

Strategies for Improving Legal News Reporting in the New Media Context: Postprint

Authors: Li Yang

Date: 2023-10-08T00:00:00+00:00

Abstract

Legal news constitutes a critically important category of journalism that plays a significant guiding role in disseminating legal knowledge and popularizing legal content. In the current new media context, legal news reporting is confronted with considerable challenges. Continuing to employ traditional reporting methods not only fails to enhance effectiveness but also, to a certain extent, adversely affects audience information reception. Therefore, it is imperative to intensify exploration of new media and to conduct research and analysis on legal news reporting from the perspective of the new media context.

Full Text

Preamble

Strategies for Improving Legal News Reporting in the New Media Context

Abstract: Legal news is an extremely important category of journalism that provides significant guidance for publicizing legal knowledge and popularizing legal content. In the current new media context, legal news reporting faces challenges; continuing to employ traditional reporting methods not only fails to enhance its effectiveness but also, to a certain extent, impedes audience information reception. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen research on new media and analyze legal news reporting from the perspective of the new media context. In recent years, the number of legal programs has been increasing, which has promoted legal publicity. However, fundamentally speaking, with the advent of the new media era, traditional legal media has undergone major changes. There is a need to strengthen exploration of new media and, from the perspective of legal news reporting, actively investigate strategies and models suitable for current development trends to truly achieve comprehensive and effective legal news reporting.

Keywords: new media; legal news; news reporting; strategies

Classification Code: G222.1

Document Code: A

Article ID: 1671-0134(2018)02-100-02

DOI: 10.19483/j.cnki.11-4653/n.2018.02.040

Author: Li Yang

1. How New Media Benefits Legal News

Both the 18th and 19th National Congresses of the Communist Party of China have called for further deepening judicial system reform, establishing a well-developed socialist judicial system with Chinese characteristics, and establishing the rule of law as the fundamental principle of governance. Against this backdrop, legal news has expanded its reach, and specialized legal media coverage has attracted considerable attention in the macro environment. In the new media era, the Internet is the most representative platform. As the primary derivative of new media, the Internet has gradually developed into the main means of communication today, while posing constraints on traditional legal news—primarily high production costs, declining profits, and talent drain. From this perspective, we can clearly recognize the important role of new media in the development of our times: First, new media enables rapid information dissemination. As an indispensable part of the news system, legal news benefits from new media's acceleration of dissemination speed, particularly through the application of the Internet, Weibo, and WeChat, with various legal content emerging continuously, opening up new channels for legal news reporting. Second, new media offers rich information content. One of the functions of legal news is to publicize laws and help audiences understand them through relevant cases. Under new media, legal news reporting content has become more diverse. Journalists can use Internet-based media carriers to select representative events for interviews and reporting, thereby achieving diversified development. Therefore, in the new media era, we must firmly grasp these advantages and, starting from the essence, do a good job in legal news reporting.

2. Current Problems in Legal News Reporting

Due to various influencing factors, such as uneven social legalization and inherent factors within the journalism industry, legal news often deviates in practice and fails to improve its effectiveness. Additionally, current legal news has shown tendencies to chase and pry into privacy, with coverage steps limited to case occurrence, investigation, and trial. Although this appears to complete news dissemination, it lacks in-depth reporting, even obscuring broader topics, failing to demonstrate discourse power and truly arouse public interest. As we all know, media serves a public opinion supervision function. However, with the ad-

vent of the new media era, public opinion has gained social importance. Against this background, legal news reporting needs to actively attract public attention. Yet, according to research, many media outlets tend to abuse their power, such as exploiting celebrity effects and media influence. While this conforms to the characteristics and requirements of the new media context, it leads to the gradual entertainment-oriented tendency of legal news, failing to truly satisfy the fundamental meaning of the rule of law and lacking in-depth legal reflection. Consequently, numerous problems exist in legal news reporting, which seriously constrain the depth of legal news exploration. Without proper investigation, legal news reporting will become fragmented and lagging.

3. Strategies for Legal News Reporting in the New Media Context

Legal news reporting needs to strengthen the application of new media, reflect its supervisory role, and actively respond to new media challenges to better achieve effective reporting.

