Avoiding Bias
and
Preparing Balanced Research
Hydrogen

1s^1
Unbiased Sources

► Newspapers
We’re all accustomed to hearing about petty politicians and crooked captains of industry, but there’s something especially jarring when journalists are accused of behaving badly. Journalists, after all, are supposed to be the ones keeping a critical eye on the people in power (think Woodward and Bernstein.) So when the Fourth Estate goes bad, where does that leave us? Unfortunately, the first decade of the 21st century had no shortage of journalism-related scandals. Here are the 10 biggest.

1. Fabrication & Plagiarism at The New York Times: Jayson Blair
2. Dan Rather, CBS News and George Bush’s Service Record
3. CNN and Sugarcoated Coverage of Saddam Hussein
4. Jack Kelley and Fabricated Stories at USA Today
5. Military Analysts Who Weren't As Impartial As They Appeared
6. The Bush Administration and the Columnists on its Payroll
8. Rick Bragg and a Controversy Over Bylines
FBI CAPTURES BAT CHILD!

Daring agents end boy's 27-state reign of terror!
Politico Gets Its Very Own Plagiarism Scandal

At long last, little local DC trade newspaper Politico has its very own Jayson Blair-type uproar! Short version: Politico reporter Kendra Marr was apparently a serial plagiarist.

In an admirably direct editor’s note, Politico says that a complaint from a New York Times writer earlier this week prompted an internal investigation, followed by Marr’s resignation yesterday.
Johann Hari leaves the Independent after plagiarism storm

Columnist will not return to newspaper after being accused of using material from other writers without giving them credit.
Jonah Lehrer’s ‘Self-Plagiarism’ Scandal Rocks The New Yorker

The acclaimed pop-neuroscience writer was caught recycling his own material. Will he suffer consequences? Jacob Silverman reports on the fallout at The New Yorker from the bestselling author’s deceptions.
Unbiased Sources

► Newspapers
► Professional Journals
Merck published fake journal

Posted by Bob Grant

[Entry posted at 30th April 2009 04:27 PM GMT]

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Merck paid an undisclosed sum to Elsevier to produce several volumes of a publication that had the look of a peer-reviewed medical journal, but contained only reprinted or summarized articles--most of which presented data favorable to Merck products--that appeared to act solely as marketing tools with no disclosure of company sponsorship.
Sismondo S (2007)

Ghost Management: How Much of the Medical Literature Is Shaped Behind the Scenes by the Pharmaceutical Industry?


Published: September 25, 2007
Ghostwriting Widespread in Medical Journals, Study Says - NYTimes.com

The New York Times

Ghostwriting Is Called Rife in Medical Journals

By DUFF WILSON and NATASHA SINGER

Six of the top medical journals published a significant number of articles in 2008 that were written by ghostwriters, according to a study released Thursday by editors of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

In the scientific literature, ghostwriting usually refers to medical writers, often sponsored by a drug or medical device company, who make major research or writing contributions to articles published under the names of academic authors.
Ghostwriting in Medical Literature

Minority Staff Report

111th Congress

United States Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member

June 24, 2010
FINDINGS: “A. ...the role of pharmaceutical companies in medical publications remains veiled or undisclosed.”
Unbiased Sources

► Newspapers
► Professional Journals
Unbiased Sources

► Newspapers
► Professional Journals
► THE INTERNET
"The problem with quotes on the Internet is that it is hard to verify their authenticity"

- Abraham Lincoln
"Thy Force Be Stronge"
Wikipedia
John Seigenthaler
A false Wikipedia 'biography'

By John Seigenthaler

"John Seigenthaler Sr. was the assistant to Attorney General Robert Kennedy in the early 1960's. For a brief time, he was thought to have been directly involved in the Kennedy assassinations of both John, and his brother, Bobby. Nothing was ever proven."

— Wikipedia
The Wikipedia biography controversy, sometimes called the Seigenthaler incident,[1] was a series of events that began in May 2005 with the anonymous posting of a hoax article in the online encyclopedia Wikipedia about John Seigenthaler, a well-known American journalist. The article falsely stated that Seigenthaler had been a suspect in the assassinations of U.S. President John F. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. The 78-year-old Seigenthaler, who had been a friend and aide to Robert Kennedy, characterized the Wikipedia entry about him as "Internet character assassination".[2]
A Master’s paper submitted to the faculty of the School of Information and Library Science of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Library Science.
“The Wikipediazation of the American Judiciary”
By NEFA Foundation Senior Advisor Jeff Breinholt

Jeff Breinholt is a Senior Advisor for Counterterrorism and Education at the NEFA Foundation and is on a one year sabbatical from the Department of Justice, National Security Division. Until June 2007, Mr. Breinholt served as Deputy Chief of the Counterterrorism Section at the U.S. Department of Justice. Shortly after 9/11, Mr. Breinholt was appointed head of the Department of Justice’s terrorist financing enforcement program, and helped found a special FBI unit devoted to U.S.-based fundraising by international terrorist organizations and managed a team of financial prosecutors within the Counterterrorism Section dedicated to prosecuting material support crimes. In 2003, he was honored with the Attorney General’s Award for Excellence in Furthering the Interests of U.S. National Security.
Authoritative Informational Resources
Trading Firm CEO: I Spent It

Note From Peregrine Founder Says Millions Went to Cover Losses, Pay Fines

BY MICHAEL ROTHFIELD
AND JACOB BURG

Fighting continued in

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the National Futures Association have filed sep
5 Clearly Fake News Stories That Fooled the Media | Cracked.com
http://www.cracked.com/article_19789_5-clearly-fake-news-stories-that.fo...
Apr 25, 2012 – When every news outlet feels like it has to break stories before Twitter has the chance, a lot of corners get cut. Specifically, the corner called ...

5 Clearly Fake News Stories That Fooled The Media - Huffington Post
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../5-clearly-fake-news-stori_n_1453689.ht...
Apr 25, 2012 – Technology hasn't made journalism any easier. Or rather, it hasn't made good journalism any easier.

5 Clearly Fake News Stories That Fooled the Media - snopes.com
http://message.snopes.com › Urban Legends › Humor
This Cracked.com article lists 5 hoaxes, the truth behind them, and the reasons people believed them. Surprisingly, none of the hoaxes were in ...

5 Clearly Fake News Stories That Fooled the Media - Digg
No evidence of aquatic humanoids has ever been found.
"WILL PROVIDE POLL RESULTS TO SUPPORT ANY POSITION FOR CASH"
“You are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts.”
Avoiding Bias
“And so we live in a universe of new media with phenomenal opportunities for worldwide communications and research – but populated by volunteer vandals with poison pen intellects.”

Thank you.