Survey instruments for "A digital media literacy intervention increases discernment between mainstream and false news: Evidence from the United States and India"

Table of contents

Section A: U.S. survey question wording A-1
Section B: India survey question wording B-1

A U.S. survey question wording

Age

In what year were you born?

Gender

What is your gender?
-Male
-Female

Racial background

What racial or ethnic group best describes you?
-White
-Black or African-American
-Hispanic or Latino
-Asian or Asian-American
-Native American
-Middle Eastern
-Mixed Race
-Other (open)

Education

What is the highest level of education you have completed?
-Did not graduate from high school
-High school graduate
-Some college, but no degree (yet)
-2-year college degree
-4-year college degree
-Postgraduate

Political views

When it comes to politics, would you describe yourself as liberal, conservative, or neither liberal nor conservative?
-Very liberal
-Somewhat liberal
-Slightly liberal

-Moderate; middle of the road
-Slightly conservative
-Somewhat conservative
-Very conservative

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...?
-Democrat
-Republican
-Independent
-Other
-Not sure

[Follow-up]
If Democrat:
-Strong Democrat
-Not very strong Democrat
If Republican:
-Strong Republican
-Not very strong Republican
If Independent/Other/Not sure:
-The Democratic Party
-The Republican Party
-Neither
-Not sure

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?
-Strongly approve
-Somewhat approve
-Somewhat disapprove
-Strongly disapprove

Political interest

Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ...
-Most of the time (5)
-Some of the time (4)
-Only now and then (3)
-Hardly at all (2)
-Don't know (1)

Political knowledge

The next set of questions helps us learn what types of information are commonly known to the public. Please answer these questions on your own without asking anyone or looking up the answers. Many people don't know the answers to these questions, but we'd be grateful if you would please answer every question even if you're not sure what the right answer is.

It is important to us that you do NOT use outside sources like the Internet to search for the correct answer. Will you answer the following questions without help from outside sources?
-Yes
-No

For how many years is a United States Senator elected - that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. Senator?
-Two years
-Four years
-Six years (1)
-Eight years
-None of these
-Don't know

How many times can an individual be elected President of the United States under current laws?
-Once
-Twice (1)
-Four times
-Unlimited number of terms
-Don't know

How many U.S. Senators are there from each state?
-One
-Two (1)
-Four
-Depends on which state
-Don't know

Who is currently the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?
-Richard Branson
-Nick Clegg
-David Cameron
-Theresa May (1)
-Margaret Thatcher
-Don't know

For how many years is a member of the United States House of Representatives elected – that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. House member?

-Two years (1)
-Four years
-Six years
-Eight years
-For life
-Don't know

Media trust and Facebook use

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media – such as newspapers, TV and radio – when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately and fairly?
-None at all (1)
-Not very much (2)
-A fair amount (3)
-A great deal (4)

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the information you see on Facebook when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly?
-None at all (1)
-Not very much (2)
-A fair amount (3)
-A great deal (4)

How frequently do you use Facebook?
-Almost constantly
-Several times a day
-About once a day
-A few times a week
-About once a week
-A few times a month
-Once a month
-Less often than once a month
-Never

How frequently do you click on political news stories in your Facebook News Feed?
-Almost constantly
-Several times a day
-About once a day
-A few times a week
-About once a week
-A few times a month
-Once a month
-Less often than once a month
-Never

How frequently do you share political news stories on Facebook?
-Almost constantly
-Several times a day
-About once a day
-A few times a week
-About once a week
-A few times a month
-Once a month
-Less often than once a month
-Never

Feeling thermometers

We would like to get your feelings toward some of our political leaders and institutions who are in the news these days using something we call the feeling thermometer. Ratings between 50 degrees and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward the person. Ratings between 0 degrees and 50 degrees mean that you don't feel favorable toward the person or institution and that you don't care too much for that person or institution. You would rate them at the 50 degree mark if you don't feel particularly warm or cold toward them. If we come to a person or institution whose name you don't recognize, you don't need to rate them.
-Democratic Party
-Republican Party
-President Trump
-The news media

Cognitive reflection tests

A cheese and crackers snack costs 2.20 in total. The cheese costs 2.00 more than the crackers. How much do the crackers cost?
-.10 (1)
-.20
-.15
-.05

If it takes 10 seamstresses 10 minutes to make 10 shirts, how long would it take 70 seamstresses to make 70 shirts?
-70 minutes
-1 minute
-7 minutes
-10 minutes (1)

In a field, there is a patch of weeds. Every day, the patch doubles in size. If it takes 50 days for the patch to cover the entire field, how long would it take for the patch to cover half the field?
-25 days
-12.5 days
-49 days (1)
-37.5 days

If you're running a race and you pass the person in second place, what place are you in?
-First
-Second (1)
-Third
-Not enough information is provided

A farmer had 15 sheep and all but 8 died. How many are left?
-7
-8 (1)
-9
-6

Emily's father has three daughters. The first two are named April and May. What is the third daughter's name?
-June
-Emily (1)
-Not enough information is provided
-Anne

How many cubic feet of dirt are there in a hole that is 3' deep x 3' wide x 3' long?
-27
-0 (1)
-9
-3

Conspiracy predisposition

Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
-Strongly agree (5)
-Somewhat agree (4)
-Neither disagree nor disagree (3)
-Somewhat disagree (2)
-Strongly disagree (1)

Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.
-Strongly agree (5)
-Somewhat agree (4)

-Neither disagree nor disagree (3)
-Somewhat disagree (2)
-Strongly disagree (1)

The people who really 'run' the country are not known to the voter.
-Strongly agree (5)
-Somewhat agree (4)
-Neither disagree nor disagree (3)
-Somewhat disagree (2)
-Strongly disagree (1)

