Today's News, Tomorrow's Reference, and The Challenge of Reliable Information

An introduction to the NewsQ Initiative

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Wikimedia Research Showcase
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Overview

- The Challenge of Information Reliability (from a news source perspective)
- What is NewsQ?
- NewsQ and Wikimedia
- Questions?

Challenge: Information Reliability

The perspective from history

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The reliable sources problem, today

Science

Venus may be the only other planet with active volcanoes
Salon · 12 hours ago
· New Evidence Reveals that Venus has Active Volcanoes
SciTechDaily · Yesterday

Moon's magnetic field disappeared a BILLION years ago after its 'internal dynamo' stopped
Daily Mail · Yesterday
· Solar and Lunar Eclipses in 2020
Sky & Telescope · Yesterday

Best viewing for the Quadrantid Meteor Shower
KWCH · Yesterday
· Clear, But Cool For Meteor Shower Tonight
KFSM 5Newsonline · 1 hour ago

NewsQ, Science news results from news.google.com, 4 January 2020 [no search topic, location: Houston, Texas, US], https://newsq.net/news-ranking-review-panels/.

26. ^ 📖 Beeman, Richard (2009). *Plain, Honest Men: The Making of the American Constitution* ⊠. New York: Random House. ISBN 978-0-8129-7684-7.
27. ^ ⚖ Pfiffner, James. "Essays on Article II: Recommendations Clause" ⊠. *The Heritage Guide to the Constitution*. Heritage Foundation. Retrieved April 14, 2019.
28. ^ 🏛 💼 "Our Government: The Legislative Branch" ⊠. *www.whitehouse.gov*. Washington, D.C.: The White House. Retrieved April 14, 2019.
29. ^ Heitshusen, Valerie (November 15, 2018). "Introduction to the Legislative Process in the U.S. Congress" 📄 (PDF). *R42843 · Version 14 · updated*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service. Retrieved April 14, 2019.
30. ^ 📰 Cantor, Eric (July 30, 2009). "Obama's 32 Czars" ⊠. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved September 28, 2009.
31. ^ ❓ Nelson, Dana D. (October 11, 2008). "The 'unitary executive' question" ⊠. *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved October 4, 2009.

Kevin Payravi, "File:Cite Unseen on President of the United States," 2019. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cite_Unseen_on_President_of_the_United_States_(May_2019).png (CC-BY-SA 4.0)
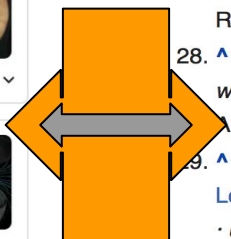
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news value: "shareability"

"I intended to repackage the boy's trauma into a digestible narrative I hoped would capture the attention of some hundred thousand internet users, who would then surrender valuable information about themselves to one or another technology baron, who would then reward the website for which I worked with a better starting position in the algorithmic rat race…"

Nicolás Medina Mora. "An American Education." *N+1* (blog), January 16, 2020. https://nplusonemag.com/issue-36/essays/an-american-education/, as quoted in Yemile Bucay, "Can Improving News Algorithms in Fact Improve News Quality," NewsQ blog, April 2020. https://newsq.net/2020/04/09/can-improving-algorithms-in-fact-improve-news-quality/.
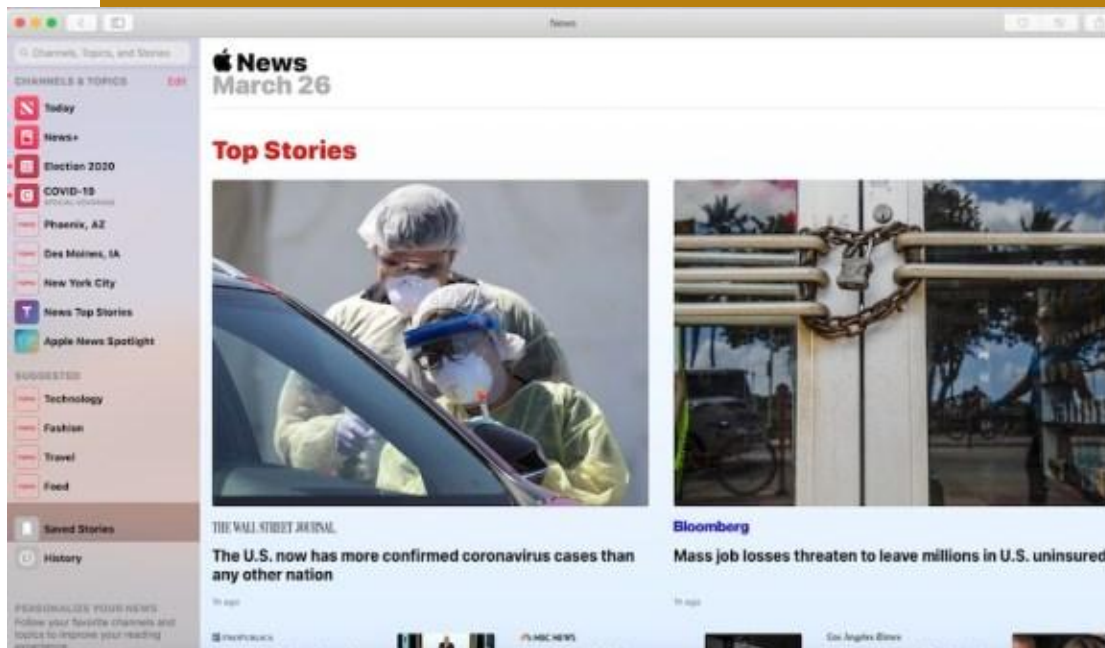
What is NewsQ?

