



UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

## To The Helsingin Sanomat Foundation

### Final report: Working practices in data journalism

The aim of the research project was to find out the best practices to apply data based material in journalism by interviewing prominent data journalists and analyzing 'industry award' data journalism stories in the USA, UK and Finland.

One result was the scant use of open data in many editorial offices. On the other hand, the role of freedom of information acts (FOIA) in data requests was emphasized in several 'industry award' data projects. Therefore, the importance of FOIA is expected to increase in the future.

According to the research, data journalism in Finland was concentrated in the largest media houses such as the public broadcasting company YLE and Helsingin Sanomat newspaper.

The project also generated new questions of how to produce new solutions in data visualization, and interactive data stories, and about the significance of mobile devices in data journalism. Also best practices in basic training on data journalism were discussed.

The key publication of the project was a Finnish manual / text book [Datajournalismin työkäytännöt](#) (Working practices in data journalism) by Turo Uskali and Heikki Kuutti as the first overall presentation of data journalism. Also several scientific articles were produced and published in journals (among others [The Journal of Media Innovations](#) and *Procomma Academics*).

Results of the project were shared amongst various social networks such as [DAJORE blog](#) (10,000 visitors by 2016) and the Facebook group [Data Journalism Research](#) (with over 400 followers by 2016). Facebook activities are planned to continue after the cessation of the project.

In addition to these social media platforms, results of the project were introduced in several international and national conferences in Belgium, Norway, Croatia, Canada,

Denmark and the United Kingdom. A side product of the project was the formation in 2013 of NODA, a collaborative group of Nordic researchers and journalists, which held its first conference in Sweden in 2013. [NODA's third conference](#) will be held in 2016 in Helsinki, Finland in co-operation with the Finnish investigative journalists' association.

Results of the project were also used in developing data journalism education at the University of Jyväskylä. By 2016, more than 50 students have completed these advanced data journalism courses. Outcomes of these data journalism courses were presented internationally at the European Journalism Training Associations (EJTA) seminars in Jyväskylä and Dublin in 2014.

On behalf of the project,

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