



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS 2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL



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QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS
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Statistical Literacy in an Age of Misinformation

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eurostat 

The conference is partly
financed by the European Union



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Agenda

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Challenges
- 3) Solutions
- 4) Conclusion





Introduction

- Statistical literacy – the ability to understand and interpret statistics
- The new digital age has brought about a wide range of information that is readily available to the masses
- Some of it may be false or inaccurate
- Important to use data effectively and constructively



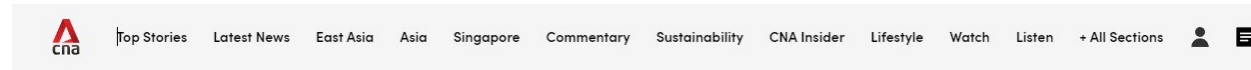
Challenges

Governments

- Governments are utilizing data for evidence-based policy development
- Lack of statistical literacy may lead to bad policies
- Misinformation and disinformation on sociopolitical issues can undermine governments, cripple societies, and used as a form of warfare



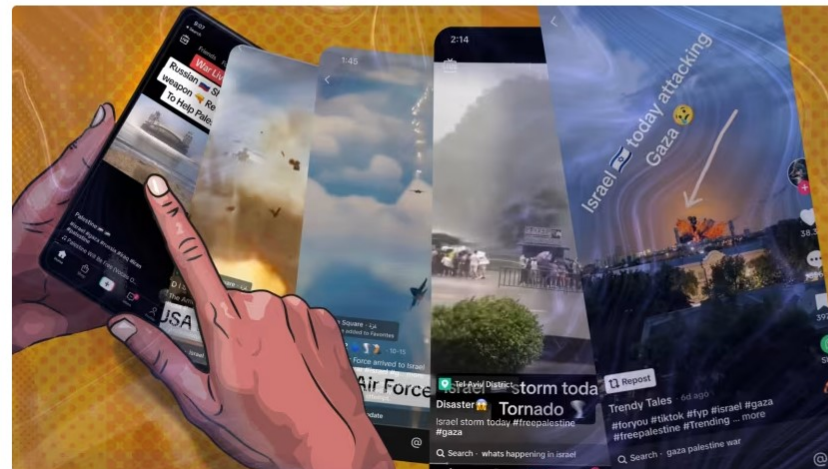
E.g. Fake news on Israel-Hamas



Asia

IN FOCUS: How fake news on Israel-Hamas stokes outrage, hatred and 'potential for violence' on Southeast Asian TikTok

A CNA experiment on TikTok uncovers a stream of misleading content on the Middle East conflict – one that if left unchecked, could have “dangerous” repercussions for people in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.



Louisa Tang



Aqil Haziq Mahmud

@AqilHaziqCNA

04 Nov 2023 06:00AM

(Updated: 07 Nov 2023 10:16PM)



A TikTok user scrolling through videos on the Israel-Hamas war. (Illustration: CNA/Rafa Estrada)



Challenges

Institutions

- Misinformation on businesses can harm their finances, reputation and brand credibility
- Can be due to competitors' attacks and negative publicity from consumers



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THE BUSINESS TIMES

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Opinion & Features Columns Features

Fake news can make - or break - stock prices

Unsure about a stock tip? Check legitimate news websites or the company's social media feed; look for confirmation from official sources.

Published Thu, Apr 5, 2018 - 09:50 PM



Fake News +

IN the Hollywood blockbuster *The Wolf of Wall Street*, the main character Jordan Belford (played by Leonardo DiCaprio) made it rich from his "pump-and-dump" schemes.

Belford's firm Stratton Oakmont schemed to inflate the prices of stocks by making false, misleading or greatly exaggerated statements. When stock prices rose due to the resulting hype, he would then sell stocks at the raised prices, making a fortune in the process.

Such practices are illegal and regulators worldwide clamp down on these schemes, punishing those who perpetrate them.

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E.g. Fake news affect
stock prices



Challenges

Individuals

- With the rise in digital technology, it is increasingly common for individuals to consume information online
- Risk of being misled, leading to poor decisions



E.g. Rise in online scams

Singapore

Scam cases in Singapore jumped almost 50% in 2023; most victims fell for job, e-commerce cons

Fraudsters siphoned S\$651.8 million from victims last year – the first time in five years that the total amount lost to scams has fallen.



