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## Technical Literacy for Editors and Journalists in the Information Age: A Post-print

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### Abstract

With the development and upgrading of networks, we have entered the information age. In this era, audience demands have undergone tremendous changes; audiences require news products to be more timely, comprehensive, and multidimensional, which imposes higher requirements on the technical literacy of editors and journalists. Therefore, how to improve the literacy of editors and journalists in the information age has become a pressing issue for news organizations.

### Full Text

## Technical Literacy of Editors and Journalists in the Information Age

**Abstract:** With the development and upgrading of network technologies, society has entered the information age, during which audience demands have undergone tremendous changes. Contemporary audiences require news products to be faster, more comprehensive, and more multidimensional, placing higher demands on the technical literacy of editors and journalists. Consequently, how to improve the competencies of editorial staff has become an urgent issue for news organizations to address.

**Keywords:** information age; editors and journalists; technical literacy

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### 1.1 Interviewing Techniques

In the information age, audiences possess significantly higher cultural literacy and increasingly demand deeper, more substantive information. They seek to understand the full context and underlying causes of news events. For editors and journalists, this necessitates strong interviewing capabilities to gather

comprehensive material. Prior to conducting interviews, professionals should integrate relevant background information, utilizing the internet to collect data related to the news topic. Interview questions must be carefully designed to be targeted and effective, covering basic facts, event details, and background information while avoiding repetitive or superficial inquiries.

Editors must cultivate innovative thinking to ensure their questions are creative and thought-provoking, rather than formulaic. This involves verifying information authenticity to enable in-depth and follow-up reporting. The ability to excavate valuable information is crucial—editors should be skilled at distinguishing valuable leads from irrelevant data, discerning quality from mediocrity, and separating truth from falsehood. Only through such discernment can they elicit genuine responses that satisfy audience needs and enhance interview quality.

### **1.2 Planning Techniques**

After gathering information, editors require sophisticated planning skills to determine the direction of major news coverage. The emergence and development of information technologies have dramatically transformed communication patterns, shifting audiences from passive recipients to active participants in information consumption. Therefore, competent editors and journalists must thoroughly understand audience needs to produce high-quality, in-depth news reports.

### **1.3 Photography Techniques**

To obtain first-hand materials, editors must possess strong photography skills. Through photography, they can visually document events with authenticity and vividness, subsequently selecting the most representative images for publication. Mastery of composition techniques, lighting principles, and timing is essential, along with proficiency in post-processing software such as Photoshop. Additionally, editors should employ various digital editing techniques in news production, using tools like digital recorders during interviews to facilitate later transcription and editing, thereby improving both efficiency and authenticity.

### **1.5 News Processing Techniques**

The information-based and networked development of society demands that editors analyze audience information needs and apply various processing techniques to enhance news editing efficiency. Adhering to an audience-centered principle, editors should utilize multiple information processing methods to enrich news communication formats. For instance, they can employ text, multimedia, and other modalities to conduct in-depth reporting.

## 1.6 Computer Operation Techniques

With the rapid advancement of internet and computer technologies, most editorial work is now computer-based. Editors must master computer operation skills and common software applications. They should also develop network security awareness to protect data through proper storage, regular antivirus scanning, and preventing information loss or system damage that could disrupt normal operations.

## 1.7 Digital Equipment Operation Techniques

Digital technology has developed rapidly and been widely applied in news editing. Editors should be proficient in operating digital equipment, mastering techniques for digital editing, recording, storage, and transmission. This enables them to independently complete the entire news production process, from gathering to editing to publishing, ensuring seamless workflow integration.

## 1.8 Professional Foreign Language Techniques

In the information age, editors should be able to use professional foreign languages for international reporting. This is particularly critical when interviewing foreign subjects, as proficiency allows for effective communication and enables acquisition of exclusive information.

## 2.1 Grasping the Pulse of the Times

In the information age, audience needs have become increasingly diversified. To better serve broad audiences, editors must understand contemporary trends, continuously improve their professional technical skills, and master news communication patterns. They should maintain awareness of the times and consistently upgrade their expertise.

## 2.2 Improving Professional Technical Skills

The rapid speed of information transmission represents a primary advantage of modern media. Editors must emphasize timeliness throughout the reporting process, striving to be faster and more efficient. Upon encountering breaking news, they can use mobile devices to immediately transmit images, information, and videos back to the newsroom, enabling prompt reporting while ensuring comprehensiveness and capturing key details. In this fast-paced era where news events occur constantly, editors must also innovate in news editing and communication modes to achieve “accuracy, brevity, precision, and speed.”

## 2.3 Improving Political Literacy and Guiding Public Opinion

News serves as a primary channel for the public to understand society and national policies. As members of society, editors bear important responsibilities in guiding public opinion. To ensure their reporting is truthful, accurate,

and socially impactful, editors must maintain high professional ethics, establish correct worldviews and values, and adhere to truth-seeking principles when disseminating information.

#### 2.4 Enhancing Innovation Awareness

The quality of news reporting fundamentally depends on editors' innovative consciousness. Editors should integrate their understanding of local audience characteristics and psychological needs to create innovative reporting formats that fully satisfy diverse audience demands.

#### 2.5 Improving Cultural Literacy and Writing Skills

News is fundamentally a linguistic art, placing higher demands on editors' writing abilities. Competent editors must possess acute thinking capabilities and profound writing skills to convey rich content through concise language that attracts and engages audiences.

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