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On the Principal Characteristics of News Editing in the Digital Age: Postprint

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Abstract

The advent of the digital era has exerted profound influences on social and economic development. For the development of different industries and fields, digitization also plays a transformative role in altering their developmental directions. This paper primarily conducts an analysis of the changes arising from the impact of the digital era on the evolution of news editing work, thereby achieving a focused understanding of the principal developmental characteristics of news editing work in the digital era, with the aspiration of promoting news communication activities.

Full Text

On the Main Characteristics of News Editing Work in the Digital Age

Abstract: The advent of the digital age has profoundly impacted society and economic development, fundamentally altering developmental trajectories across industries and sectors. This paper analyzes the transformations triggered in news editing work under digital age influences, focusing on identifying its key developmental characteristics to facilitate the advancement of news communication activities.

Keywords: digital age; news editing work; characteristics

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In their work, news editors face a landscape of simultaneous opportunities and challenges. How to fully leverage digital technology to advance news editing work in the digital age is a question every journalist must confront and consider. Understanding and analyzing the digital age, as well as comprehending the characteristics of news editing work under its influence, can help news editing work meet challenges and achieve breakthroughs and development.

1.1 The Meaning of the Digital Age

The digital age, also referred to as the information age, has fundamentally transformed people's cognition and understanding of information. With information being produced at increasingly rapid speeds, news editing work has been significantly affected. Essentially, the digital age can also be called the electronic information age, characterized by openness and sharing, which enables high-speed transmission of information based on electronic platforms.

1.2 News Editing Work

News editing work primarily refers to the overall design, planning, and direction of news communication activities, serving as the central management and control mechanism for news dissemination. News editors bear three main responsibilities: First, integrating news information. After collecting news through various channels, editors must organize and categorize complex, diverse information while fulfilling the social function of news communication—this constitutes their primary duty. Second, gatekeeping. During the news screening process, editors must exercise control by filtering out content that fails to meet established standards or requirements. Third, ensuring authenticity and accuracy. In this process, news editors must assume corresponding social responsibility, guaranteeing the truthfulness of collected and edited news throughout the processes of gathering, planning, and dissemination.

1.3 News Editing Work in the Digital Age

The integration of the digital age and news editing work has given rise to digital publishing. Digital publishing refers to a new mode of news dissemination—distinct from traditional media—whereby news editors, after selecting, screening, editing, and digitally producing news information, transmit it via the internet or other client platforms to attract audiences for browsing and downloading. This development has profoundly impacted the traditional media industry while simultaneously creating opportunities for development and transformation. In the current digital era, an increasing number of traditional media outlets have undertaken reforms to gradually transition into the digital age, thereby promoting their own further development. Against this backdrop, the work content, roles, and task positioning of news editors have undergone corresponding changes. Notably, both editing methods and audience demands have shifted significantly in this new era, giving rise to new characteristics and features of news editing work.

2.1 Higher Demands for Accuracy and Authenticity

The digital age has brought about extremely rapid and increasingly convenient information production and dissemination, profoundly impacting and transforming news transmission methods. This enables news editing work to leverage digital media for self-improvement and gradual digitalization. Regardless of media form—whether traditional media such as newspapers, radio, and books, or new digital platforms like mobile phones and computers—news editors face demands for information accuracy and authenticity. However, during the transition from traditional to digital media, the accelerating speed and increasing volume of information production impose even higher requirements for accuracy and authenticity in news editing work. In current network dissemination, the public can obtain information promptly through various channels. Notably, new media platforms like mobile phones and computers often deliver information faster and more conveniently than traditional media such as broadcast, television, and newspapers. Consequently, news editors must utilize their technical capabilities to ensure timeliness and accuracy in information gathering.

News editors face certain limitations in layout space, requiring careful consideration of how to effectively use limited space to convey key points. This tests editors' professional competence. Therefore, digital-age news editors should master work methods and techniques proficiently while effectively integrating information with professional knowledge. Against the backdrop of digital development, the role of statistical theory knowledge and software-computer tools has become increasingly prominent, enriching news presentation forms. New methods continuously emerge in news content dissemination and display, better capturing audience attention and satisfying their needs and interests. In the digital age, news editors must enhance their comprehensive qualities, mastering more digital equipment and software, such as PS for image, audio, and video editing, graphic drawing technology, and photographic editing techniques. Proficiency in these sophisticated tools is essential for modern news editing work, enabling editors to better grasp news editing skills, control news depth and direction from a holistic perspective, and align more effectively with audience demands.

2.2 Reduced Difficulty of News Editing Work

In traditional news communication, news editing work was relatively difficult, not only due to low equipment efficiency in editing and processing information and limited capacity to screen and edit large volumes of information, but also because of very slow editing speeds. Information editing and post-production were critical components of the overall news process, placing high demands on editors. These factors significantly influenced news editing, requiring excellent post-production capabilities and extensive experience to meet development requirements. In the digital age, an increasing array of equipment technologies and software applications for news editing enables more effective, convenient, and accurate information analysis. Post-production can leverage various tools

and software to process audio, video, images, and text, reducing human and material resource investment. This not only lowers the difficulty of news editing and improves efficiency but also enhances the quality of news editing work.

2.3 News Editors as Controllers of News Communication Activities

Currently, with the continuous development and advancement of the information age, news is produced at increasingly rapid speeds with stronger timeliness. However, numerous tasks must be completed before a news story is broadcast. During the editing process, editors must integrate the characteristics of their media outlet or column to make information screening more targeted, determine topics according to program requirements, collect manuscripts and related materials, and then process them into final drafts before they can enter media dissemination. Faced with complex and massive volumes of various types of manuscript information, news editors must establish certain standards for preliminary information screening. Therefore, in terms of information control and selection, news editors can exercise control over the entire news activity. In the digital age, the importance of gatekeeping by news workers has become increasingly prominent, with strict management and control of information according to established standards.

News editors serve as guides for news topics. In digital age development, not only does information emerge and spread faster, but people also receive information more quickly and conveniently. News media have leveraged the characteristics of digital age information transmission and reception to establish and develop numerous news communication platforms. For instance, many media outlets such as *People's Daily* have opened accounts on WeChat Official Platforms and Weibo. Users can promptly grasp and understand relevant information by following these accounts, and can also comment on reported news events and interact with news editors. From this perspective, news editing work in the digital age plays a guiding role in news topics.

2.4 Higher Requirements for Comprehensive Editor Qualities

Although the advantages of news editing work have gradually become prominent in the digital age development process, the changing development landscape imposes higher requirements on the comprehensive qualities of news editors. While digital-age news editing work does not demand excessive attention to language phrasing or require overly decorative expressions, it demands mastery of concise yet substantive presentation within limited layouts and images.

This paper has primarily discussed the changes and impacts that the digital age has brought to news editing work, as well as its main characteristics under digital age conditions—important components for both news editing work and overall news activities. Only by seizing the opportunities brought by digital age

development can news editing work better promote the advancement of China's news media industry.

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

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