Big events like wars, recessions, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.
-Strongly agree (5)
-Somewhat agree (4)
-Neither disagree nor disagree (3)
-Somewhat disagree (2)
-Strongly disagree (1)

Media literacy intervention comprehension check

Which of these did the fake news tips you just read warn against?
-Phishing scams
-Online bots
-Phony or look-alike URLs (1)
-Manipulated images

According to the fake news tips you just read, which of these might be an indication of a false news article?
-Misspellings (1)
-Quotations from Wikipedia
-Requests for donations
-Ads for health products

According to the fake news tips you just read, which of these means an article is more likely to be true?
-Reported by multiple trusted sources (1)
-Many experts quoted
-Use of hyperlinks and photographs
-Appears in Google

News headline evaluations

To the best of your knowledge, how accurate is the claim in the above headline?
-Not at all accurate (1)
-Not very accurate (2)
-Somewhat accurate (3)
-Very accurate (4)

How likely would you be to “like” or “share” this article in your Facebook News Feed?
-Not at all likely (1)
-Not very likely (2)
-Somewhat likely (3)
-Very likely (4)

B India survey question wording

Note:
FTF = Face-to-face survey question wording
IRB = Internet Research Bureau survey question wording
MTurk = Amazon Mechanical Turk survey question wording

Politics and Voting, Political Mobilization, and Party Preference

Should a Ram Mandir be built in Ayodhya or should it not be built?
-Definitely should be built (4)
-Probably should be built (3)
-Probably should not be built (2)
-Definitely should not be built (1)
-No opinion

Is the Hindu population's rate of growth in India too fast, too slow, or about right?
-Too fast (3)
-About right (2)
-Too slow (1)
-No opinion

Which of these goals would you consider to be the most important for India?
-Creating more jobs
-Building strong defense forces (1)
-Reducing corruption in government
-Protecting the environment
-No opinion

How willing should India be to use military force to solve international problems?
-Extremely willing (5)
-Very willing (4)
-Moderately willing (3)
-A little willing (2)
-Not at all willing (1)
-No opinion

Do you think Pakistan's military is not a threat, a minor threat, or a major threat?
-Not a threat (1)
-Minor threat (2)
-Major threat (3)
-No opinion

Generally, how interested are you in politics?
-Extremely interested (5)

-Very interested (4)
-Somewhat interested (3)
-Not very interested (2)
-Not at all interested (1)

Media and WhatsApp Use

Do you use WhatsApp?
-Yes (1)
-No

Now, thinking more generally, to what extent do you think the stories you hear about politics on television are accurate?
-Very accurate (4)
-Somewhat accurate (3)
-Not very accurate (2)
-Not at all accurate (1)

To what extent do you think the stories you read about politics in newspapers are accurate?
-Very accurate (4)
-Somewhat accurate (3)
-Not very accurate (2)
-Not at all accurate (1)

To what extent do you think the stories you read about politics on Facebook are accurate?
-Very accurate (4)
-Somewhat accurate (3)
-Not very accurate (2)
-Not at all accurate (1)

To what extent do you think the messages you read about politics on WhatsApp are accurate?
-Very accurate (4)
-Somewhat accurate (3)
-Not very accurate (2)
-Not at all accurate (1)

Party Preference

What are your feelings toward the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)?
-Strongly like (4)
-Somewhat like (3)
-Somewhat dislike (2)
-Strongly dislike (1)

-I don’t recognize the name [IRB/MTurk]

What are your feelings toward the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)?
-Strongly like (4)
-Somewhat like (3)
-Somewhat dislike (2)
-Strongly dislike (1)
-I don’t recognize the name [IRB/MTurk]

What are your feelings toward the Indian National Congress (INC)?
-Strongly like (4)
-Somewhat like (3)
-Somewhat dislike (2)
-Strongly dislike (1)
-I don’t recognize the name [IRB/MTurk]

What are your feelings toward the Samajwadi Party?
-Strongly like (4)
-Somewhat like (3)
-Somewhat dislike (2)
-Strongly dislike (1)
-I don’t recognize the name [IRB/MTurk]

Political Knowledge

Narendra Modi belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
-True (1)
-False
-Not sure

The party with the largest number of seats in the Lok Sabha is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
-True (1)
-False
-Not sure

There are 818 seats in the Lok Sabha
-True
-False (1)
-Not sure

Nawaz Sharif is currently the Prime Minister of Pakistan
-True
-False (1)
-Not sure

Media literacy intervention comprehension check

Which of these did the false news tips you just learned about warn against?
-Phishing scams
-Online bots
-Unfamiliar sources (1)
-Weak wifi passwords

According to the false news tips you just learned about, which of these means an article is more likely to be true? -Reported by multiple sources (1)
-Many experts quoted
-Use of photographs
-Appears in Google

Demographics

In what year were you born?
{specify}

What is your gender?
-Woman (1)
-Man
-Other
-I prefer not to say

What is your caste group?
-Scheduled Caste (SC)
-Scheduled Tribe (ST)
-Other Backward Classes (OBC)
-General (GEN)
-Other {specify}

What is the highest level of education you have completed?
-Did not graduate from primary school
-Primary school graduate
-Middle school graduate
-Matriculation school graduate
-Higher secondary school graduate
-Some college, but no degree (including in progress)
-College degree
-Postgraduate degree (MA, MBA, MD, LLM, PhD, etc.)

What is your religion?
-Hindu
-Muslim
-Christian
-Sikh
-Buddhist/Neo Buddhist
-Jain
-No religion
-Other {specify}