

Question no 4: How do you typically provide information on what happens abroad?



Karlstad Youth Council

Most common way in Sweden to obtain information about what happens abroad is through the news on TV. But we also have the news on the radio (every hour) and newspapers. The Internet is also easily accessible on for instance schools and libraries so that you can have an eye on what happens in the world.



Zambia Youth Council

In our Zambia setup it is very difficult and most children and youths are in the rural parts of the country. You may wish to know that 75% of Zambia's population is in rural areas. What we call rural areas are places where it is very very under developed - meaning it lacks most basic needs such as schools, hospitals, passable roads, no radios, no TVs, no newspapers, no phone lines or cellphones. This makes life completely away from the rest of the country and the world at large.

As you may be away only 15% of about 12 million Zambians have access to electricity. Of the 15% with electricity only about 80% have access to international television channels where they could get international news as it unfolds.

This means that children and youths do not have adequate information. Mainly children and youths depend on their teachers for latest information. Newspapers are not affordable to the youths. It is not affordable even in most if not all government secondary high schools where youths and children could go read for free.

On the radios, international news is mainly aired twice a day though not as we think it should be. The government does not provide public libraries for the children and the youths.

As Zambia Youth Council we strongly believe that this scenario in our country is worst and NOT in the best interest of the child. We believe that our Zambian government has the sole responsibility to make infrastructure to enable children and the youths access to information any time. Only about 15% of Zambia's population know how to use the computer meaning only a fraction of the 15% can use the internet.



South Africa Youth Council

The public broadcaster (SABC, with three channels) gets international current events coverage by sending their own crews to cover content. Until very recently, the broadcaster had resident news offices in most African regions (through SABC Africa), North America (Washington), Jamaica, the East (Beijing), Brussels and London. Some of these offices have closed due to the international financial crisis. Inevitably, some newsworthy events have fallen far out of these regional offices, in which case news inserts were bought from other international news networks like BBC and SKY news, or the particular country's main news agent – for example with the Iraq news and Gaza Strip developments.

The other free-to-air channel has substantially more internationally sourced news content, being a young channel and not yet established internationally.

Our pay channels source have international partners, and are therefore usually first to cover significant events and approach them from different perspectives, rather than merely reporting on them.

The paragraphs above have covered the news and not necessarily the events part of information. All four free-to-air channels have entertainment shows covering a substantial amount of time, although comparatively nowhere near news coverage. They are very competitive, the latest developments and gossip being the draw-card for strong ARs. They also cater for all age groups – children’s time slots covering events in a manner relevant to children, and adult shows pushing the envelope a bit further.

Daily newspapers cover substantially more than TV because they have sections – starting with the most newsworthy ‘serious’ news in the main section, getting to softer news within the different sections of the paper. Another source of global information is magazines. They are more widely used than the internet, purely because they are more available and prove more affordable due to weekly release.

Radio news is a carbon copy of TV news content-wise. The headline news are the same. But radio does five minute bulletins that are repeated by the half-hour, and therefore updates are more readily available. Much of radio listenership is dependent on light news as relevant to their target audience, and the DJs use their stations’ discretion on how they approach and treat gossip, events and Brangelina.



Kuala Lumpur Youth Council

Youth in Malaysia are quite tech savvy and would normally rely on the internet for international news, the rise of the blogosphere in Kuala Lumpur also provides alternative means of getting international news. The rise of social networking sites, twitter in particular plays a major role in reaching out to the youth, most news braodcasters such as CNN and BBC user twitter to regularly update the 'young and mobile' media users/consumers who may not have the time/not be bothered to seat down and read a newspaper or watch the news.

The traditional means of broadcasting news are still available through TV news on both free to air channels some of which are run by Radio Televsiyen Malaysia (RTM) a state run media corporation which houses both TV stations and radio. There is also a satellite service run by Astro SDN BHD which has most international broadcasters such as BBC, CNN and CNBC.



India Youth Council

The newspapers, the television channels and the internet are our portals of knowledge to what happens abroad.



Australia Youth Council

When I imagine a typical Australian person preparing themselves for a day of work, I notice something that I often overlook. My imaginary person encounters almost every form of media there is, without going out of their way. They wake up and flick on their TV, usually to some early morning news and entertainment show. As they eat breakfast (and drink their coffee) the person will often choose to read the newspaper or a magazine. The TV may still be on. As the person grabs their car keys and starts driving, the radio will come on. Sprinkled through the songs will be a small news update. When the car stops, and the person sits down at their desk, they will open up their e-mails. They will also encounter a news-dedicated home page or website.

As you can see, the imaginary Australian can come across six different forms of media, each one telling of recent events and news from abroad. This happens every single day, and Australians are also able to email or call these media services if they feel something has been overlooked.

Then there are also other, more abstract ways of communicating news across oceans. These include

FaceBook and Twitter, and more commonly - YouTube. Men and women all around the world have the opportunity to film and express interests and concerns they have with their country, religion, anything. And Australians can access this too; digital media is becoming the most effective form of cross-national communication there is.

In Australia, we have so many opportunities to hear international voices, that we are always up to date with global affairs. So much so, that it is hard to imagine life without these opportunities.



Nigeria Youth Council

Nigeria gets information abroad basically from the paid networks like cnn, bbc and Reuters, we have developed our own local private TV networks, do you guys believe that it was today our president liberalize private participation in national networks. We depend basically on what the foreign news feeds us, therefore media literacy becomes very important, I had to teach students to understand newspaper messages and TV programmes, so that they can also understand foreign news.



Slovakia Youth Council

Information on what happens abroad we are providing from TV, radio, internet, and also from friends and parents.