

Improving News Editorial Operations Through Data Technology Applications (Postprint)

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Abstract

With the support of computer technology, the standards of news editing have been further enhanced. Currently, news editors can leverage rich imagination and broad perspectives to achieve more comprehensive news operations through effective data and visualizations. This paper briefly outlines the existing problems in news editing under data technology and provides a detailed discussion on methods to improve news editing operations.

Full Text

Abstract

With the support of computer technology, news editing standards have undergone significant improvement. Contemporary news editors can now leverage rich imagination and broad perspectives to achieve more comprehensive news operations through effective data and visualizations. This article briefly outlines the existing problems in news editing under data technology and discusses specific methods for improving news editing operations.

Keywords: data technology; news editing; business standards

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As information technology becomes increasingly integrated into daily life, audiences demand higher quality news reporting. Traditional news reporting forms can no longer satisfy these needs, with current quality requirements emphasizing both the authenticity of news itself and service consciousness toward audiences. The continuous evolution of news editing has merged with data technology,

forming mechanized statistical and analytical capabilities. Data analysis technology can now automatically generate analytical charts, demonstrating that data technology can effectively promote the development of news editing operations.

1. The Impact of Data Technology on News Editing Operations

The essence of news is information transmission. Against the backdrop of the big data era, news dissemination is gradually evolving toward greater speed and diversity. This transformation has integrated news editing with data technology, fundamentally altering the daily work content of online news editors and resulting in much online news appearing in the form of data journalism.

1.1 Data Journalism as a Product of the Era

From the perspective of contemporary news editing development, data journalism editing represents an inevitable product of the big data era. In terms of primary editorial content, it involves using data technology to edit news reports. From the traditional media perspective, data technology primarily employs computer-assisted tools for data collection and organization—a visual processing method. News media editing in the big data era mainly refers to the transformation from network editing to data journalism editing, where diverse online information data becomes the source for news broadcasting. Big data technology enables data journalism editors to discover more valuable and meaningful news amid ongoing advances in information technology. This demonstrates that data journalism represents both a new form of news genre and a new challenge for data journalism work.

1.2 Simplification of News Editing Work

Under the influence of data technology, news editing workflows are gradually becoming simplified. Since massive amounts of news data can be found online, data journalism editors can utilize computer-assisted technology to independently complete information collection, processing, and other workflows based on big data mining. Compared with traditional models, data technology has moved away from the “integrated collection and editing” work model. This simplification primarily manifests in changed writing and contribution patterns for editors, reduced unnecessary communication and collaboration among staff, and consequently simpler traditional news editing work content, which to some extent helps save time for collection and editing personnel.

1.3 Improving Information Dissemination Efficiency

Data journalism editing helps improve information dissemination efficiency by enabling clear and accurate understanding of news event changes within massive

datasets. Through staff efforts, valuable news information can be extracted from big data. However, for most news audiences, excessive data volume often makes precise information comprehension difficult. Data journalism editors can render data news more vivid and concise through data selection and processing, making news reports produced from big data easier to read and understand. With reduced intermediate links, audiences can grasp the full picture of news in less time.

2. Problems in News Editing Under Data Technology

2.1 Lack of Timeliness

Overall, the primary problem in traditional news media operation is the obvious lag in news information. Typically, news information editing needs to be completed within specific timeframes. As the big data era continues to develop, the integration of big data with news editing requires editors to understand the characteristics of the big data era, correctly recognize the limitations of news information, enable news editing to adapt to the developing big data environment, and explore new development methods through continuous practice.

2.2 Problems in News Editing Operations

In news information editing, news editing work is equally important as collection and editing work. Traditionally, these functions belong to two separate departments with opposing orientations. While both editors and collection staff can promote the operation and development of their respective departments, the current separation between news editing and collection/editing work causes news information to lose timeliness. Additionally, problems in news editing operations also lead to inconsistent perspectives on the same news information issue in the big data era.

2.3 Narrow Editorial Perspectives

News editing operations constitute a critical link in news publishing work. Driven by the data era, traditional news editing methods can no longer adapt to further development of the information age. Practice surveys show that most Chinese news editors employ uniform visual analysis of key content when broadcasting news. When editing news information, editors should avoid principle errors; for instance, when discussing hot news issues, they should not think too one-sidedly but should analyze problems using scientific and reasonable methods.

3. Methods for Improving News Editing Operations Under Data Technology

While ensuring the technical proficiency of news editors, the goal is to provide the best news information for audiences. Therefore, under the influence of big

data, methods for news editors to improve their operations can be analyzed from the following aspects:

3.1 Understanding the Applicability of Data Journalism

Data journalism editors must not only possess strong online news text editing abilities but also master news picture and audio-video editing skills. Moreover, they need to understand computer data mining and processing work, such as data value analysis and graphic design. From existing Chinese news practice, data journalism primarily relates to public affairs or matters concerning national economy and people's livelihood. Relying solely on text or charts cannot achieve breakthroughs in news editing content. Fields such as political elections, energy, and sports should complete news editing through data technology. For global and macro issues in news reporting, the inherent authority of digital news can improve the comprehensiveness and intuitiveness of news reports. Fundamentally, however, big data technology is not suitable for all news reporting topics—not all news needs to appear in data-driven form. The core of data technology manifests in its correlation with news reporting, structuring complex news information to the maximum extent possible. Typically, when browsing online news, users record the full picture of news in the shortest time, obtain relevant life tips from news information, and finally contemplate the profound implications expressed by the news according to their traditional reading habits.

3.2 Integrating Data Technology with News Planning

Under data technology's influence, relevant staff should develop deeper abilities in collecting and mining data—that is, further improving their capacity to use computer technology to achieve data integration. Discovering more valuable news through data technology is an essential capability for every news media professional, currently termed “news sensitivity,” which primarily manifests in editors' mastery of technology. News editors should also actively observe social reality based on big data and express their own views. Typically, news works completed through data technology need to face audiences; for example, finding suitable topics in massive datasets requires integrating data technology with news planning—discovering news in data to derive topics, or mining data during the topic selection process. For instance, regarding news about the 2017 international oil price decline on a certain website, placing this headline in the top spot of a section can achieve planning of social hot news.

3.3 Multi-party Collaboration in Data Journalism Editing

The internet era is one that requires interaction and sharing. Under the influence of increasingly popular big data technology, data journalism editing has gradually moved away from independent operation. Independent data collection methods primarily involve government agencies, commercial institutions, and other sources. News editors are making maximum efforts to participate in data statistics and analysis work, and under the premise of open data sources,

data journalism editing can compare and integrate existing resources to achieve secondary news dissemination. Multi-party collaborative data journalism editing can effectively reduce daily working time and avoid data collection risks in other fields.

Conclusion

In summary, data technology significantly impacts news editing operations, primarily manifested in three aspects: as a product of data news media, effectively promoting simplification of news editing work, and improving news dissemination efficiency. Under data technology, the main problems in news editing include lack of timeliness, low operational proficiency, and narrow editorial perspectives. The primary methods for improving news editing operations under data technology include: further understanding the applicability of data journalism, achieving integration between data technology and news planning, and employing multi-party collaboration to complete data journalism editing.

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

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