ONLINE JOURNALISM, AS A SUPPLEMENT TO PRINT JOURNALISM

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ABSTRACT

Online journalism has developed in several directions and rhythms, taking different shapes in different online news projects. Scholars have offered empirical evidence that these directions are, in many occasions, far from the utopias envisioned in the 90s. We are still inventing online journalism. A comparative research focused on four case studies of Catalan online newsrooms traces the material and organizational constrains in the definition and use of hypertext, multimedia and interactivity –those hyped Internet features– by online journalists. Professional routines and values of the four online newsrooms are analysed , with the aim of finding the similarities and divergences among different media traditions: a national newspaper (El Periódico), a public broadcasting corporation (CCRTV), a local newspaper (Diari de Tarragona) and a public-funded news portal (laMalla.net). Observation of the journalists at work and in-depth interviews provide a close look at the context and development of each case, interpreted with a constructivist approach to the social adoption of new technologies.

Some of the findings of the study include: immediacy is the main value in three of the online newsrooms; the rest of the online journalism utopias are shaped by this decision; news wires are the main –and almost only– source for most of online news; small sized staffs and the culture of immediacy discourage online journalists from going out or contacting first-hand sources, specially in traditional media online newsrooms; online journalists in traditional media environments tend to downgrade the value of their work in regard to their offline mates; the online-only project overcomes some of the problems with a specialization strategy, having each journalist focused on particular topics, and they are more sensitive to explore utopias. The author argues that more comparative studies at an international level on the organizational and material structure of online

newsrooms are needed to offer media companies a realistic stand point to continue the invention of the internet as a news medium.

KEYWORDS: Online journalism, Hypertext, Multimedia, Interactivity, Professional, routines, Values, Case studies

INTRODUCTION: Online journalism has undergone significant evolution since its inception, diversifying into various forms and adapting to the changing landscape of digital media. However, empirical evidence suggests that the realities of online journalism often deviate from the lofty ideals and utopian visions that characterized its early years. Instead, online journalism continues to be a work in progress, shaped by a multitude of factors including technological advancements, organizational constraints, and professional practices.

This comparative research delves into the intricacies of online journalism through a focused examination of four case studies of Catalan online newsrooms. By exploring the material and organizational constraints influencing the utilization of hypertext, multimedia, and interactivity – features once heralded as the future of online journalism – this study sheds light on the realities faced by online journalists in today's media landscape. Specifically, the research analyzes the professional routines and values prevalent in these newsrooms, aiming to uncover both the commonalities and divergences among different media traditions.

Through observation of journalists at work and in-depth interviews, this study offers a close examination of the contextual factors shaping each case, interpreted through a constructivist approach to the social adoption of new technologies. By elucidating key findings, such as the primacy of immediacy as a value in online newsrooms and the dominance of news wires as primary sources, the research highlights the challenges and opportunities inherent in contemporary online journalism practices. Ultimately, the author argues for the necessity of further comparative studies at an international level to provide media companies with realistic insights for the continued evolution of online journalism as a news medium.

Open Source Journalism

Open Source Journalism refers to a journalistic approach that embraces principles of openness, collaboration, and transparency. Rooted in the ethos of the open-source software movement, this model encourages the sharing of information, resources, and ideas among journalists, news organizations, and the public. At its core, Open Source Journalism seeks to democratize the news-gathering process, empowering individuals to participate in the creation, verification, and dissemination of news content.

Characteristics of Open Source Journalism

Collaborative Reporting: Journalists collaborate with each other and with the public to investigate and report on issues of public interest. This collaborative approach can lead to more comprehensive coverage, diverse perspectives, and increased accountability.

Transparency: Open Source Journalism prioritizes transparency in all aspects of the news-gathering process, including sourcing, fact-checking, and editorial decision-making. By making journalistic practices more transparent, this model aims to build trust with audiences and foster greater accountability within news organizations.

Use of Open Tools and Platforms: Open Source Journalism leverages open-source tools and platforms for gathering, analyzing, and disseminating news content. These tools include open-source content management systems, data visualization software, and collaborative editing platforms, among others.

