



EBLIDA and NewsGuard Announce Partnership to Bring Media Literacy Tool to European Public Libraries

(The Hague – 10 December 2019) NewsGuard and EBLIDA are partnering to expand NewsGuard’s News Literacy Program to more libraries across Europe. Through the program, public libraries help their patrons avoid misinformation and engage critically with the news and information they encounter in their social media feeds and search results.

The News Literacy Program, launched in the U.S. in late 2018, is now used by more than 600 libraries globally. While select library systems in the U.K., Germany, and Italy have joined the program since NewsGuard expanded to Europe in mid-2019, the partnership with EBLIDA will enable more libraries across the continent to use the anti-misinformation tool.

NewsGuard provides credibility ratings and detailed “Nutrition Label” reviews for the news and information websites that account for 90%-plus of online engagement with news in each country in which it operates (France, Germany, Italy, the U.K., and the U.S., so far). The ratings are conducted by journalistically trained analysts with diverse backgrounds who review and describe each website’s adherence to nine basic, apolitical criteria of journalistic practice.

Through the program, which is free to libraries through sponsorship support from Microsoft, libraries can install the NewsGuard browser extension on the computers and laptops available to patrons and can use its “Nutrition Label” reviews as a basis for media literacy workshops and discussions.

“Fake news is intoxicating the political and social debate in Europe,” said Giuseppe Vitiello, Director of EBLIDA. “Libraries, which may install NewsGuard free of charge, may help Europe to detox.”

For EBLIDA, this action to address misinformation fits into its current focus on revising the Council of Europe-EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe and the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in European Libraries.

“Together with NewsGuard, we wish to take an important step forward in libraries towards the attainment of UN SDG 16, Sub-target 10: *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms*,” said Ton van Vlimmeren, President of EBLIDA. “EBLIDA’s mission is to develop and nurture an informed and responsible citizenry; through NewsGuard and similar tools, we show our commitment towards an equitable, democratic and sustainable society.”

“EBLIDA and NewsGuard are working together for combating false news, misinformation, and disinformation by doing what librarians have been doing since the invention of libraries: blocking nothing but providing information about everything,” said Steven Brill, co-CEO of NewsGuard.

NewsGuard is seeking additional sponsors for the European News Literacy program. Interested sponsors, or librarians interested in bringing NewsGuard to their library, may visit newsguardtech.com or contact sarah.brandt@newsguardtech.com.

About NewsGuard: Launched in March 2018 by media entrepreneur Steven Brill and former Wall Street Journal publisher Gordon Crovitz, NewsGuard provides reliability ratings and detailed “Nutrition Labels” for thousands of news and information websites. NewsGuard’s ratings and Nutrition Labels can be licensed by internet service providers, browsers, news aggregators, and social media and search platforms in order to make NewsGuard’s information about news websites available to their users.

NewsGuard’s trained journalists rate news websites based on nine basic, apolitical criteria of journalistic practice. These ratings are made available through its browser extension, which is available on Chrome, Safari, Edge and Firefox browsers, and on mobile devices through the Microsoft Edge mobile browser for iOS and Android devices.

For more information, including to download the browser extension and review the ratings process, visit newsguardtech.com

About EBLIDA (the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations). Its mission is:

- to promote freedom of information and free access to information, education and culture for all citizens in Europe;
- to engage libraries in taking care of people and their rights by encouraging democratic participation of citizens in society;
- to advocate for the interests of the library and information sectors and professionals in Europe.

For more information: www.eblida.org

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