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A Preliminary Analysis of Current Issues and Improvement Approaches in Television News Gathering and Editing (Postprint)

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Abstract

The continuous development and renewal of new media has exerted tremendous impact upon the television news industry, necessitating that journalists make adequate preparations to respond. Based on previous work experience, this article summarizes the problems facing television news gathering and editing, and discusses methods for improving television news gathering and editing work from six aspects: constructing flexible interview forms, staying close to people's livelihood, enhancing service awareness, transforming supervision methods, emphasizing news interaction, and identifying the correct entry point for services.

Full Text

An Analysis of Current Problems and Improvement Approaches in Television News Gathering and Editing

Abstract: The continuous development and renewal of new media have profoundly impacted the television news industry, requiring journalists to prepare adequate responses. Based on previous work experience, this paper summarizes the problems facing television news gathering and editing, and discusses improvement methods from six aspects: constructing flexible interview formats, staying close to people's livelihood, enhancing service awareness, transforming supervision methods, emphasizing news interaction, and identifying appropriate service entry points.

Keywords: television news; gathering and editing; service awareness; supervision methods

Introduction

From an essential perspective, television news gathering and editing constitutes a highly complex undertaking that encompasses not only the corresponding workflows but also the intrinsic nature of the editorial process itself. At present, as the new media environment continues to mature, television news gathering and editing have revealed numerous deficiencies that require in-depth reform. In this new era of development, television news must confront challenges head-on to secure better opportunities for improvement and create favorable conditions for future development. Fundamentally, audiences can now not only receive information but also participate in its further dissemination under the influence of new media technologies, allowing them to engage in the news production process and express their thoughts through comments that reach others. In the development of television news media, journalists should thoroughly innovate traditional news program formats, strengthen interaction with audiences, and make news programs more distinctive. The production of specific news content must demonstrate proficient editorial techniques, ensuring greater fluency and naturalness during broadcast to create both emotional and visual impact, thereby enhancing news attention. Television news gathering and editing should guarantee synchronization between visual and audio elements, strengthening visual and auditory effects to make programs more compelling—only then will audiences be more willing to watch. Staff can also focus news content on current hot topics, integrating relevant information to form news stories that attract viewership while demonstrating news influence.[1]

1.1 The Importance of Television News Gathering and Editing

As the pace of China's social development accelerates and living standards improve, audiences seek to obtain more real-time information from news programs. Combined with the popularization of new media, the television news media industry faces considerable challenges. News gathering and editing represents a crucial component of television news work that must align with mainstream social discourse, serving as the fundamental guarantee for news production. Therefore, in the development of television news media, gathering and editing work holds significant importance. Relevant staff can achieve in-depth optimization of television news quality through vigorous innovation in gathering and editing, enabling them to fulfill their duties and responsibilities and helping the public understand more information and truth about news events. Influenced by the new media environment, information dissemination channels have multiplied, and audiences struggle to accurately distinguish information authenticity. Television news media can leverage its long-established credibility to guide social discourse in the correct direction. Additionally, television news gathering and editing personnel can expand television news dissemination channels and enrich content by innovating work approaches and utilizing new media's communication advantages. This not only improves news program quality but also enhances audience satisfaction.

1.2 Main Content of Television News Gathering and Editing

Television news gathering and editing primarily aims to serve the public and satisfy audience demand for news content. Previously, news content dissemination formats were overly singular, reducing media flexibility and leaving audiences in a fixed, passive position when obtaining news information. With the continuous development of new media, people's communication methods have changed, with mobile phones and the internet becoming primary information sources. Therefore, in television media development, the principle of "proactive engagement" should be followed, using new forms of information carriers to involve more people in browsing and transmitting television news while helping them access news anytime and anywhere. People can also apply more new information carriers according to actual conditions, creating favorable conditions for subsequent news gathering and editing work.

2.1 Multiple Information Carriers

In the application and creation of information carriers, news gathering and editing work has innovated alongside the continuous development of high-tech electronic products, enabling practitioners to no longer be limited to using voice recorders, recording pens, and smartphones. With the help of network hard drives, information storage capacity has expanded, making storage unrestricted by time and space. As new media continues to develop, people's communication methods have changed, with mobile phones and the internet becoming the main sources of information. Therefore, in television media development, the principle of "proactive engagement" should be followed, using new forms of information carriers to involve more people in browsing and transmitting television news while helping them access news anytime and anywhere.

