Information Network

**Traditional Sources:**

* <https://elpais.com/espana/>

El País is a newspaper in Spain founded in 1976. This source is completely in Spanish. It is updated daily with country wide news and has subsections for different regions throughout Spain. In general, it covers politics, economy, culture, education, science, sports, and technology. Strengths are that its established, reliable, and multifaceted. Weaknesses are that it could be a little too broad, and some information it provides could be irrelevant to my needs. I think its valuable for those who want to learn more about Spain because it is a Spanish version of New York Times, Washington Post, etc.

* <https://www.elconfidencial.com/>

El Confidencial is an independent newspaper in Spain and completely in Spanish. They talk about Spain, global news, culture, health, and sports. The source’s claim to fame is that they are independent, so their perspective is as unbiased as possible. Strengths are that its unbiased and diverse in content. Weaknesses is that to non-speakers this could be hard to access and some of the stories they cover are incredibly specific and need a little context. It’s valuable because it is a reliable and vetted source with a lot of different articles.

* <https://www.lavanguardia.com/>

La Vanguardia is a daily newspaper in Spain that was founded in 1881. It has always been printed in Spanish but began being printed in Catalan in 2011. Headquartered in Barcelona, it is Catalonia’s leading newspaper but is 4th in terms of highest circulation nationwide. It is considered a fairly moderate source but has Catholic allegiances and ties to royals. It covers standard topics such as politics, culture, sports, the economy, and international news. Strengths are that it is established, widely accepted, and moderate. Weaknesses are it’s known ties which could lead to biases. I think it is a valuable source because of its central political stance and the fact that 3 of the top 4 Spanish newspapers are based in Madrid, so this adds a somewhat different perspective.

* <https://www.larazon.es/>

La Razón, founded in 1998, is a daily newspaper in Spain based out of Madrid. It is printed in Spanish covers a range of topics, such as the economy, society, sports, and health. It maintains a more conservative and nationalist perspective. Some strengths are that is 6th in distribution in Spain and has branches in various cities across the country. Weaknesses are the controversies they’ve landed themselves in. In the past La Razón has intentionally put out some provocative and downright misleading images on the front page of their papers. I think this source is valuable because while it isn’t very reliable, it provides important insight into the political realm of Spain.

**New Media Sources:**

* <https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/category/national-news/>

The Olive Press is a blog founded in 2006. It is from Spain but primarily in English. You can find national, regional, travel, sport, property, and environmental news. It has a pretty informative perspective in my opinion, doesn’t really take sides just reports on important events. Strengths is that its diverse and current in content, has multiple ways of showing you potential things of interest, and highlights real peoples’ opinions. Weaknesses would be its not as established and is a little more informal. I think its valuable because it is already in English, so people will understand it easily.

* <https://guias-viajar.com/>

Guias Viajar is a travel blog based in Spain. It is solely in Spanish and is the most read travel blog in the country with 721,500 visits a month. Its authors are José Luis and Carlos Sarralde, who started the page in 2008 after a trip to Prague. It has information on basically every country in Europe and prominent ones outside of the continent. The source’s perspective is very travel focused without commentary on really anything else. Strengths are that it provides excellent information in helping someone decide what parts of Europe they’d like to see. Weaknesses are that the format is a tad outdated, it is from the perspective of only two travelers, and the translation feature of Google might not do the blog justice. Overall, I think its valuable because it sort of clues the reader in to Spain’s perspective on other countries and highlights the different experience that is traveling within Europe compared with the rest of the world.

* <https://cincodias.elpais.com/territorio_pyme>

Territorio Pyme is one of the most well-known business blogs in Spain. It is solely in Spanish and ran by José Antonio Calvo. The blog covers several aspects of Spanish business, with write ups on different companies, AI technology, stocks, etc. The source’s perspective is objectively business news. Strengths are that it highlights an important aspect of Spain, and the topics are very pertinent. Weaknesses would be that the stories they put out might be too Spaniard focused for an American reader and possible Google translation issues. I think it’s valuable because business is a key factor in what drives a country in the scope of world order and this would highlight what Spain experiences in that realm.

**Social Media Sources:**

* <https://instagram.com/elliberal_?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

El Liberal is Spanish newspaper, but I chose to highlight its Instagram page. The source is updated with new pictures or videos almost daily which relates to what they write about online. There are several different types of information to be found, but I’d say most of the news is cultural while also talking about the government and its prominent figures. The source has an informative perspective but in a modern context. It seems to be pretty left leaning and geared towards a younger audience. Strengths of the source is that it has a lot of easy to access content and you can see real people’s thoughts in the comments. Weaknesses are that it could be a little surface or click oriented since it is social media. Its valuable because it is very easy to conceptualize for someone not from Spain and has pertinent information to what’s going on in the country.

* <https://instagram.com/larentaeconomia?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

La Renta is an economically focused news source on social media that covers the economy, politics, and finance in Spain and internationally. It is in Spanish, and I chose to highlight the Instagram page. Some strengths are the important and diverse topics it covers, as well as the ease of access to the public. Some weaknesses are that the headlines can’t be translated, and it is a smaller page without crazy interaction levels. I think it’s valuable because of the topics it covers and showcases another sect of social media that we don’t really see.

* <https://instagram.com/leonoticias_?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Leonoticias is the newspaper for the Spanish province of León. They cover the happenings in the capital city of León and the province in general, while also looking at big news in the whole country. I’m looking at their Instagram though which is in Spanish but can be translated somewhat well. The perspective is a focus on León with, in my opinion more culture focused journalism. Strengths are that it is an established paper and specific to a certain area in Spain. Weaknesses are that it’s not good for someone looking for a more holistic view of Spain, or politically related news. I think it’s valuable because it showcases a smaller portion of the country and what’s important to them while touching on country-wide news as well.