NewsQ seeks to elevate quality journalism when algorithms **rank and recommend news articles** online.

We approach this problem by engaging in *design thinking* **activities.**
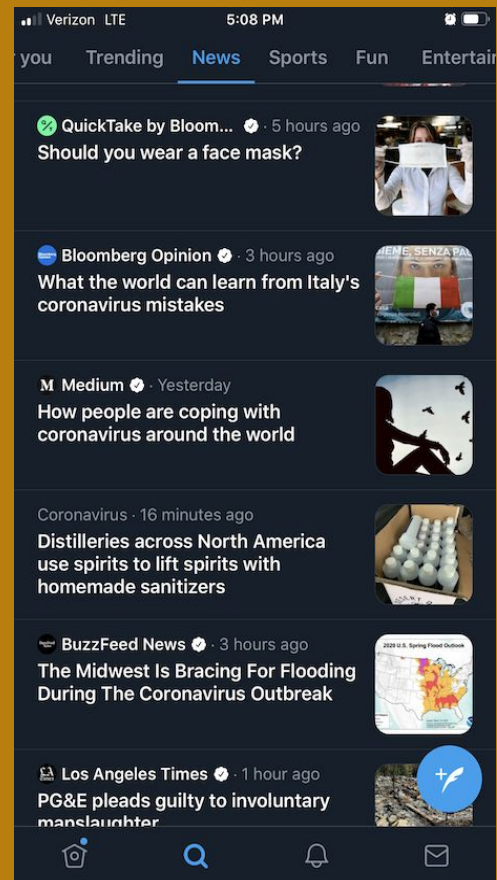
News Recommendation and Ranking