2.2 Diversified Information Resource Channels

In the development of the media industry, media convergence serves as the foundation, ensuring everyone can participate in the information dissemination process—this represents the essential characteristic of information transmission in the self-media era. However, because everyone can disseminate and create information, content quality cannot be fundamentally guaranteed. Therefore, relevant staff must perform information selection and screening during gathering and editing work; otherwise, authenticity becomes difficult to judge. The television news gathering and editing environment exhibits strong complexity, requiring staff to prepare in advance to properly address this challenge.

3.1 Impact of Computer Network Media

During television news gathering and editing, actual news content and specific manifestation forms are closely related, with interviews being a crucial factor. Through editorial operations, interviews can remain centered on news themes

and facts while conducting corresponding investigations. In specific news gathering and editing operations, maintaining good relationships with staff from other industries is also necessary, considering differences in background, experience, and age to select appropriate editorial methods. The application of computer networks can break through time and space limitations, allowing people to browse news content anytime and anywhere while also saving and downloading valuable news information for later viewing. However, television news can only broadcast relevant content at fixed times, leaving many audience needs unmet. The influence of computer networks has brought new challenges and pressures to television news gathering and editing staff, making it impossible to guarantee the completeness of news content.

3.2 Impact of New Technology

From the perspective of information technology development, it can not only meet people's needs but also demonstrate functions and effects in new fields. Smartphones, tablets, and other devices have become widespread, and many new terminal applications such as WeChat and Weibo have popularized, greatly accelerating news information dissemination and receiving strong public welcome. In daily life, as long as people have mobile phones and internet access, they can browse various types of news information and express their views and comments. It is precisely the emergence of these new technologies that has seriously impacted television news gathering and editing work, causing its status in the news field to decline significantly and losing many audience groups.

3.3 Obvious Lag in Television News

In modern life, the reason computer network media can receive widespread public welcome is not only due to its extensive reach but also its extremely fast dissemination speed, capable of delivering different types of news messages to audiences simultaneously. Additionally, many news releases now spread through network media. However, from the perspective of television news dissemination, news broadcasting exhibits obvious lag characteristics. More seriously, much television news content originates from online sources, failing to demonstrate innovative features and causing people to lose interest in watching.

3.4 Lack of Practicality in Television News

In practical work, many television news gathering and editing staff, in order to improve work efficiency and obtain more news information, remain in the retrieval scope without reflecting people's vital interests in the content. The information value is extremely limited. Audiences cannot perceive content value when watching news programs and sometimes even discover false news messages that do not match reality. Under these influences, people can easily lose interest in watching television news and shift their focus to computer media or mobile news applications, which is extremely detrimental to the development of the television news industry.[2]

4. Improvement Methods for Television News Gathering and Editing

Currently, the new media environment has become the mainstream environment for modern news industry development. For television news to gain more development opportunities, it needs to rationally innovate gathering and editing approaches. Only then can the smooth progress of television news gathering and editing work be maintained.

4.1 Constructing Flexible Interview Formats With the continuous progress and development of internet technology, its advantages have gradually emerged and been welcomed by various fields. Many people combine the internet with computers to provide great convenience for life and work. Interview work itself is a gradual process that must not be rushed or impatient, ensuring the rational implementation of the entire process. In grasping relevant issues, appropriate questions should be raised at suitable times to acquire more valuable news information. Finally, staff must fully grasp interview details, understand how to observe expressions and emotions, use questions to guide interviewees, and see their reactions to judge the actual situation of events.

4.2 Staying Close to People' s Livelihood As the saying goes: society is people' s livelihood. From China' s development in recent years, it is evident that the state attaches increasing importance to livelihood issues, especially since the 19th Party Congress, with more news reports linking to livelihood topics. As news gathering and editing staff, it is necessary to maintain good service awareness, embody the fundamental purpose of serving the people, and actively conduct research and discussions on livelihood-related topics to reflect people' s real needs. Additionally, reporting formats should be reasonably adjusted according to actual conditions. From previous work experience, gathering and editing staff should uncover hidden problems in practice and propose reasonable solutions without adding any personal emotional color. In analyzing public needs, staff should delve into real life, strengthen problem authenticity, and thereby improve judgment accuracy. Generally, the design and arrangement of main news programs should demonstrate down-to-earth characteristics, with different broadcasting formats in different regions. Especially in local television news program production targeting primarily rural audiences, content communication should be simple and clear, showing understandable characteristics, and must not continue the preachy format of traditional news, otherwise it will cause serious confusion and lose the true meaning of news dissemination.[3]