3.1 Positive Reporting of Legal News

Reporting legal news in the new media context requires following corresponding principles and requirements, reflecting authenticity and fairness, and eliminating entertainment-oriented reporting driven by economic interests. Specifically, legal news reporting in the new media context must strictly prioritize national and people's interests and, as much as possible, report news that promotes social development. As for negative news, it can be reported as lessons learned, enabling audiences to gain experience and lessons through such reports. Since various media carriers emerge endlessly in the new media era, both WeChat and Weibo have become birthplaces for legal news with fast and wide-ranging dissemination. Therefore, when conducting legal news reporting, journalists need to strengthen their understanding and utilization of media carriers, excavate valuable legal news from them, and conduct good interviews and reporting. This not only aligns with what the public cares about but also enhances public attention and reporting efficiency.

3.2 Enhancing Professional Ethics

The main purpose of legal news reporting is to publicize laws. In legal news reporting, every journalist needs to strengthen the application of media carriers, such as using the Internet to expand dissemination influence through reprinting and forwarding, thereby fulfilling the original purpose and truly remaining true to the original aspiration. From another perspective, reporting must adhere to fairness and justice. Journalists should not arbitrarily speculate on the direction of criminal cases to avoid creating negative public opinion through their reports. Another point is that online reporting must follow the basic facts of illegal and criminal cases, view them objectively, and reflect judicial fairness and

independence. Therefore, legal news reporters need to establish correct values, continuously enhance their professional ethics, avoid out-of-context reporting, and strive to use their reporting to promote unity in online public opinion and truly combine news value with legal value.

3.3 Achieving Four Connections

3.3.1 Connecting Official and Public Sectors Currently, legal news media coverage is becoming increasingly extensive and comprehensive, exercising caution when reporting major events. However, in sudden incidents, non-legal media often seize the initiative first. Especially with the application of various media carriers, such as Weibo, which allows video uploads and text posting with one-second dissemination, legal news dissemination is affected. In contrast, legal media need to clearly recognize their responsibilities and, from their public attributes, achieve connection between official and public sectors. Particularly when facing complex interest relationships, they must mobilize personnel enthusiasm to enhance the discourse authority of legal media.

3.3.2 Connecting Traditional and Online Media In the new media context, the Internet has developed into a force to be reckoned with, and the trend of media convergence is inevitable. The emergence of the Internet has brought a new development pattern to legal news reporting. Online public opinion supervision can also reflect judicial fairness and justice, thereby promoting impartial law enforcement by judicial organs. However, from another perspective, online public opinion supervision is subject to other influencing factors, leading to online media trials and even causing contradictions between judicial transparency and online supervision. In the new media context, it is necessary to maintain calmness in legal media, follow basic principles and norms, and truly return to the events themselves in the reporting process.

3.3.3 Connecting Professionalism and Market Traditionally, media reporting has emphasized content and in-depth reporting. However, in the new media context, especially under media convergence, most legal media have gradually abandoned their original professional characteristics and become market-oriented, leading to the gradual loss of professionalism over time. In legal news construction, the lack of professionalism will cause uncertainty and even fail to reflect the guiding value of legal concepts. Therefore, in the new media context, we must start from the essence and reality, clearly recognize the influence of new media on legal news reporting, strengthen exploration, apply multiple media carriers, and achieve the connection between professionalism and the market. Specifically, in legal news reporting, we must strictly uphold professionalism, understand the basic meanings of various media carriers in the market, and apply them effectively.

3.3.4 Connecting News and Propaganda [Content not provided in original text]

References

- [1] Li Honglian. The Impact of Online Communication on Legal News Reporting [J]. *News Front*, 2016(22): 133-134.
- [2] Fan Yuji. Several Problems in Legal News Reporting [J]. *News Front*, 2016(09): 99-101.
- [3] Dai Bin. The Communication Path and Characteristics of Legal News [J]. *News Front*, 2016(06): 27-28.
- [4] Liu Geyan. Research on Maximizing Objectivity and Visual Impact in Legal News [J]. *News Research Guide*, 2016, 7(18): 233-234.
- [5] Duan Shu, Wang Ping. Problems in Current Media Legal Reporting—A Case Study of “Yang Wu Case” Reporting [J]. *Southeast Communication*, 2012(05): 30-31.
- [6] Yan Mei, Zhuang Jianfeng. A Study on TV Legal News Reporting from the Perspective of Framing Theory—A Case Study of “Yao Jiaxin Case” Reporting [J]. *International Press*, 2012, 34(08): 61-66.
- [7] Li Runyang. Characteristics and Defects of Weibo Legal News Reporting—A Case Study of “Legal Daily V” Weibo [J]. *News World*, 2014(03): 106-108.

(Author's Affiliation: Gansu Legal Daily Press)

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

Source: ChinaXiv — Machine translation. Verify with original.