

Milan Library System becomes first Italian library to join global NewsGuard media literacy partnership

(Milan, Italy — February 12, 2020) - NewsGuard and the Milan Library System are bringing NewsGuard’s News Literacy Partnership Program to the 26 locations of the city’s public library system. Milan is the first Italian library to take part in NewsGuard’s free media literacy program, which already collaborates with more than 700 libraries in the United States and Europe.

Through the free media literacy program, visitors to Milan’s libraries will have access to ratings and “Nutrition Label” reviews for thousands of Italian and international news and information sites

NewsGuard uses trained journalists who rate and review thousands of websites using nine apolitical journalistic criteria that assess the credibility and transparency of each site.

The program allows patrons to engage critically with the news in their social media feeds and search results. Libraries install the NewsGuard browser extension on the computers and laptops available to patrons and can use NewsGuard’s “Nutrition Label” reviews as a basis for media literacy workshops and discussions.

The NewsGuard browser extension will be installed on librarians' computers as well as public-access computers available to visitors. As a precursor to this partnership, NewsGuard and the Milan Library System held a seminar last December at the Sormani library, which explained how NewsGuard works and was attended by more than 50 librarians. In the coming months, NewsGuard journalists will organize other seminars and webinars for librarians and users of the Milan Library System.

“We are happy to announce our first Italian partnership, and we are particularly enthused to start with a city like Milan, which is a growing European metropolis with an innovative library system,” said Gordon Crovitz, co-CEO of NewsGuard. “Starting from here, we hope to be able to reach many other libraries in the country.”

Stefano Parise, Director of the Milan Library System, said that libraries can play an important role in counteracting the spread of misinformation and disinformation. “The Milan Library System is determined to carry out this role and has found in NewsGuard a great partner and a tool that will be made available on all computer workstations in our libraries,” said Parise.

“Milan is a vital hub of Italian information, communication, and culture, within a European macro-region that pulsates with competitiveness and innovation,” said Giampiero Gramaglia, NewsGuard's Senior Advisor in Italy. “It is a source of pride to be able to fight the contagion of disinformation here, in collaboration with the Libraries of Milan.”

“The Milan Library System and NewsGuard are working together to combat 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’s global News Literacy Program is sponsored by Microsoft Corp. NewsGuard is seeking additional sponsors to help expand the program to more libraries in Italy. Librarians or educators interested in bringing NewsGuard to their library may visit newsguardtech.com/it or contact sarah.brandt@newsguardtech.com, virginia.padovese@newsguardtech.com, or angelo.paura@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 to consumers through its browser extension, which is available on Chrome, Safari, Edge, and Firefox browsers, and on mobile devices through the Edge mobile browser for iOS and Android devices. For more information, including to download the browser extension and review the ratings process: newsguardtech.com/it

About Milan Library System: The Milan Library System (SBM) is the network of public libraries of the Municipality of Milan. It consists of 24 local libraries, the library at Palazzo Sormani, and the Bibliobus. The system has the following functions:

- Promoting reading, books, and education as essential tools for individual growth and for a conscious citizenship;
- Encouraging the development of skills in searching for information and stimulating the ability to critically evaluate the results;

- Supporting lifelong learning for all citizens and the conscious and responsible use of digital media;
- Encouraging integration, debate, and discussion in respect of cultural diversity and the inclusion of people in society, and offering a meeting point and support for carrying out daily activities that require skills and functional literacy;
- Contributing to promoting the socio-economic development of the community and the quality of life of citizens.