4.3 Enhancing Service Awareness The presentation of television news content focuses on content design. From a certain perspective, all audience groups want to obtain truly valuable information. However, in the new media environment, the volume of information produced is enormous, and gathering and editing staff must reasonably screen it, which poses a tremendous test to their professional competence. Only by improving the basic qualities of gathering and editing staff can valuable content be identified from massive information to

guide the television news industry toward better development. In practical work, relevant staff should maintain a strong sense of progress and continuously enrich themselves to strengthen professional capabilities. News gathering and editing staff should also possess strong professional responsibility and information sensitivity, using comprehensive qualities as evaluation criteria to strengthen the completeness and authenticity of assessment work. From the perspective of the new media development environment, due to the large volume of information, people find it difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood. At this time, news gathering and editing workers can present authentic information to audiences through diversified verification of news events, achieving comprehensive reporting. From the perspective of talent transformation, besides professional improvement, moral enhancement cannot be ignored to ensure that gathering and editing staff keep the public in mind and thereby demonstrate service value in news content.

4.4 Transformation of Supervision Methods With the transformation of supervision methods, relevant units also need to make adjustments to strengthen supervision of television news gathering and editing work and fundamentally determine problem-solving strategies. To improve gathering and editing work through supervision, besides making staff aware of the seriousness of issues, new motivation must be added to their work. The main measures and methods are as follows: First, establish complete laws and regulations with comprehensive refinement of legal norms, especially during the development of traditional television media, requiring targeted adjustments for integrated media development. Second, rationally improve supervision mechanisms. For example, relevant departments can establish appropriate investigation groups according to different regional characteristics to ensure comprehensive supervision and management. For relevant law-breaking and discipline-violating personnel, managers can formulate effective punishment measures to make them aware of problem seriousness. Third, various departments can use policy guidance to provide more sustainable development opportunities for the television news industry. Only in this way can more convenient conditions be provided for news gathering and editing staff. From a systemic perspective, the transformation of editing methods is extremely important, shifting from traditional online editing to diversified interactive editing forms, enabling audiences to form zero-distance communication with television news gathering and editing staff to truly understand public thoughts and their personalized news needs.[4]

4.5 Emphasizing News Interaction In the new media era, television belongs to traditional media. Although it has been greatly affected during development, television media can use the new media development trend to ensure media integration and achieve common development and progress, creating more participation and communication opportunities for audiences. With the popularization of Weibo and WeChat in daily life, other television news programs can be integrated and interactive discussion topics designed to enhance audience

recognition of television news content. For example, in the creation of the “First Time” television news program, great emphasis is placed on in-depth sharing of discussion content, which not only narrows the distance between news and audiences but also further improves program ratings. Therefore, in specific news gathering and editing work, all staff should establish reasonable related discussion topics from the audience perspective, thereby providing more opportunities for audience participation and exchange, allowing people to truly integrate with actual television news programs.

4.6 Identifying Appropriate Service Entry Points In actual news gathering and editing work, staff should determine the best entry point for interview work according to actual events and issues. Only in this way can interviewees be guided to express what they know and think, ultimately obtaining desired information. The reasonable selection of entry points also requires in-depth analysis of interviewees’ age, personal experiences, and other content to reasonably grasp their psychology. Additionally, in the interview and reporting of some major news events, to demonstrate depth and breadth characteristics, the reasonable determination of entry points is equally important for on-site teaching. When the screen switches to valuable content, hosts can lead the audience to sort out news backgrounds, using data collection and analysis to strengthen news program quality. It is worth noting that television news services primarily target grassroots people. In content editing, the development of China’s livelihood policies should serve as the orientation, delving into ordinary people’s lives to understand their actual needs and inner thoughts and presenting them in news content. This also represents the main direction for television news gathering and editing work to determine service entry points.

Conclusion

In summary, in the new media environment, it is necessary to deeply understand problems existing in the news gathering and editing process and continuously improve them to align news development with actual needs. Only in this way can various problems be solved. Therefore, in subsequent television news gathering and editing work, actual targeted characteristics need to be presented to keep pace with the times and thereby demonstrate the true value of television news.

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Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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