(File photo: iStock)

Louisa Tang

18 Feb 2024 03:00PM
(Updated: 18 Feb 2024 11:49PM)



Listen to this article

This audio is generated by an AI tool.

SINGAPORE: More than 46,000 scam cases were reported in Singapore in 2023, marking [an eight-year climb in scam figures](#) even as the amount of money lost by victims fell slightly by 1.3 per cent, according to figures released by the Singapore Police Force (SPF) on Sunday (Feb 18).

Related Topics

- Singapore Police Force
- Crime
- scams
- job scams



Solutions

Verification

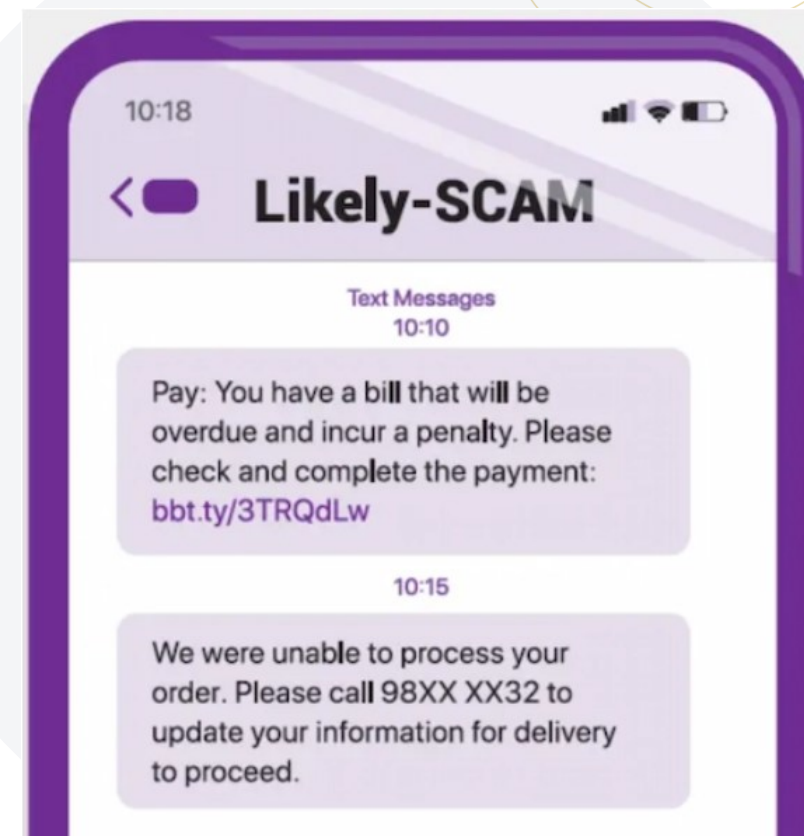
- Before any information is made available to the public, it should be verified for accuracy
- Individuals should verify and cross-check what they read, especially if the news source seems suspicious



Solutions

E.g. Singapore's anti-scam measure

- All organizations that send SMS are required to register with the Singapore SMS Sender ID Registry (SSIR)
- Non-registered SMS will be labelled as “Likely-SCAM”, which functions similarly to a spam filter or spam bin.





Solutions

Regulation

- Having laws and regulations can act as a deterrent to prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation
- Examples in Singapore:
 1. Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA)
 - Allows the government to issue correction directions to correct falsehoods
 2. Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act
 - Allows the government to remove or block access to online content when suspected foreign interference may be involved



