

On June 14, Forum @ the Library was pleased to host *News or Noise: Separating Fact from Fiction in Today's Media*. Many thanks to the almost 50 people from Clark County who attended, joining our panelists (Craig Brown, Managing Editor, The Columbian; Andrew DeVigal, Chair in Journalism Innovation and Civic Engagement, Professor of Practice, University of Oregon School of Journalism; and George Rede, Communications Instructor at WSU Vancouver) to learn more together not only about innovative news processes and local strategies, but also about what participants think.

Participants Bill Froman and Beth Quartarolo share their thoughts:

I (Bill) was dimly aware of the Forums, but hadn't understood they were still occurring until Beth encouraged me to join her for "News or Noise: Separating Fact from Fiction in Today's Media". While the subject addressed wasn't exactly what I thought it would be, I felt it was nonetheless well prepared, informative and very helpful.

Identifying sources that are reliable based on how they handle local news or other news that we can easily verify is a great start. It was also good to hear the panel and other participants echo Beth's earlier suggestion to me of finding reliable sources that approach issues from angles different from our own; and then really trying to imagine the situation through their eyes. As the panel pointed out, it's important (in forming opinions and crafting arguments / discussions) to be able to cite articles from real reporters who use two or even three reliable sources on which to base their stories. I believe it's also important to identify and expose as quickly as possible what is clearly fake news; allowing lies to circulate unchallenged allows them to become too deeply rooted. The discussion and input from the panel helped me see this more clearly.

The Columbian, I believe, does a great job and it was encouraging to hear the new managing editor discuss some of their ideas for both the printed and online versions. Audience participation - who'd'a thunk it?!

I hope to attend more such forums and will look forward to further communications from the library. What a great idea to keep the library so relevant to Vancouver's citizens by doing what libraries do best - simply informing them! Keep up the good work - please.

Vancouver Community Library encourages you to keep learning about today's media and the news. Our *Fake News* series offers a monthly (July-December) take on separating fact from fiction. See our events calendar for details.