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# Primo's Newspapers Search: Identifying Authentic News Articles in the 21st Century

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## Citation Details

Willson-St.Clair, K. (August 24, 2021). Primo's Newspapers Search: Identifying Authentic News Articles in the 21st Century. International Group of ExLibris Users Digital Conference. <https://igelu.org/>

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# Primo's Newspapers Search: Identifying Authentic News Articles in the 21st Century

Kimberly Willson-St. Clair  
University Studies Librarian /  
Assistant Professor  
Portland State University Library

August 24, 2021

# In Honor and Memory of the The First People of Clackamas and Milwaukie

[American Indian College Fund](#)

# Orbis Cascade Alliance

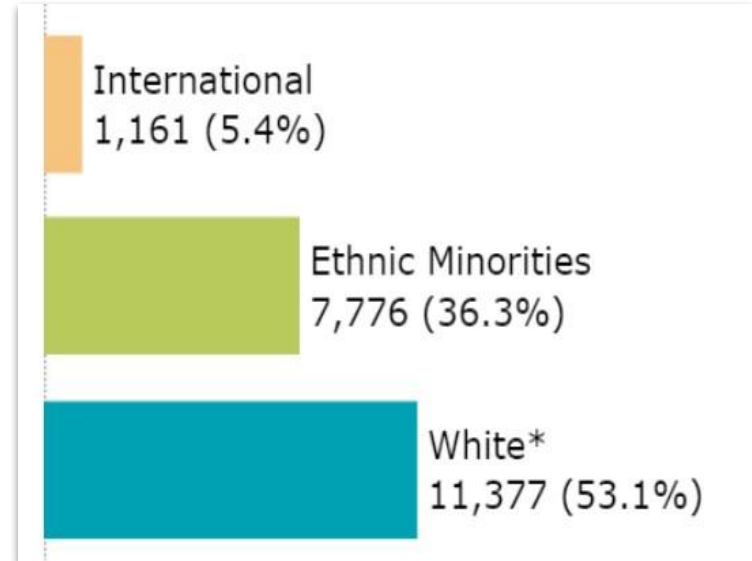
“The Orbis Cascade Alliance is a consortium of academic libraries in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. The Alliance runs a shared library management system and discovery interface, works on collective purchasing, facilitates access to shared and local collections, and coordinates resource sharing for our members.”

<https://www.orbiscascade.org/>

# Portland State University

Student Profile  
21,426 enrollment

Winter Term 2021

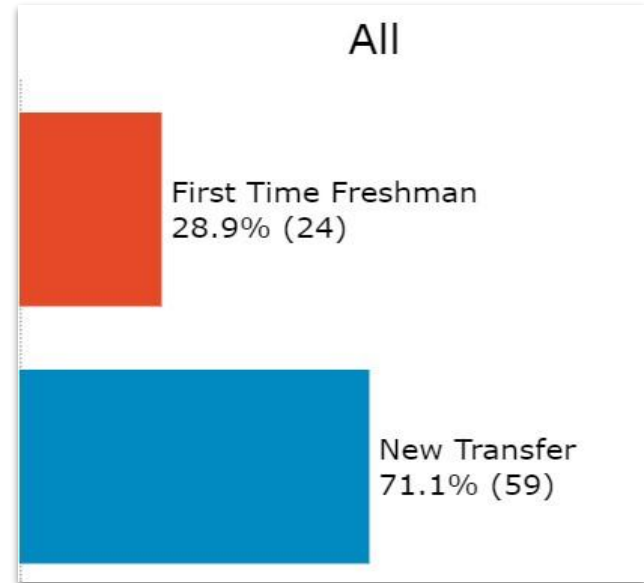


<https://www.pdx.edu/research-planning/student-profile>

# Portland State Undergraduates

## Freshmen & Transfers

37% First Generation



<https://www.pdx.edu/research-planning/new-students>

<https://www.pdx.edu/portland-state-university-facts>

# University Studies

## Portland State's Core Curriculum for Undergraduate Students

- Interdisciplinary, goal-driven curriculum, with a focus on inquiry, critical thinking, and effective communication
- Goals include diversity, equity, and social justice as well as community, agency, and ethics
- Year-long mentors for freshmen and sophomores
- Senior Capstone project - Seniors commit to serving community, local and global

<https://www.pdx.edu/university-studies/>

# Primo Lead since September 2014

- Chair of the Primo Design Group, and I report to the Library's Dean
- Hold quarterly Primo Forums with all staff for feedback on changes
- Member of the Alliance Discovery & User Experience Committee
- Member of the Alliance Primo Release Standing Testing Group
- Member of the Alliance Primo Enhancements Projects Group