Crowdsourcing and Citizen Journalism: Open Source Journalism embraces the contributions of citizen journalists and the wider community in the news-gathering process. Crowdsourcing platforms and citizen journalism initiatives enable individuals to share eyewitness accounts, photos, videos, and other valuable information, supplementing traditional reporting practices.

Open Access to Data and Information: Open Source Journalism advocates for open access to data and information, including government records, public datasets, and archival material. By promoting data transparency and accessibility, journalists can uncover stories, analyze trends, and hold institutions accountable.

Community Engagement: Open Source Journalism prioritizes engagement with the community, seeking feedback, input, and participation from audiences throughout the news production process. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of ownership and connection among readers, viewers, and journalists.

Civic Journalism

Civic journalism, often referred to as public journalism or community journalism, is a journalistic approach that prioritizes civic engagement, public dialogue, and community empowerment. At its core, civic journalism seeks to bridge the gap between journalists and the communities they serve by actively involving citizens in the news-gathering process and addressing issues of public concern. This approach emphasizes the role of journalism as a catalyst for social change and civic participation, aiming to strengthen democracy by fostering informed, engaged, and empowered citizenry.

Central to civic journalism is the idea of "listening" to the community, where journalists actively seek out the voices, perspectives, and concerns of ordinary citizens. By engaging with community members and understanding their needs and interests, journalists can tailor their coverage to reflect the issues that matter most to the public. This process often involves hosting community forums, conducting public opinion polls, and soliciting feedback through various channels to ensure that news coverage is relevant, responsive, and inclusive.

In addition to listening to the community, civic journalism emphasizes the importance of collaboration and dialogue in the news-gathering process. Journalists work alongside community members, civic organizations, and other stakeholders to identify, investigate, and address issues of

public importance. This collaborative approach not only enhances the quality and depth of news coverage but also fosters a sense of ownership and accountability among citizens, empowering them to actively participate in shaping the public agenda and driving positive social change.

Furthermore, civic journalism encourages journalists to go beyond traditional reporting practices and actively seek out solutions to the problems facing their communities. This solutions-oriented approach involves highlighting success stories, showcasing innovative initiatives, and facilitating constructive dialogue around potential solutions to complex issues. By focusing on solutions rather than just problems, civic journalism seeks to inspire hope, mobilize action, and build trust between journalists and the communities they serve.

civic journalism represents a powerful force for civic engagement, community empowerment, and democratic renewal. By embracing principles of inclusivity, collaboration, and solutions-oriented reporting, this approach redefines the role of journalism as a catalyst for positive social change and a vital tool for strengthening democracy at the local, national, and global levels.

Online Newspaper

An online newspaper, also known as a web newspaper, which exists on the World Wide Webor Internet, either separately or as an online version of a printed periodical.

Going online created more opportunities for newspapers, such as competing with broadcast journalism in presenting breaking news in a more timely manner. The credibility and strong brand recognition of well-established newspapers, and the close relationships they have with advertisers, are also seen by many in the newspaper industry as strengthening their chances of survival. The movement away from the printing process can also help decrease costs.

Online newspapers are much like hard-copy newspapers and have the same legal boundaries, such as laws regarding libel, privacy and copyright, also apply to online publications in most countries, like in the UK. Also in the UK the Data Protection Act applies to online newspapers and news pages, as well as the PCC rules in the UK. But the distinction was not very clear to the public in the UK as to what a blog or forum site was and what an online newspaper was. In 2007, a ruling was passed to formally regulate UK based online newspapers, news audio, and news video websites covering the responsibilities expected of them and to clear up what is, and what isn't, an online publication.

News reporters are being taught to shoot video and to write in the succinct manner necessary for the Internet news pages. Many are learning how to implement blogs and the ruling by the UK's PCC should help this development of the internet. Some newspapers have attempted to integrate the internet into every aspect of their operations, i.e., reporters writing stories for both print and online, and classified advertisements appearing in both media; others operate websites that are more distinct from the printed newspaper. The Newspaper National Network LP is an online advertising sales partnership of the Newspaper Association of America and 25 major newspaper companies.

