

1 Fake News Detection Tools

The objective of this study is to evaluate the currently available fake news detection tools that are usable for flagging the news articles as fake in real-time.

Tool Name	Real Time	Machine Learning	Human-in-the-loop	Comments
BS Detector	Yes	No	Yes	Uses domain, "About Us" analysis, source analysis, writing style, aesthetic, and social media analysis. Currently disabled.
Fake News Alert	Yes (not FB feed)	No	Yes	Similar to BS Detector but does not cover Facebook news feed. Tested.
This is Fake	Yes	No	Yes	Links to reputable sources that debunk stories, prompting users to share as comments. Currently down.
FiB	Yes	Yes	Yes (limited reliance)	Uses AI to verify posts through image recognition, keyword extraction, source verification, and Twitter search. Tested.
Media Bias/Fact Check	Yes	No	Yes	Sources reviewed for bias from left to right. Tested.
FactCheck.org	No	No	Yes	Focuses only on politics. Tested.
PolitiFact	No	No	Yes	Focuses only on politics. Considered reliable. Tested.
Snopes.com	No	No	Yes	Focuses on politics. Considered reliable. Tested.
Just Facts	No	No	Yes	Known for objectivity; some universities allow citations. Tested.
Washington Post Fact Checker	No	No	Yes	Articles reviewed by researchers. Tested.
Hoaxy	No	No	Yes	Generates visual spreads of article/keyword claims based on websites like Fake News Watch and Snopes, includes Twitter activity graphs. Tested.
FactMata	No	No	Yes	Based on NLP, currently in development. Not launched yet.

Table 1: Evaluation of Fake News Detection Tools

1.1 Take-aways:

1. Green ones are ready for some analysis as a tool but can not be relied on in terms of results. I have been using FiB and MBFC for a month now. FiB uses AI but it is not mature enough to classify correctly. For example, it is sometimes classifying obvious verified links into non-verified ones. MBFC browser extension has been downloaded 1000+ times and they are actively working on it. But there seems to be a lot of controversy against it as well. I cannot comment on its reliability since I am not a US politics expert. However, I have personally felt that their biases against organizations are not well-defended. Hoaxy can be used but it does not play a role in the detection of fake news.
2. Yellow ones are reliable to most extent but there is no front end or automation. Perhaps can be developed?
3. Red ones cannot be used as they are not ready.
4. Unfortunately, I have not encountered any standard/reliable fake news detection tool. The only solution I can think of is to develop a front end that integrates somewhat reliable tools and cross-

checks.

5. While working on these tools, I have also felt that the approach in developing these tools specifically for social media is not thoughtful or systematic as in they are not backed by research (except for hoaxy).