**Data Sources:**

* <https://www-statista-com.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/statistik/suche/?q=Spain&qKat=search&newSearch=true>

Statista is a data site with a plethora of information about hundreds of countries and industries. Most of the data seems to be in English. And you can find info on the economy, food, COVID, real estate, the youth, immigration and much more. It’s a very unbiased source since it is mostly just numbers. And that is a big strength of it as well, along with the huge amount of diverse info you can access. Weaknesses could be that it’s so much information to sift through and the reports are lengthy. It is valuable because it showcases recent and important data about Spain.

* <https://www.ethnologue.com/>

Ethnologue is the world’s most comprehensive catalogue of languages which provides statistics and general information of our many languages. Most of the information seems to be in English but perhaps with a change in computer settings that could be changed. They have information on the 7,168 living languages and each country’s story with language, dead or living. It covers language origin, vitality, and digital support. Some advantages are you get very valuable statistics and historical information. A weakness is that the information doesn’t go very in depth. I think its valuable because it highlights the complex and often overlooked language diversity in Spain.

* <https://data.worldbank.org/>

The World Bank Open Data site is a very useful tool in finding data on just about every country and their important aspects. You can very easily change the language of information on the page into Spanish, French, Arabic, and Chinese. It covers a plethora of statistics, including population, life expectancy, net migration, GDP, CO2 emissions, and much more. Advantages are the vetted, diverse, and pertinent information, along with ease of navigation. A weakness is thar there is so much information that it could be hard to disseminate what truly matters.

**Audio Based Sources:**

* Es la mañana de Federico

Is a podcast by Federico Jímenez Losantos that has been around since 2009. It started out as a radio show and can still be consumed as such but has episodes that vary in length, which is just the radio show spliced into sections by topic. The podcast talks about Spanish and international news. While it is the perspective of one man, he takes an informative approach to what he chooses to talk about. Strengths is that it comes in an easy to consume format and you can choose what you’d like to know more about. Weaknesses is that it only comes from one man, and it is entirely in Spanish. It is valuable because the topics that are discussed are important and interesting to hear if you understand Spanish.

* Herrera en COPE

Is a podcast by Carlos Herrera that has been around since 2008. It started as a daily talk show that would run hourly from 6am to 1pm Spanish time. It is solely in Spanish and discusses the daily news of Spain, including politics and the economy. It’s mostly the perspective of one man, but he does bring journalists and people involved in media on as guests. Strengths are that he takes an analytical approach and brings on guests to debate. Weakness is that it’s completely in Spanish, so it’ll be hard to consume if a non-speaker. I think it’s valuable to see another country’s talk show and how political discourse is outside of the US.

* Hora 25

Is a podcast and radio show by Pepa Bueno. Who is a prominent and well-respected journalist in Spain. The show runs from 8pm to 11:30pm Spanish time and discusses the news of the day. It is split into 3-hour long segments and 1 half hour segment that can be consumed in podcast form if you can’t tune in live. She has 3 other journalists as mainstays on her podcast and recent topics have been workers’ rights at Michelin star restaurants, international politics, and each episode has a summary of Spain’s news. It is solely in Spanish and from the perspective of 4 people and sometimes a guest. A strength is the diverse topics and multiple perspectives on the show. Weakness would be that it can’t be translated. I think it’s valuable because it has a very strong female perspective geared towards the importance of news, which is something that is less common outside the US.

**Additional Sources:**

* <https://instagram.com/descontroldegobierno?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

For my additional source I chose to highlight another Instagram account. This one is called descontrol del gobierno which translates to “dysfunction/lack of control of the government.” It is based in Spain and completely in Spanish. The information that can be found on the account is frustration and debate about the government and its officials. The sources perspective is an angry one, very anti-corruption and hypocrisy. It also has a lot of feminist content. Strengths are that it highlights real people’s grievances with the government and in general has a little more niche content. Weaknesses is that it’s not a formal news source and could be spreading un-vetted information. I think it’s valuable because it shows another country’s version of what we see a lot of on American social media.

* <https://www.thelocal.es/>

The Local is a blog on European news with in-depth focus on each country. The source is completely in English and provides up to date news on Spanish politics, culture, and economy. The perspective is the definitely that of an outsider looking in, with much explanation on things that a typical Spanish citizen would know or consume on a more traditional platform. Strengths are that it’s super easy to understand and consume. Weaknesses would be that it could become too basic of a source to look after you get the hang of Spanish news and how the country in general works. I think it’s valuable because it allows the reader to get reliable news without the need for translation and it provides context for beginners.

* La 1

La 1 (uno) is one of the premier TV networks of Spain. It was actually Spain’s first ever channel, founded in 1956. It is solely in Spanish and broadcasts several things, including prime time drama, major news, sports, and general entertainment. Its programming is mainly in Spanish and uniform to all of Spain, but it has separate broadcasts for each autonomous community and the corresponding language. The perspective is that of a typical Spanish citizen consuming an average reputable tv/news channel. Strengths are it is widely accepted and gives a clue as to what Spaniards are seeing on a daily basis. Weaknesses are that it cannot be translated and has come into some controversy with Spain’s laws regarding “healthy use of television.” I think its valuable because it provides insight into how Spain consumes mainstream media.

When finding sources, I had to use a couple different techniques. I had to avoid using the word “Spanish” because that would bring up sources from any country that speaks the language. I would typically look up what kind of source I wanted with “Spain” attached to it. Also, key words like “best” or “reputable.” And if that didn’t pan out, I would just look it up in Spanish itself. I learned that when searching for international information you need to be direct and specific in what you want. In my opinion it really was not that hard to find sources for Spain. It’s a western European country with a language that is used by almost a billion people.