An early example of an "online only" newspaper or magazine is "News Report", an online newspaper created by Bruce Parrello in 1974 on the PLATO system at the University of Illinois. Beginning in 1987, the Brazilian newspaper Jornaldodia ran on the state owned Embratel network (moving to the internet in the 1990s). By the late 1990s, hundreds of U.S. newspapers were publishing online versions, but did not yet offer much interactivity. One

example is Britain's Weekend City Press Review, which provided a weekly news summary online beginning in 1995.

EXAMPLES

Very few newspapers in 2006 will claim to have made money from their websites, which are mostly free to all viewers. Declining profit margins and declining circulation in daily newspapers have forced executives to contemplate new methods of obtaining revenue from websites, without charging for subscription. This has been difficult. Newspapers with specialized audiences such as The Wall Street Journal and The Chronicle of Higher Education successfully charge subscription fees. Most newspapers now have an online edition, including The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and The New York Times.

The Guardian experimented with new media in 2005, offering a free twelve part weekly podcast series by Ricky Gervais. Another UK daily to go online is The Daily Telegraph.

In India, major newspapers went online to provide latest and most updated news from them Times of India, Hindustan Times, The Hindu, Indian Express, Eenadu and The New Indian Express . Some newspapers even provide E-Paper which is regarded as the digital replica of the newspaper.

In Australia, some newspapers corporations offer an online version to let their readers read the news online, such as The Australian, Sydney Morning Herald.

The Santiago Times operates out of Santiago, Chile and is 100% on line, editions are published in English covering Chilean current events daily Monday through Friday.

Online Only Newspapers

The true online only paper is a paper that does not have any hard copy connections. An example of this is an independent web only newspaper, introduced in the UK in 2000, called the Southport Reporter. It is a weekly regional newspaper that is not produced or run in any format other than 'soft-copy' on the internet by its publishers PCBT Photography. Unlike blog sites and other news websites it is run as a newspaper and is recognized by media groups in the UK, like the NUJ and/or the IFJ. Also they fall under the UK's PCC rules. Another example is the Atlantic Highlands Herald, a New Jersey based web-only daily newspaper published in the US since 1999. But even print media is turning to online only publication. As of 2009, the collapse of the traditional business model of print newspapers has led to various attempts to establish local, regional or national online-only newspapers - publications that do original reporting, rather than just commentary or

summaries of reporting from other publications. An early major example in the U.S. is the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, which stopped publishing after 149 years in March 2009 and went online only. In Scotland, in 2010, Caledonian Mercury became Scotland's first online-only newspaper with the same aims as Southport Reporter in the UK, with The Yorkshire Times following suit and becoming Yorkshire's first online-only paper in 2011.

In the US, technology news websites such as CNET, Tech Crunch, and ZDNet started as web publications and enjoy comparable readership to the conventional newspapers. Also, with the ever-rising popularity of online media, veteran publications like the U.S. News & World Report are abandoning print and going online-only.

Open publishing is a process of creating news or other content that is transparent to the readers. They can contribute a story and see it instantly appear in the pool of stories publicly available. Those stories are filtered as little as possible to help the readers find the stories they want. Readers can see editorial decisions being made by others. They can see how to get involved and help make editorial decisions. If they can think of a better way for the software to help shape editorial decisions, they can copy the software because it is free and change it and start their own site. If they want to redistribute the news, they can, preferably on an open publishing site.

Internet sites run on open publishing software allow anyone with Internet access to visit the site and upload content directly without having to penetrate the filters of traditional media. Several fundamental principles tend to inform the organizations and sites dedicated to open publishing, though they do so to varying degrees. These principles include non-hierarchy, public participation, minimal editorial control, and transparency.

Open publishing idea embedded the same concept, although didn't mention Eric S. Raymond's major insight. In Open Publishing problematic content is shallow. Given a large enough audience, peers, readers and commentators, almost all problematic content will be quickly noticed highlighted and fixed. Arnison's Law: "Given enough eyeballs, problematic content is shallow."