Primo Release  
May 2018

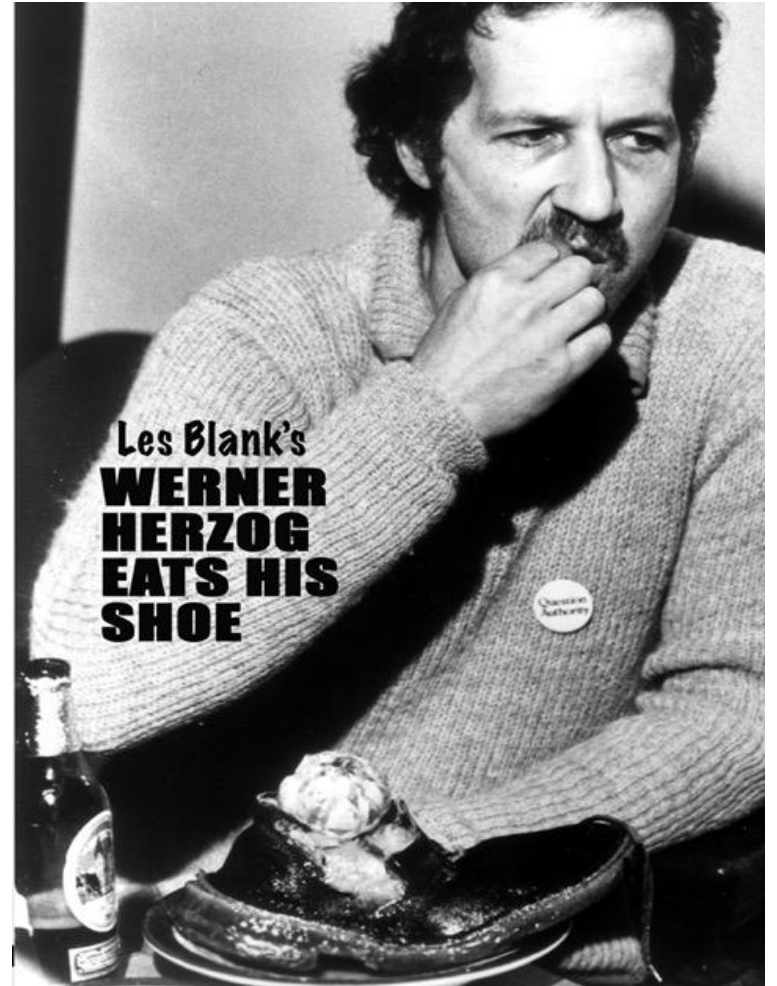
Why Newspapers  
Search Scope now?



Photo by Kimberly Willson-St. Clair

Eating my Shoe

Werner Herzog  
Style at  
Chez Panisse



# 2016 U.S. Election and Russian Interference

“The Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion. Evidence of Russian government operations began to surface in mid-2016. In June, the Democratic National Committee and its cyber response team publicly announced that Russian hackers had compromised its computer network. Releases of hacked materials—hacks that public reporting soon attributed to the Russian government—began that same month. Additional releases followed in July through the organization WikiLeaks, with further releases in October and November.”

- Robert S. Mueller III (2019)  
U.S. Dept of Justice

# Fake News and Michiko Kakutani's

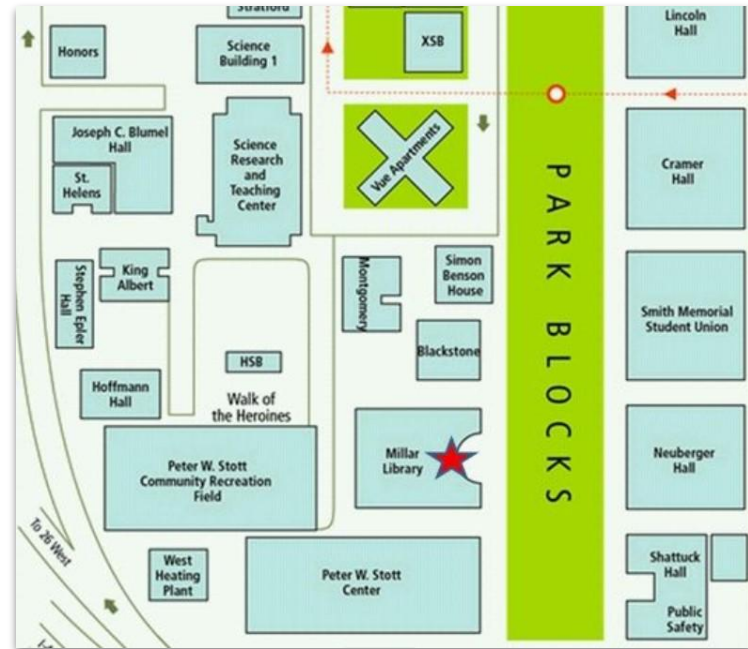
## *The Death of Truth* (2018)

