

Media and Information Literacy in Latin America

Alfabetización mediática e información en América Latina

Alfabetização midiática e informação na América Latina

JLACR

journal.alaic@gmail.com

Abstract: Presentation to the special edition of the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research*, vol. 12 no.2, dedicated to exploring the critical topic of **Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in Latin America and the Caribbean**. This volume presents a diverse collection of articles examining MIL as a framework for addressing the region's unique challenges, from deep inequalities to the complexities of the digital age. The contributors offer insights into how MIL can empower citizens, strengthen democracy, and foster critical engagement with media and technology.

Keywords:

Media and Information Literacy, Digital Citizenship, Disinformation and Democracy, Educational Strategies, Latin America and the Caribbean

Resumen: Presentación de la edición especial de la Revista de Investigación en Comunicación de América Latina, vol. 12 núm. 2, dedicada a explorar el tema crítico de la Alfabetización Mediática e Informativa (AMI) en América Latina y el Caribe. Este volumen presenta una colección diversa de artículos que examinan la AMI como un marco para abordar los desafíos únicos de la región, desde las profundas desigualdades hasta las complejidades de la era digital. Los colaboradores ofrecen ideas sobre cómo la AMI puede empoderar a los ciudadanos, fortalecer la democracia y fomentar el compromiso crítico con los medios y la tecnología.

Palabras clave:

Alfabetización mediática e informativa, Ciudadanía digital, Desinformación y democracia, Estrategias educativas, América Latina y el Caribe

Resumo: Apresentação para a edição especial do Journal of Latin American Communication Research, vol. 12 no.2, dedicada à exploração do tópico crítico de Alfabetização Midiática e Informacional (AMI) na América Latina e no Caribe. Este volume apresenta uma coleção diversificada de artigos que examinam a AMI como uma estrutura para abordar os desafios únicos da região, desde profundas desigualdades até as complexidades da era digital. Os colaboradores oferecem insights sobre como a AMI pode capacitar cidadãos, fortalecer a democracia e promover o engajamento crítico com a mídia e a tecnologia.

Palavras-chave:

Alfabetização midiática e informacional, cidadania digital, desinformação e democracia, estratégias educacionais, América Latina e Caribe

Welcome to this special edition of the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research (JLAMC)*, vol. 12, no. 2, dedicated to exploring the critical topic of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in Latin America and the Caribbean. This issue is the result of submissions, selection, and organization of texts by experts in Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in Latin America and the Caribbean, a subject of growing interest and impact. This edition of the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research* is one of the outcomes of a strategic alliance between the Latin American Association of Communication Researchers (ALAIC), the International Center for Advanced Studies in Communication (CIESPAL), the Latin America and Caribbean Representation of UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE, and the organization *Las Otras Voces, Comunicación para la democracia*.

The dossier begins with Rosa M. González's article, "*Challenges for Policies in Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in Latin America and the Caribbean*," which explores policies surrounding MIL and emphasizes the importance of addressing misinformation, hate speech, and artificial intelligence to build a trustworthy and inclusive digital ecosystem. Silvia Bacher follows with "*Media and Information Literacy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities of an Unequal Region*," where she discusses MIL's role as a tool to overcome deep inequalities while simultaneously promoting human rights and fostering collaboration between academic, governmental, and social platforms.

Fernando Oliveira Paulino, Mariana Ferreira Lopes, and Luiggi Oliveira Fontenele contribute a compelling piece titled “*Media and Information Literacy and Harm Reduction*,” where they propose integrating harm reduction principles into MIL practices, particularly for protecting children and adolescents in digital spaces. This theme is extended in the article “*Brazilian Media Education Strategy: A National Policy Born from Listening*” by Mariana de Almeida Filizola and Cristiane Parente, who detail the development of Brazil’s EBEM strategy, rooted in civil society engagement and focus on teacher training and media education as a fundamental right.

Janneth Trejo-Quintana and Alexandre Sayad address the intersection of artificial intelligence and MIL in their article “*The Pillars of Media and Information Literacy in Times of Artificial Intelligence*.” They propose updated competencies for navigating the challenges of algorithm-mediated interactions while fostering civic engagement. Similarly, Carolina Montiel Navarro and Laura Martínez Águila analyze MIL’s role in combating disinformation in Mexico and Brazil in their article, “*MIL and Democracy in Latin America: Lessons from Independent Journalism*.” Their work highlights the contributions of fact-checking agencies like Agência Lupa and Verificado MX in countering far-right populism and supporting democratic resilience.

In “*Media and Information Literacy (MIL) & Educommunication: Sharing Tasks!*” Ismar de Oliveira Soares and Felipe Saldanha compare MIL and Educommunication, two approaches to fostering critical media interaction while exploring their convergences and divergences in promoting social transformation. Manuel-Antonio Monteagudo and Francisco González then offer a comparative study of two civil society organizations—Movilizadorio in Colombia and A Mí No Me La Hacen in Peru—in their article, “*A Continent to be Known*,” showcasing the innovative strategies each employs to advance MIL despite regional challenges.

María Teresa Quiroz Velasco brings a gender perspective to the conversation with her article, “*Gender Perspective and Inequality in Peru*,” addressing how MIL can confront barriers to education and social inclusion for girls and adolescents, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hugo Maguey explores the evolving role of alternative media in his article, “*Media and Information Literacy and Alternative Media*,” positioning it as a counterbalance to fake news and propaganda in increasingly democratized media landscapes.

José Manuel Corona-Rodríguez and Guillermo Orozco Gómez provide a historical and critical overview of MIL in “*Contemporary Challenges of MIL: Towards an Education for*

Emancipation,” advocating for a renewed focus on MIL as a tool for fostering reflective and emancipatory digital citizenship. Patricia Blanco and Bruno Ferreira, in “*The Urgency of Media Literacy for Exercising Citizenship and Its Contribution to Guaranteeing Information Integrity: EducaMídia Case Study*,” showcase Brazil’s EducaMídia program, which works to train educators and promote MIL-focused public policies.

Eva Da Porta and Paula Morabes examine the evolution of MIL research in “*Media and Information Literacy Research in Latin America*,” emphasizing its importance for critical citizenship education and regional integration. The focus shifts to the Caribbean in “*A Review: Situation Report on Media Literacy, Disinformation, and Misinformation in the English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean and the Action Plan for Combating Disinformation*,” where Kiran Maharaj and Corinne Barnes analyze UNESCO-supported research and propose collaborative strategies for combating disinformation.

Finally, Tomás Balmaceda concludes the dossier with “*Rewiring Trust: Digital Influencers, MIL, and the New Media Landscape*,” examining the rise of digital influencers in reshaping trust dynamics in the digital age. He presents the “4 C model” (Content, Creativity, Community, and Coherence) as a framework for engaging with this evolving media landscape, highlighting the critical role of MIL in fostering authenticity and collective understanding.

This edition of the Journal of Latin American Communication Research (JLACR) invites readers to reflect on the transformative potential of Media and Information Literacy in creating equitable, informed, and democratic societies across Latin America and the Caribbean. We hope this edition inspires dialogue, collaboration, and action to pursue a more just and media-literate world.