It should be distinguished from open access publishing, the publishing of material organized in such a way that there is no financial or other barrier to the user. (All or almost all Open publishing is in fact also open access.)

METHODOLOGY

Online journalism has significantly transformed the landscape of news dissemination, offering interactivity, immediacy, hyper textuality, and multimodality as distinguishing features. It leverages the internet's capabilities to provide real-time updates, multimedia content, and interactive engagement with readers, thereby enhancing the traditional linear narrative of print journalism.

The emergence of social media has further revolutionized journalism by enabling audience participation, feedback, and content creation, blurring the lines between consumers and producers of news. This shift towards new media has not replaced traditional journalism but rather birthed a

more democratic approach to news dissemination, emphasizing transparency, independence, and inclusivity in reporting.

Moreover, the datafication of newsrooms has introduced data journalism practices that utilize computational techniques to analyze and present information in innovative ways. Data journalism enhances storytelling by incorporating visualizations, interactive elements, and in-depth analysis, offering a new dimension to journalistic practices and audience engagement.

In the context of India, the perception of quality in journalism plays a crucial role in defining the boundaries and expectations of journalistic practices. Understanding the elements that contribute to quality journalism, such as accuracy, objectivity, independence, and audience engagement, is essential for both traditional print and online journalism to maintain credibility and relevance in the digital age.

FINDINGS

-This site is not very in favor of interactivity, although readers' comments are consequently shown. New visitors of this website may soon become aware that Nieuwnieuws is a "sister" of GeenStijl, by referring to it constantly. Contacting the editorial staff goes via GeenStijl as they run both sites, and watching videos is done at Dumpert.nl, a so-called dump box for photos, videos and audio files, all uploaded by users. The identity that Geen Stijl communicates may be typified as rebellious, young, innovative and daring, while Nieuwnieuws keeps its tone a little bit more serious. One result of this cooperation may be that, for example, the bylines of the videos conflict with the overall tone of Nieuwnieuws.

-Nieuwnieuws uses photos with every article, and articles are usually interrupted by advertisements. In the first article this is a video and a banner, in the second it is a video and some Google Ads. The choice of the video does lead to confusion; because it does not clarify that it is a commercial. It starts with a classroom of children that, at first glance, might have something to do with the news item. Sources were not mentioned with the articles, but Nieuwnieuws states elsewhere on their site that they use ANP as a regular source and in the first article CNN was mentioned as well. Instead of the name of the author, at the bottom of the article we can only read "Redactie" (Editorial staff). Brief conclusion: Nieuwnieuws only appreciates a little bit of participation from the audience and in turn offers RSS and even PDA updates. But it seems somewhat inappropriate how they offer the videos on a related website that has a more outspoken identity than Nieuwnieuws.The process of news writing is open and every user can view the contributions and changes made by others.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, both print and online media have their pros and cons. Whether it is the speed at which it's published or the amounts of errors in it, both have areas for potential issues. In an ever-changing world, online media makes more sense for constant coverage of specific subject matter, but a lot

of information can be fake or misrepresented. The print media has been away for people to receive news for centuries now. It has uncovered some of the biggest corruption scandals and breaking stories of all time. In print media, you will read the news that happened in the past, but it will be the correct information because it had to go through many levels of clearance to even be considered for print. Online media is relatively new in the media world, but it has taken it by storm. There is one catch to the whole online publication machine, and that is that information can be taken down or revoked automatically. One of the majorcomplaints of online publication is that it makes writers and editors more complacent because they know that they can just take down the article if there are factual errors found. More andmore credible news organizations are transforming their platforms to target online readers. It must be remembered that the only way news companies stay profitable is by having readers. Itmay not be in printed form, but more and more people are preferring online publications. Online and print media both have a sense of understanding that information is what people crave. People like to read flashy headlines, and juicy columns on the latest gossip, but there must be a consensus that the truth is always the best in both print and online media.

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