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Comparative Analysis of Online News Editing and Newspaper News Editing: Postprint

Authors: Wang Qinfang

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Abstract

In recent years, China's sustained economic development has propelled rapid advances in technological applications, while computer network technology has also undergone swift evolution. Mobile terminal networks have now achieved widespread adoption, greatly facilitating people's daily news reading. Compared with traditional newspaper news, online news not only provides more convenient access to information but also enables more timely news dissemination. Naturally, every new application possesses certain drawbacks alongside its advantages. This paper primarily conducts a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences between online news editing and newspaper news editing, aiming to enable news editing practitioners to develop a deeper understanding of both online and traditional news editing.

Full Text

Preamble

Comparative Analysis of Online News Editing and Newspaper News Editing

Abstract: In recent years, China's sustained economic development has driven rapid advances in technological applications, with computer network technology evolving swiftly. Mobile internet has now achieved widespread 普及, greatly facilitating daily news consumption for the general public. Compared with traditional newspaper journalism, online news not only offers greater accessibility but also enhances the timeliness of information dissemination. Naturally, every new application brings advantages alongside inherent drawbacks. This paper primarily conducts a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences between online news editing and newspaper news editing, enabling news editors to develop a deeper understanding of both digital and traditional editing practices.

Keywords: online news editing; newspaper news editing; similarities; differences

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Author: Wang Qinfang

2. Differences Between Online News Editing and Newspaper News Editing

As a technological product of the new era, the internet has become ubiquitous in people's daily lives and work, enabling them to access desired information with unprecedented convenience. Compared with traditional newspaper journalism, online news naturally offers numerous advantages suited to contemporary development. However, the viral nature of network dissemination also exposes audiences to significant amounts of fake news. Through comparative analysis of online and newspaper news editing, editors can work more efficiently while audiences can develop more rational and clear perspectives on news consumption.

2.1 Basic Workflow Similarities Between the Two Editing Approaches

Newspaper news editing represents a traditional form of journalism that follows established procedures in sequence. The editing process requires connecting all steps: first selecting and organizing manuscripts, then carefully revising chosen pieces to better align with reading habits. After manuscript revision, layout design must be arranged according to news priority to maintain overall coherence across the newspaper page. With the rapid development of internet technology in recent years, online news editing has gained increasing recognition. China has now designated internet-related work as an important new occupational category and established corresponding legal and regulatory frameworks—undoubtedly a form of recognition and standardization for digital work. Beyond following traditional editing procedures, online news editing must incorporate additional elements such as designing relevant hyperlinks for click-through access. Overall, the fundamental workflow of online news editing remains largely similar to that of traditional newspaper editing.

2.1 Manuscript Editing in Both Approaches

2.1.1 Title Editing Both online and newspaper news editing aim to highlight news themes and capture audience interest through headlines. Due to the inherent characteristics of digital platforms, online news titles often pursue “eye-catching” appeal to genuinely stimulate reader clicks. However, before

attracting clicks, headlines must first fulfill their fundamental purpose of conveying the article's main content. Currently, many editors employ various tactics to artificially inflate click rates, resulting in frequent occurrences of misleading headlines, sensationalism, and content-headline mismatches in online news. Newspaper headline editing, by contrast, adheres to stricter standards, requiring editors to consider overall layout coherence and employ careful rhetorical devices in grammar and expression.

2.1.2 Text Editing Compared with newspaper editing, online news editing places greater emphasis on reading habits. Since news reading typically requires concentrated attention, visual fatigue can easily occur. Online news text editing must therefore accommodate this characteristic by making content more concise and readable, focusing on core ideas and viewpoints. Paragraphs should remain relatively short, with entire articles condensed to be brief and succinct. The main theme should be positioned at the beginning as an abstract, enabling readers to immediately grasp the news content.

2.1.3 Image Editing Whether in traditional newspaper or contemporary online news editing, images primarily serve to highlight articles and enhance vividness. Additionally, images contribute to overall aesthetic appeal. Their presence stimulates reader interest, leading online news editors to frequently mark images immediately after headlines, combining graphics with text to attract attention. Traditional newspaper editing has developed an established system for image selection and color adjustment, following professional protocols. For emerging online news editing, however, image editing remains a field ripe for exploration with limitless possibilities.

2.1.4 Video and Audio Editing in Online News A significant advantage of online news editing over newspaper editing lies in the ability to incorporate video and audio components. This transforms news from merely “pictures telling the truth” to a more comprehensive representation. Through careful selection and editing of video and audio materials, news events can be more fully contextualized and dynamically presented, engaging readers' visual and auditory senses simultaneously and thereby enhancing both interest and readability.

2.2 Layout Design Differences

Layout design holds different importance for online versus newspaper editing. Newspapers place greater emphasis on layout design because, unlike online news, they cannot use video or audio to attract reader interest. Print journalism must rely entirely on “layout language” to capture readers' first impressions, making design particularly crucial—indeed, this constitutes the unique charm of newspaper journalism. Online news editors, meanwhile, can comprehensively apply web design elements, combining text, images, video, and audio to create richer, more diverse “layout language” and enable more multifaceted news presentation.

2.3 Differences in Editorial Procedures

Traditional newspapers maintain strict procedural specifications for every 环节, from news gathering and writing to editing and editorial systems. However, under the impact of new media technologies and media convergence, these conventional models are gradually being broken down and reorganized. Online news editing lacks such rigid procedures; editors can publish news information with only an internet-connected computer terminal. For instance, netizens can edit and disseminate news through forums, blogs, or personal websites.

2.4 Differences in Publication Timing

Typically, newspaper publication follows fixed cycles, generally calculated by day or week. The most common daily and weekly newspapers operate on daily or weekly schedules. Online news distribution offers stronger real-time capability, with timeliness measurable down to minutes and seconds—particularly evident when publishing major breaking news. When editing online news, computer terminals operate free from spatial and temporal constraints, enabling round-the-clock, real-time dissemination of news information. This global reach allows audiences to access news anytime, anywhere. As globalization accelerates, online news editors must possess capabilities in rolling news production and 24/7 monitoring while responding in real-time to various breaking events.

2.5 Interaction with Readers

Information dissemination must foster positive interaction between content and audience. In this regard, newspaper news requires time to reach readers, and editors cannot easily obtain audience feedback. By contrast, the immediacy of digital platforms facilitates easier interaction between online news editors and readers. This enables editors to process subsequent news based on reader feedback, better serving audience needs. Furthermore, contemporary online news articles feature comment sections where readers can share their thoughts, creating not only editor-reader interaction but also fostering reader-to-reader exchange and building a news-centered communication platform.

2.6 Review Processes for Both Approaches

Both newspaper and online news editing require strict procedural review before publication. Newspaper review processes are comparatively more rigorous, making fake news less likely to appear. Online news, however, features open accessibility that complicates control during review, increasing susceptibility to false or inaccurate information. Once disseminated, such news can more easily trigger public opinion incidents. Consequently, online news editors must repeatedly verify news authenticity, placing greater emphasis on professional ethics and competence to eliminate falsehoods and safeguard media authority and credibility.

In conclusion, while online news editing and traditional newspaper news editing exhibit numerous differences due to their distinct characteristics, their overall workflows remain fundamentally similar and share common objectives in news dissemination. Both approaches must leverage their respective strengths according to their advantages and disadvantages. In the process of media convergence, selecting appropriate editing methods based on news event characteristics maximizes news value and communication impact.

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(Author's Affiliation: Lishui Daily, Lishui Net)

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

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