“While public trust in the media declined in the new millennium (part of a growing mistrust of institutions and gatekeepers, as well as a concerted effort by the right wing to discredit the mainstream press), more and more people started getting their news through Facebook, Twitter, and other online sources: by 2017, two-thirds of Americans said they got at least some of their news through social media. This reliance on family and friends and Facebook and Twitter for news, however, would feed the ravenous monster of fake news.”

# Drivers

## Motivation and Inquiry

...from PSU Library as place to anytime, anywhere discovery by resource types in PRIMO.



# Assessment

## Search for Articles

### Summer Term 2019

During summer 2019, Student Success Librarian Amy Stanforth and I assessed part of the University Studies [Search for Resources tutorial](#); our focus, Search for Articles.

We examined 60 answer sheets wherein sophomore students had to find and evaluate articles, one peer reviewed article and one news article.

98% of the students found relevant resources for their topics. However, only 68% could accurately identify a peer reviewed article, and 83% identified a news article accurately.

# Website Critique

## *Educating for Misunderstanding*

Stanford History  
Education Group  
(2020)

1. Is there a parent website? Who pays for the website?
2. What does .org or .com have to do with it? Domains do not determine reliability. Many reliable resources use .com domains like the five U.S. major dailies; *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *LA Times*, and the *Washington Post*.
3. Is the About page really the spin page? How do you corroborate what you have read on the About page? Lateral reading is a way to use the entire Web as a way to evaluate the credibility of a website.

# Website Critique

## *Educating for Misunderstanding*

Stanford History  
Education Group  
(2020)

4. Even if a link on a website leads to a reliable resource, be sure to read the content in order to see if it supports the premise of the website or not.

5. Don't judge a website by its cover! A website may look professional; yet it is easy to manufacture respectability, so browse laterally!

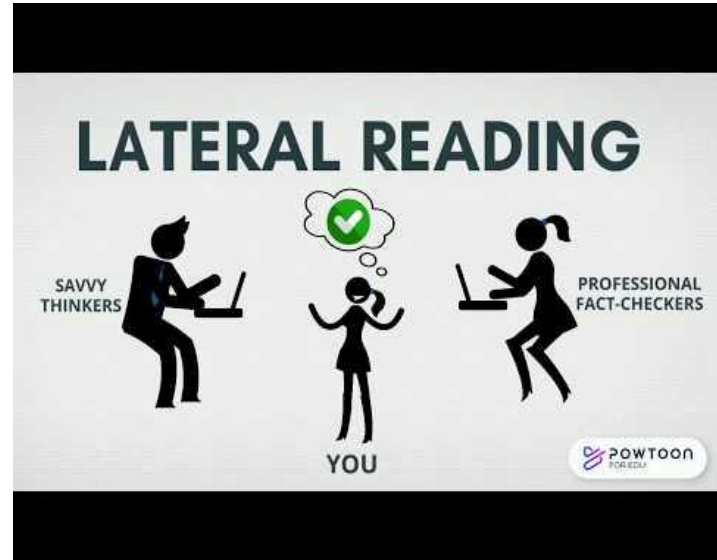
6. Check Wikipedia, especially the entry's references for your topic. Note the Wikipedia "Talk" webpage for entries. This is where experts refute the content.

<https://cor.stanford.edu/research/educating-for-misunderstanding/>



# Lateral Reading!

## Letting Go of The C.R.A.P. Test



Citizen Literacy was created by Robert Detmering, Amber Willenborg, and Terri Holtze for University of Louisville Libraries and is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License](#).

# ProQuest's U.S. Major Dailies

## Advanced Search Default Field

**Anywhere except full text (NOFT)** searches the full bibliographic record, but does NOT include a search of the full text.

**Anywhere** retrieves from the full bibliographic record and the full text.

Keyword phrase, climate change, retrieves 100,954 newspaper articles with the Anywhere search and only 24,235 with the NOFT search.

