Video Transcript

We are constantly bombarded with information from 24-hour news networks, blogs, and social media. Information is both easier to obtain and more plentiful than at any other point in history. The Internet connects the world to a seemingly endless amount of information, and digital devices are in such abundance that over 50% of the world’s population has access to this information in the palm of their hands.

But, there is a dark side to this abundance and this access. The Internet is filled with false and misleading information. Some is a result of satire, some the ignorance or misunderstanding by its creators, and some is deliberately meant to misinform in order to advance an agenda. The Internet has no editor or board of reviewers scanning the content to ensure it is correct and accurate. Rather, it’s self-moderated by its users, and anyone can create content. Every time we log onto the Internet, it’s up to us to evaluate every piece of information we encounter, to determine if it is true and useful. The ability to do so is known as information literacy. It is the ability to look at a problem, identify what information is required to solve it, and locate that required information. Then, we must evaluate the information to determine if it is both accurate and usable. Only then can we effectively use the information to solve our problem.

These skills allow us to filter through the information we encounter on a daily basis. Also, they help us identify and disregard misinformation and fake news. We can collect and organize the credible information that may be of use to us. Information literacy skills allow us to read the news and avoid clickbait headlines and biased reporting, ignore the deliberately misleading memes, and identify the fraudulent spam emails. Information literacy allows us to use the Internet to its highest potential. Of course, this leaves an important question: How good is your information literacy? Can you tell the truth from the lies?
About this transcript:

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