The Impact of the COVID-19 Infodemic on Journalists’ Verification of Information and the Use of Fact-Checking Services

Dariusz Tworzydło
University of Warsaw
dariusz@tworzydlo.pl
ORCID: 0000-0001-6396-6927

Anna Miotk
University of Warsaw
anna.miotk@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-9200-5057

ABSTRACT
The COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying infodemic have changed the way journalists work, also in terms of verifying information. The objective of this work is to present the changes that resulted from the survey. The research was carried out among journalists. Research methods: The research was carried out in May 2020 using the CAWI technique among Polish journalists located in the databases of the Polish Press Agency. Three hundred and sixteen questionnaire replies were received. It was checked whether journalists declared having verified the information received (including information provided directly to them by companies) and whether they used fact-checking services. Results and conclusions: A more thorough verification of information from various sources has indeed taken place, the attitude of journalists towards fact-checking has not changed. Originality and cognitive value: The cognitive value of the work lies primarily in the original research presented in it.

KEYWORDS
COVID-19, fact-checking, fake news, infodemic, communication, coronavirus