Information Literacy Skills and Beliefs

An overview of how our prior knowledge, skills, and beliefs prepare us to navigate the online information landscape

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Introduction

As the Internet grows and continues to become more complex, the nuance required to navigate it also increases. There have been numerous studies looking into how one's prior beliefs, knowledge, and skills affect our outlook on the Internet and the information that we come across on it. This understanding of how one navigates the Internet, and how they look at the information they come across has been called by some to be "internet literacy", though others call it "information literacy" or even "media literacy".

However, there have been few studies done that connect these terms and find out how they are truly interwoven with one another. Are all these terms referring to the same thing, or are they distinct phenomena? If the latter, how do they intermingle with one another?

Methods

Over the course of the project, we did a systematic literature review. We utilized ProQuest and Web of Science to do initial searches for literature using the search terms "social media", "literacy", and several terms relating to children as the group we are studying. This search produced 584 publications, which was narrowed down to 497 articles after eliminating duplicates and non-journal publications. Then, we used PicoPortal software to conduct abstract reviews of those 497 articles to evaluate their inclusion in the full-text reviews.

Results

The search results that we did produced a wide variety of results ranging across different disciplines. There are several notabilities in terms of the articles – one such example is the prevalence of "advertising literacy" and how that extends beyond our initial scope and expectations (Feijoo et al., 2021). Other, more relevant studies included a study conducted with Romanian schoolchildren showed that they were vulnerable to online hoaxes, having 54 participants in the study with 0 recognizing an unreliable source when presented to them (Dumitru, 2020).

Top 4 Disciplines Publishing on this Topic:
1. Education/Educational Research
2. Communication
3. Public Environmental Occupational Health
4. Information Science Library Science

Data Collection and Analysis Process:
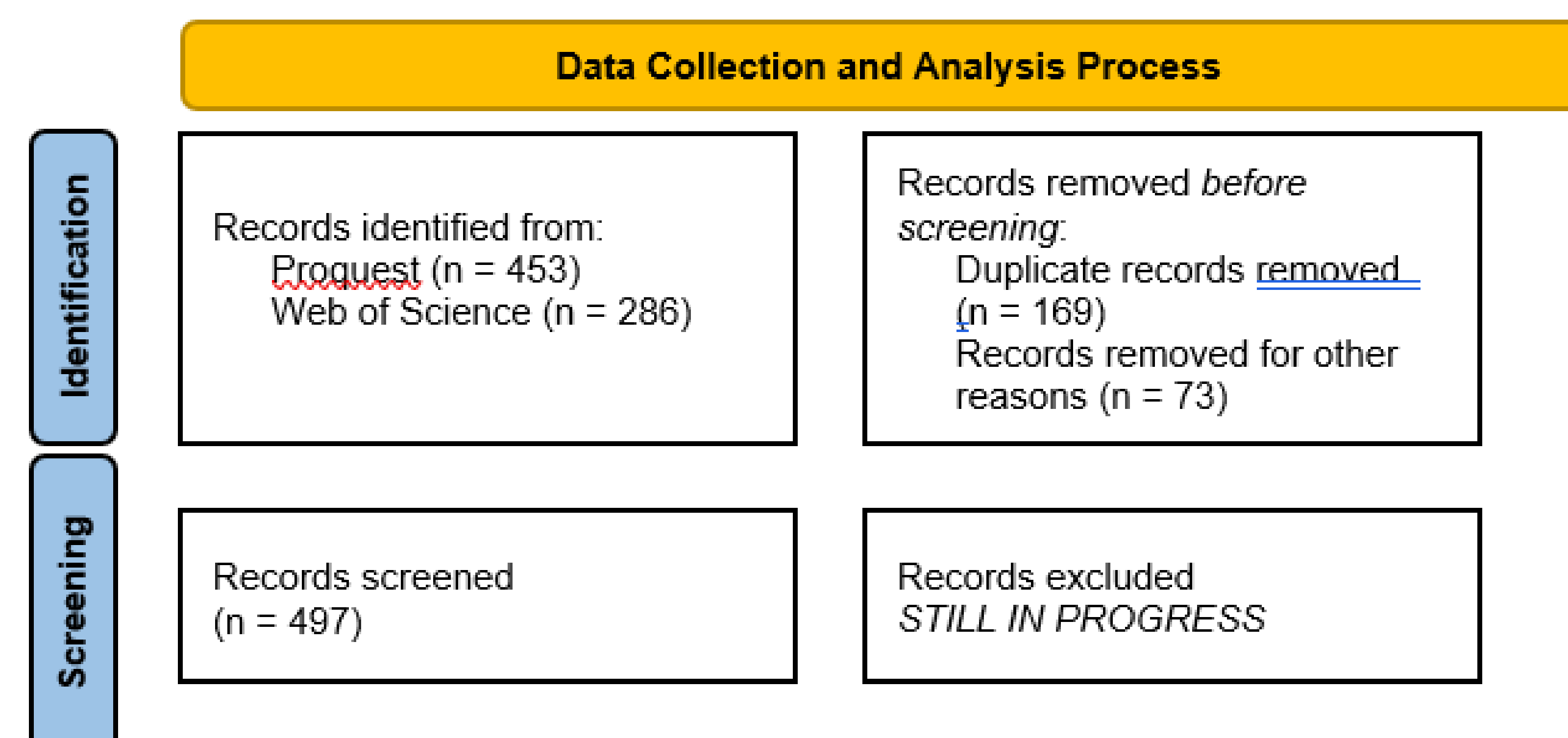
Discussion

It is notable to see how these different articles utilize the search terms differently, and how these differences can illustrate how the slight shifts in wording can change the intention and meaning behind these studies.

Conclusion

While the research is still ongoing, it is undeniable to say that the results taken from this study will help amend the scholarly definitions for these literacies and will help in identifying and depicting how they overlap. This will help in refining scholarly communication in this subject area and other related fields.

References

Dumitru, E. A. (2020). Testing children and adolescents' ability to identify fake news: A combined design of quasi-experiment and group discussions. *Societies, 10*(3), 12, Article 71. https://doi.org/10.3390/soc10030071

Feijoo, B., Bugueño, S., Sádaba, C., & García-González, A. (2021). Parents' and children's perception on social media advertising. *Comunicar: Media Education Research Journal, 29*(67), 93-103.

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