*Apple News results,
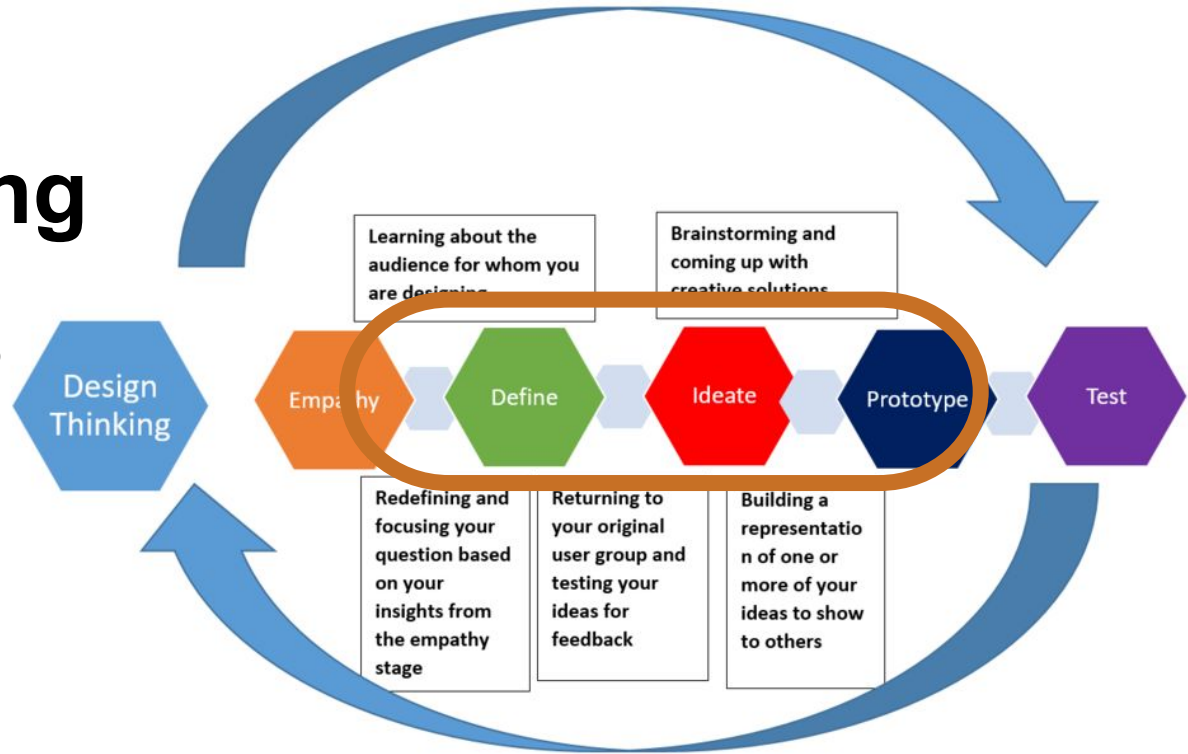26 March 2020*

News Recommendation and Ranking

Left: Twitter News results, 23 March 2020

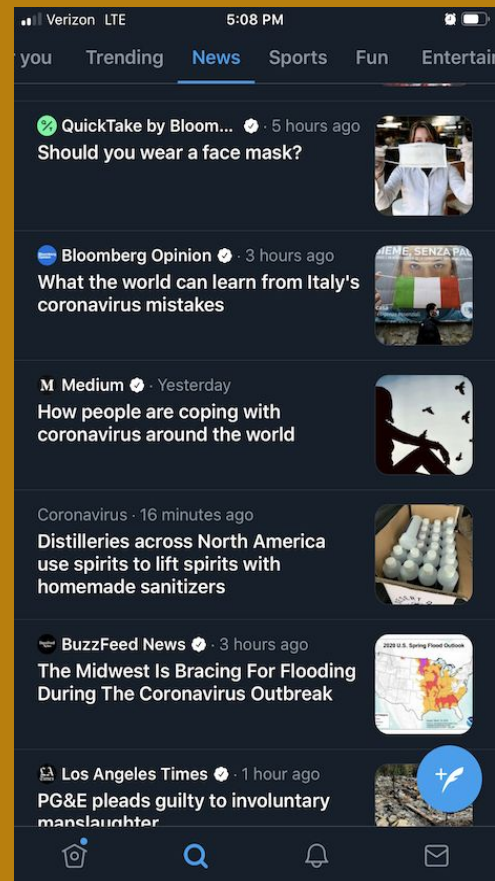*Right: Twitter News results, 10 April 2020*

NewsQ
Design Thinking

- Technical Definitions
- "Ideations" around Data
- Creative Prototypes

Learning about the audience for whom you are designing

Brainstorming and coming up with creative solutions

Design Thinking

Empathy

Define

Ideate

Prototype

Test

Redefining and focusing your question based on your insights from the empathy stage

Returning to your original user group and testing your ideas for feedback

Building a representation of one or more of your ideas to show to others

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Example:
Ideation around Data

News Ranking Review
Panels

NewsQ and Wikipedia

Bloomberg (Bloomberg News, *Bloomberg Businessweek*)	✅	1 2 3 4	2019	Bloomberg publications, including Bloomberg
Bloomberg profiles	⚠️	1 2	2018	Bloomberg company and executive profiles ar should not be used to establish notability. Som
Boing Boing	⚠️	1 2 3	2019	There is no consensus on the reliability of *Boi* copyright law.
Breitbart News 📌 WP:BREITBART	⊗ ⊗ ✋	⊡ 2018 ⊗ 2018 +14[e]	2019	Due to persistent abuse, Breitbart News is on misleading stories. The 2018 RfC showed a v be used, ever, as a reference for facts, due to
Business Insider (*Insider, Markets Insider, Tech Insider*)	⚠️	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	🕐 2020	There is no consensus on the reliability of *Bus*
Bustle	⚠️	⊡ 2019	2019	There is consensus that the reliability of *Bustl* noted previous issues it had around reliability a
BuzzFeed	⚠️	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	2018	Editors find the quality of BuzzFeed articles to new articles, which may cause article content *BuzzFeed News.*
BuzzFeed News	✅	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	2019	There is consensus that *BuzzFeed News* is ge in 2018.[5] In light of the staff layoffs at BuzzFe WP:RSOPINION. *See also: BuzzFeed.*
The Canary	🚫	1 2 3	2020	Most editors criticize the accuracy of *The Can*
Cato Institute	⚠️	1 2	⏳❌ 2015	The Cato Institute is considered generally relia reliable on other topics. Most editors consider
CelebrityNetWorth	🚫	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2018	There is consensus that CelebrityNetWorth is
Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR)	⚠️	⊡ 2020	2020	The Center for Economic and Policy Research consider the CEPR biased or opinionated, so i
Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG, Global Research, globalresearch.ca)	⊗ 🚫	⊗ 2019 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2019	Due to persistent abuse, Global Research is o Research website (globalresearch.ca, not to b opinionated, and its content is likely to constitu
CESNUR (Center for				

Technical Definitions: English Wikipedia - Perennial Sources

signal: wikipedia_perennial_sources_reliability_guidance

->WikiCred Grant for "Sourceror," 2019/Grants/Sourceror: The Wikipedia community's platform against disinformation

Creative Prototypes: Vaccine safety and news sourcing on Wikipedia worldwide

Other ideas?

Thank you! Questions?