

World of trade-offs: what journalists think of rating scales in fact-checking

Yue Yu

Abstract

This project explores the pros and cons of a rating system in the world of fact-checking through the lens of several fact-checkers and scholars. Findings suggested that, despite acknowledging the flaws of the rating systems currently employed by several fact-checking organizations, some fact-checkers who adopt a rating scale generally embrace it and see little to no need to improve it. Faced with the backlash a rating scale could bring, others offered suggestions to raise the efficiency of rating systems and dial down the criticism. The project offers a glimpse into the thought process behind the design of rating systems and takes a fresh look at journalists' views on the existing rating scales.