

SHARENEWS

Codebook Domain-Level

General instructions

You receive a list of domains. For each domain, you first determine whether the domain is publishing content in the realm of news and current events; if so, then you code what type of site it is. For some sites, you will be able to do so without even opening the site (e.g., websites of major newspapers), for others, you may need to visit the site. We want you to be careful in determining the category, but *not* do extensive background research (e.g., looking up extra information on ownership structures in external sources, or spending more than 2 minutes on the site itself).

As a rough guide, we see everything that addresses a topic that could appear in a newspaper as news. We do not judge the quality: highly partisan or biased content qualifies as well as quality journalism.

The scope of a blog or website needs to go beyond extremely specific special-interest, but can include niche topics. For instance, a blog about very specific programming questions (<http://jaron.nl/blog/>) is irrelevant, but a general tech news blog (<https://tweakers.net>) is relevant.

Sites of political parties or other organizations (NGOs, commercial entities other than journalistic ones) are out of scope, though, as their sites are rather communication channels of these organizations rather than *news*.

Variables

FILTER

If in doubt, rather code 1 than 0.

0	irrelevant	This domain is not publishing anything related to news and current-affairs (e.g., it's a web shop) → STOP CODING
1	relevant	This domain publishes at least some news and current-affairs related items. These <i>can</i> be political items, but also a review of a recent movie or a new gadget, a blog that somewhat contributes to a societal debate, etc.
		Examples that are relevant despite not being 'hardcore news': http://tweakers.net , http://www.opiniestukken.nl/ , http://scientias.nl
8	This domain is no longer active	Dead link → STOP CODING
9	Potentially relevant, but non-[Dutch Italian German Polish]	Domain may be relevant, but the content is not in the local language or is aimed at an audience in a different country with the same language (.be, .at, .ch) → STOP CODING
999	NEED ADVICE	I cannot decide this and want my supervisor to have a look at it

CATEGORY

1	newspapers	Websites with a (usually daily) print counterpart (e.g., volkskrant.nl, welt.de, ...). Zeit.de, even though it appears weekly, is considered a newspaper as well.
2	(Weekly/monthly) magazines	Websites with a print counterpart in form of a magazine (e.g., elsevier.nl, spiegel.de)
3	Broadcasters/TV programs	<u>News-related</u> websites that are either operated by a broadcaster or linked to a specific program. We are only interested in sites that feature at least some news or current-affairs (no British Bakeoff, but general BCC yes.) Specifically exclude sites of programs that do not feature any news. Examples to include: tagesschau.de, nos.nl
4	Digital-native news-related sites	We do not judge quality. Therefore, this category contains both: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Professionally operated news sites that <u>are not linked to an offline counterpart</u> (but may be owned by a publisher). Prime example (in NL): nu.nl . Also some sites that some may considered less serious or of lower quality (e.g., buzzfeed.com) are included as long as they offer news content.- Any other news-related sites that are published in the form of a blog, but that are relevant news sources in the context of the country. Examples include geenstijl.nl (NL)
5	Junk news sites/fake news sites	Sites that <i>are specifically deigned to spread mis- or disinformation</i> , for instance by using a URL that is almost identical to a legit news site, or by faking to be a newspaper etc.
6	Fact-checking sites	e.g., http://nieuwscheckers.nl/ These are sites that are specifically dedicated to journalistic fact-checking (= checking the facts behind news stories published elsewhere)
7	Satire	Examples include https://speld.nl/ , http://der-postillon.com , http://aszdziennik.pl
8	Propaganda sites by foreign state actors	These are sites that are operated or financed by other states, such as RT (Russia Today) or Sputnik.
999	NEED ADVICE	I cannot decide this and want my supervisor to have a look at it

We may later enrich the data automatically with more domain-level features, such as a proxy for whether it is a professional organization or not (e.g., based on Alexa rankings).