Final Report for Helsingin Sanomat Foundation

Journalism Research News (JRN)

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Abstract

The starting point for developing the JRN (http://journalismresearchnews.org/) was the notion that no one knew exactly what was going on in the European journalism research. Journal articles and books always told about the past, no one published news about their new, just funded or ongoing research projects. Many opportunities for cooperation were missed, and many valuable and timely findings lost or inflated during long queuing times for prominent academic publications. Journalism Research News (JRN) was created during 2014 and 2015 in order to improve the quality of scholarly communication about ongoing European journalism research. It was opened for public in 25th of February. Since then JRN has aimed at creating a real-time news stream of European Journalism research. Basically, we write and publish news regarding European journalism research. Our service is free, and strives to steer clear of any unabashed advocacy. Within the limits of our scope and means, we make attempts to be as inclusive, timely and open as possible. We invite all journalism scholars to join our efforts, and publish more news about your current works.

Geographic and thematic scope

JRN is a humble project with the ambitious goal to holistically improve communication of scholarly research. Our scope at present (2015) is limited to European journalism research. A key barrier is language. There are 23 officially recognised languages in the EU and a further 60 ethnic minority languages. Language may prevent us from getting to the bottom of many interesting proceedings, and technical issues from listening in on data repositories. In the nature of the haphazard flow of research information, of many projects we hear nothing, and less of results and some we simply miss.

Regardless of these barriers, we seek to address at least some of the issues related to the tar-like flow of scholarly information. We hope to gather an audience, which, simply by displaying an interest, could persuade others to speak up. Initially the benefits would be reaped by journalism scholars, especially by those able to expand their research through similarly interested peers. Ideally, however, participation would help create a new culture of scholarly communication, one finally fit for the digital age.

The content of JRN is either research that concerns journalism in Europe or journalism research that was conducted in Europe.

What is Europe? There are 28 countries in the economic EU. JRN prefers a geographical Europe of approximately 50 countries extending west to east from Iceland and Portugal to the Ural

Mountains in Russia and north to south from Svalbard (Norway) to the northern shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

Traditionally the eastern border of Europe lies north to south along the border with Russia, the western shores of the Black Sea and The Bosphorus. We've decided to include those regions of Russia lying west of the Urals. We've also included, for cultural reasons both Turkey and Israel. There are limitations to how much we can glean from these countries, but at least we're keeping an eye on these regions.

What is JRN's definition of 'journalism research'? We try to include anything journalism related, from audience surveys to critical discourse analyses. We do not limit our scope to academic publishing, and we include investigations carried out by NGO's, business enterprises and governmental bodies.

'News' is any form of new information or data of interest to the community. The notion of journalistic news isn't irrevocably linked to the aestheticism of 'freshness'. A month-old NGO report with low profile is as much news as the breaking-news of the publication of a game-changing research article.

Where're all these stories coming from?

"You tell me", quite literally. For us to know about any proceeding in the field, someone has to speak up. As mentioned earlier, there's much room for improvement. Still, we keep our hopes up by following university websites, personal blogs, Twitter feeds and the like. If we miss something, we hope someone lets us know right away. There's a hassle-free contact form for that on our "About" page.

We also receive automated alerts when certain journals publish new articles. This makes up most of our daily news feed, and we are constantly looking to add to our watch list. We try to maintain a level of quality and usually omit everything from a publisher with a questionable reputation. For practical reasons the same goes for local journals that routinely publish in languages other than English.

JRN is hosted by the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. The consortium of Finland's national university libraries provides us with access to many of the cutting edge publications. In some cases, however, we come across an interesting title, which we simply can't get a hold of, and as with foreign language publications, we have little choice but to pass over it.

Editorial oversight

Our staff is few. They spend a lot of effort on finalizing the technical and visual aspects of the service. Our editorial desk usually consists of just one writer on duty. Supervision and corrections come with hindsight. When applicable, the final word is with our project leader, **Turo Uskali**, but by default editorial decisions are made by the on-duty staff writer.

As journalism scholars and journalists, we are committed to the ethical norms[1] set by the Finnish journalists' self-regulating body. Consequently, everything we do is done within reason to ensure

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what we publish is correct and balanced. When corrections or additions are needed, they are openly owned up to.

Story categories

At the moment, we publish three types of texts: news, events and trends. They each have their own colour-coded categories. The links to them, you can find, at the top of your screen. All story types appear on the front page, with the newest text always at the top.

Trends: This page/text is in the trends category. Trends are longer, and they usually provide a broad overview of a certain issue.

Events: are overviews of upcoming events, usually containing our favourite picks of the program. Events may also be conference reports, if and when we have someone on the scene.

News: the most high-volume category comprises news stories. They are short texts that usually convey some of the core ideas presented in an article, report, call for papers – or any other item we deem worthy.

Content source indicators

The headlines of most news or event stories start with a single word in capital letters, separated from the actual headline by a colon. This word signifies the nature of the text's source.

BOOK refers to findings presented in a single, peer-reviewed volume.

ARTICLE refers to information originating from a peer-reviewed journal article.

REPORT stands for any non-peer-reviewed research, such as those from NGO's.

CFP means calls for papers, pending invitations to contribute to a conference, symposium, workshop, book, journal or the like.

TEASER e.g. ECREA2014 Few days before an event starts, we publish a teaser piece on it. The headline is preceded by the commonly used Twitter hashtag for the event (with the actual # omitted).

Tagging policy and tags

We try to use as few different tags as possible, and we keep a list of approved tags to make sure new ones don't get hastily introduced. Every tag we've ever used is shown on the tag cloud, on the edge at the right of the screen. The following guidelines regulate our tagging policy.

Mostly tags are named after common noun research subjects. For example, "newspapers" is a tag while "New York Times" is not.

Country names are only used as tags when the source material suggests nationally generalizable findings. A series of interviews with German journalists will not be tagged with "Germany", unless the authors suggest the results are representative of all German journalists.

Names of individuals/people or institutions are not used as tags. But organization names are used as tags, when the text is directly about that specific institution and not about research conducted by it. Typically this tag is used in nomination news.

Names of theories, research methodologies or schools of thought are not used as tags, unless the text is directly about a particular construct and not about research conducted within the framework of it. For example, a field theory analysis per se would not have its namesake tag attached to it, but a research into the applicability of field theory in a certain context would.

Linking and hidden content

Whenever there's more information available online, we link to it. All our links open to a new browser tab or a window, depending on your personal settings. You will find our links at the end of each text, usually in the form of a single word in a **bold font**.

Sometimes we get information only through e-mails, to which we can't link. This usually happens with calls for papers that haven't been uploaded yet. In cases like these we publish, whenever possible, the entire source text within our own story. To cut some of the length, we usually hide this extra content behind a collapsible tab.

Sometimes we also hide things like event program suggestions or book indexes.

Whenever there's a grey bar saying something like "Show entire call for papers" at the end of a story, there is always some hidden content. Clicking the grey bar makes the content visible. Clicking the word 'collapse' hides the visible content.

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