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Fake News Worlds – Can Citizenship Education burst (the) bubbles?

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Abstract

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New technology has induced deep changes in matters of news, information, and consequently citizenship education. Information is now accessible, thanks to a lot of different projects such as Wikipedia, online news, and MOOCs. The whole knowledge of humanity is pretty much accessible via a single Google search.

Two important remarks however:

1. The fact that knowledge is accessible doesn't mean that people will access it. Moreover, a lot of false information, such as "fake news", are also accessible, and a lot of Internet users are lost in an overabundance of information.
2. A Google search, or a Facebook newsfeed won't display the same information depending on your profile. That is what Eli Pariser called our "filter bubble": that implies that the information we see on the Internet depends on our social and political views. That means that we see a different version of the Internet than our neighbor's.

That two points have a tremendous impact on our societies. Citizens are trapped into different opinion "bubbles" which are unable to communicate and understand each other.

That is why we created Le Drenche, a democratic debate newspaper.

The concept is quite simple: for every important society issue, it delivers to every citizen two opposing pitches, written by competent, and legitimate writers. The impact is that we help every citizen to form their very own opinion and provide them the first steps for civic engagement.

We also help them to have an understanding look at different opinions; by doing that, we fight against the filter bubbles.

Today, Le Drenche is a website, read by 2500 daily users, and also a newspaper, printed every month with 80,000 copies distributed in universities in France.

