

*Information & Media Literacy:
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Abstract

**How do Pre-service Teachers Quest for News and Information across Informal
Media**

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Part of being a 21st century citizen is experiencing the polarization and the divisiveness of the world, especially across the digital spaces. Today, more than ever before, we live in a fluid media environment that is characterized by the speed of information production, share, as well as the lack (or inability) of information verifiability. Information is available with unprecedented amounts at a fingertip. Most of today's information, especially news, finds us through an armada of digital services. The purpose of this presentation is to share with the audience our findings from a qualitative questionnaire on news literacy we administered to 268 pre-service teachers from Algeria and the USA. The findings illustrate the pre-service teachers' opinions on news and information load they face daily through social media. Also, the findings showed the teachers' positions towards the way news is diffused on social media and how they go about verifying it.

Short CV

Slimane Aboukacem is a Fulbright alumnus, a doctoral candidate, and research assistant at the School of Learning and Teaching at Sam Houston State University in Texas, USA. His research interests include digital and media literacy, social media and democracy. He has published in areas of education and democracy, popular culture, and news literacy. He has served as an editor of the English Media International Journal and English in Texas Journal.

Abigail Winard is a doctoral candidate at Sam Houston State University in the School of Learning and Teaching. She teaches at a dual language public school in Houston, Texas, USA. Her research interests include photographic and visual literacy, digital literacy, citizen journalism, and social justice issues. She is currently working on publications in the area of media and news literacy.