constitutional analysis is about as unbiased as can be.

- **The Joe Rogan Experience** - His style is a 1 on 1 chat with his guest. His superpower is his talent for asking simple questions that bring out whatever the guest has in mind. For politics he asks questions that further the conversation. Not "gotcha" questions or a list of topics to cover. For weird stuff he can go along with what the guest is saying to get them to talk about interesting content. "So when the space aliens visit, what is it like?"

- **Verdict with Ted Cruz** - Senator Ted Cruz comments on the week's political highlights

- Some Cable News shows are reposted as podcasts.

- **I am not saying listen to these podcasts. Note the variety in styles and what they bring to the table in terms of analysis skills.**

Local News

- A local Newspaper is good for local politics and news.

- A national newspaper is useless to learn what the Boston City Council is up to.

- Local TV News

- Local news websites

- Many post on social media like X and other similar apps.

  - Some treasure can be found via articles posted on X

- Subscribe and pay if you read a local news outlet often. It will keep the industry alive

- Follow them on social media to get a variety of local news feeds

Fact Checkers

- Don't believe them, use their content with caution

- They are proven to be biased

- I do not have an "accurate" Fact Checker to recommend.

- Snopes ignored the Fine People Hoax for 7 years!

  - It was the easiest thing to prove that Trump said Neo Nazi's and White Nationalists "should be condemned totally" not more than 30 seconds after he said the words "fine people"

AI

- AI is a **new technology** that we should all examine.

  - Grok, ChatGPT, etc

- It is known to be **effective in many fields**, including search and news.

- AI does a good job of answering a question with full context, in prose.

- It is known to **hallucinate** content, so proceed with caution. "Hallucinate" is the industry term for AI adding fiction to a response. It's a real thing. Hallucinations should diminish as AI improves.

- As of March 2025, consider AI to be as reliable/unreliable as all news sources. **Proceed with caution.**

- Compare output from multiple AI apps. AI apps have bias.

Compare News Sources

- **NOT DIVERSE**

  - CBS, ABC, NBC, MSNBC, CNN, Boston Globe

    - All of these are left leaning, you are in an **echo chamber**

- **DIVERSE** example

  - ABC, CNN, Fox News, Local stations, local paper,

  - X following 15 news outlets (broadcast, print, cable news, news websites)

  - X following 10 independent journalists

  - X following 20 government officials, several from each side

Now What?

- Take the examples and techniques and try foraging for diverse news

- See if it gives you a different, new and fresh picture of the world

- Continue to ensure your news sources are diverse to avoid the echo chamber