(Retrieved August 2021)

# CDI Migration September 2020 Launch

## Huge Result Sets

### **Undifferentiated CDI**

Syria > 517,794 Results >  
Expand My Results >  
1,216,558 Results

### **CDI with Newspapers Search Enabled**

Syria > 332,798 Results >  
Expand My Results >  
512,919 Results

(Retrieved May 2021)

# Resource Type Discovery in Primo

## Newspaper Articles

### Peer reviewed journals

- **2019** 69,719
- **2020** 63,250
- **2021** 35,175

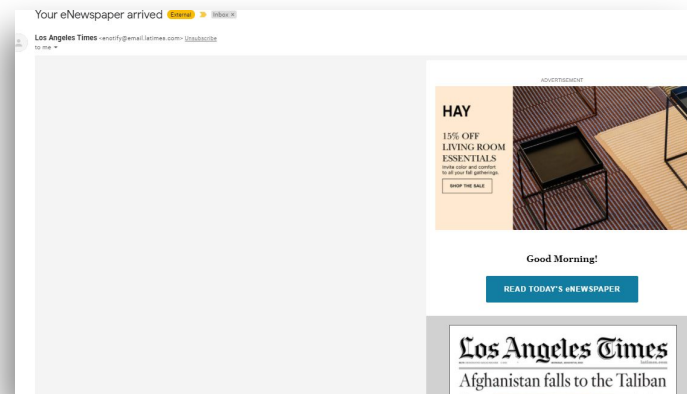
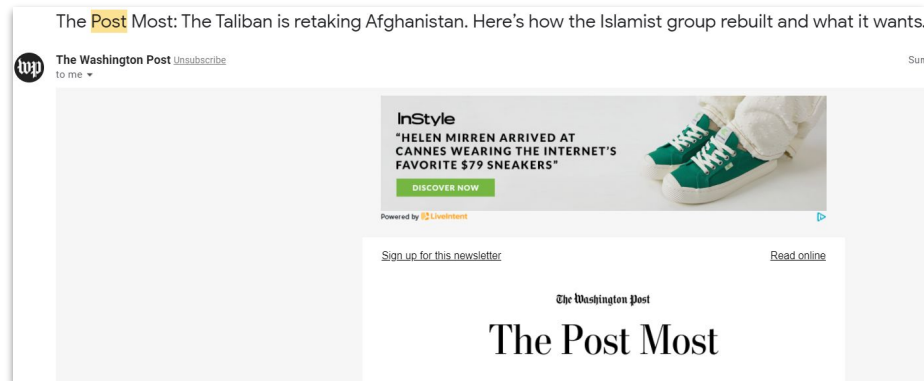
### Articles

- **2019** 26,385
- **2020** 28,436
- **2021** 16,705

### Newspaper articles

- **2019** 5,834
- **2020** 5,073
- **2021** 2,291

# Sharing News Articles from Personal Subscriptions Paywalls



# Action

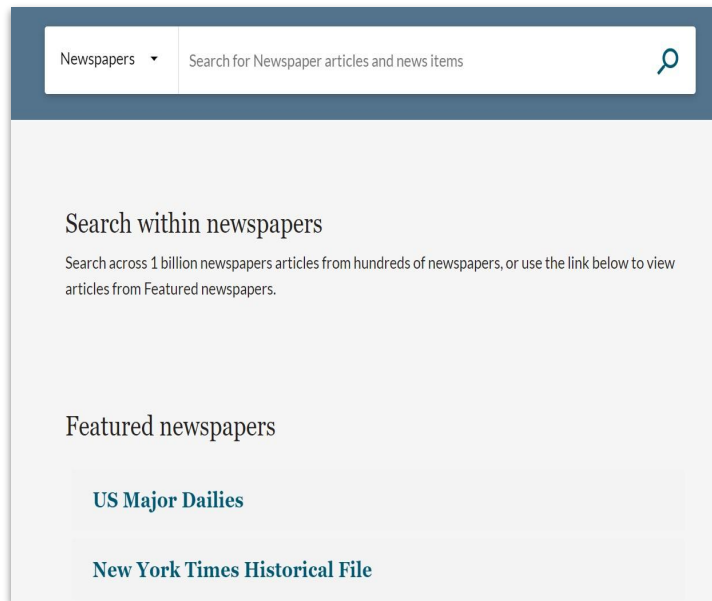
## PSU Library launches Newspapers Search in Primo June 2021



Photo by Kimberly Willson-St. Clair

# What Newspapers Search looks like at PSU Library!

[library.pdx.edu](https://library.pdx.edu)



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Questions?  
Thoughts?

Thank you!

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(she, her, hers)

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<https://works.bepress.com/kimberly-willson-stclair/>



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