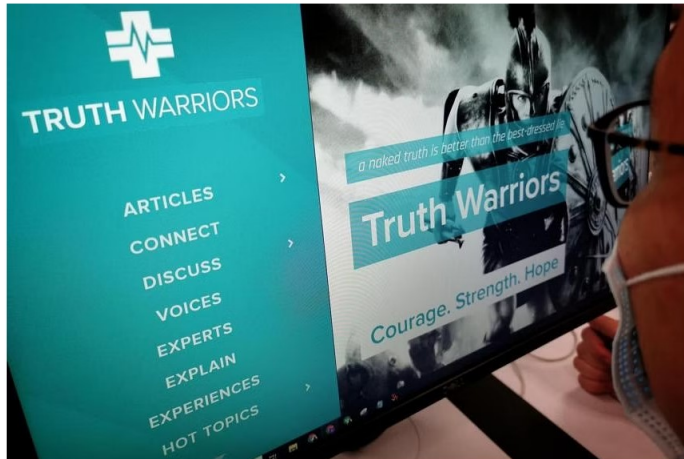
Examples of POFMA

THE STRAITS TIMES

SINGAPORE

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Pofma warning issued to Truth Warriors website admin over Covid-19 false claims



The warning issued was for two articles published on the website in August last year. PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

UPDATED AUG 31, 2022, 09:22 PM



SINGAPORE - The Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (Pofma) Office issued a conditional warning to the administrator of the Truth Warriors website for publishing false claims, misleading people into thinking that Covid-19 vaccines are not effective in curbing the transmission of the virus.

The warning issued on Tuesday was for two articles published on the website in August last year, titled Two Top Virologists' Frightening Warnings About Covid Injections: Ignored By Government And Big Media, and Most Vaccinated Countries Have Most Covid Cases.

THE STRAITS TIMES

SINGAPORE

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TikTok user issued Pofma order over false claims about public housing, third notice this week



The user will be required to create a new TikTok post containing a correction notice. PHOTO: REUTERS



Wong Shiyong

UPDATED AUG 24, 2023, 11:27 PM



SINGAPORE - A TikTok user has run afoul of fake news laws and racked up a third correction notice in less than a week, this time for making false claims about public housing policies.

In a joint statement on Thursday, the Ministry of National Development (MND) and Ministry of Law said the user, who goes by the moniker dr.ishhaqjay on TikTok, will be required to create a new TikTok post containing a correction notice, which states that his earlier posts contain a false statement of fact, and provide a link to the Government's clarification.



Solutions

Education

- Conduct learning sessions on important statistical concepts (Statistics 101) to tertiary students
- Organize media sessions for journalists, editors and reporters on interpreting statistics and avoiding misconceptions
- Interactive tools on online platforms to make statistics more appealing (videos, infographics, quizzes)
- Provide contextual information to statistical releases



JOB VACANCIES 2023

To know more about these indicators,
please visit stats.mom.gov.sg



Source: Job Vacancies 2023

TOP 3 Job Vacancies in 2023

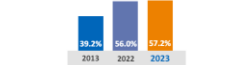
PMETs

- 1 Software, Web & Multimedia Developer
Business was selling on the digital and the growing demand for these workers
- 2 Teaching & Training Professional
- 3 Commercial & Marketing Sales Executive

Non-PMETs

- 1 Waiter
- 2 Cleaner
- 3 Shop Sales Assistant

The proportion of PMET vacancies continued to rise in 2023



There was a higher demand for skilled workers,
in sectors such as:



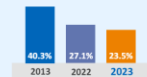
The proportion of newly created positions rose to the
highest since the series started in 2018



Majority of these newly created positions arose due to business expansion into existing and new
functions, reflecting the evolving nature of our economy and the accompanying changes
in manpower demand.

Compared to 2022, a smaller proportion of jobs
were left vacant for six months or longer

Vacancies unfilled for six months or more



Quizzes

Are we overworked?

How long do you think Singapore residents work in a week?

42 hours

48 hours

45 hours

40 hours

You got it right!

Learn more about hours worked in our article: '[Is Singapore Overworked?](#)'

Less graduates



Graduate Unemployment Share
= 15,000 / (15,000 + 60,000) = 20%

Graduate Unemployment Rate
= 15,000 / (15,000 + 480,000) = 3%

More graduates



Graduate Unemployment Share
= 20,000 / (20,000 + 60,000) = 25%

Graduate Unemployment Rate
= 20,000 / (20,000 + 640,000) = 3%

For illustrative purposes only

Unemployment Rate Vs Unemployment Share



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Conclusion

- Improving statistical literacy is a long term goal and an ongoing process
- Every country should be encouraged to strive towards it

Thank You



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