MEDIA LITERACY: KEY DEFINITIONS

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

The most important terms in media literacy are "misinformation", "disinformation" and "mal-information". Though they sound similar, there are some key differences we must understand!
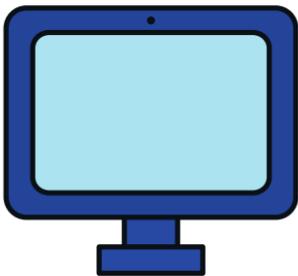
MISINFORMATION

Untrue information created and shared as if it were true, there is no specific intention to cause harm (though it may sometimes have this effect)

https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/tag/fake-news/page/4

DISINFORMATION

Untrue information that is created and shared in order to deceive and/or harm a person, organisation or social group

https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/tag/fake-news/page/4

MAL-INFORMATION

True (or partly true) information that is shared with the intention of causing harm to a person, organisation or social group, often by moving information intended to stay private into the public sphere.

https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/tag/fake-news/page/4

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

These terms are really important to understand because they help us whether to trust what we read. For example, during the Covid-19 pandemic, we need to know which information is correct, and which is incorrect

STOP THE SPREAD OF #misinformation AND #disinformation