

A Brief Analysis of the Impact of Digital Imaging Technology on News Photography (Post-print)

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Abstract

With the rapid development of China's social economy, the news photography industry has achieved vigorous development. However, the development process of news photography has also witnessed a series of issues, such as adverse phenomena including news fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism/imitation, for which digital imaging technology serves as a primary implementation means. Although this situation has, to a certain extent, promoted the innovative development of China's news photography, it is undeniable that this technology has also brought many negative impacts to news photography. This paper presents an analysis of the impact of digital imaging technology on news photography, hoping to promote its better and more effective utilization in the news photography industry.

Full Text

Preamble

Title: The Impact of Digital Imaging Technology on News Photography

Abstract: With China's rapid socioeconomic development, the news photography industry has experienced vigorous growth. However, this expansion has been accompanied by serious problems such as news fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism, with digital imaging technology serving as a primary means for these activities. While this situation has, to some extent, spurred innovative development in news photography, it has also introduced numerous negative effects. This paper analyzes the influence of digital imaging technology on news photography, aiming to promote its more effective and appropriate utilization in the industry.

Keywords: digital imaging technology; news photography; impact

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Introduction

Against the backdrop of scientific and technological advancement, news photography has evolved beyond traditional film and paper printing. Some practitioners have become overly preoccupied with visual aesthetics in digital processing, severely compromising news authenticity [?]. Concurrently, as information transmission methods in news photography have expanded beyond print media to network environments, many practitioners have embraced technology with utilitarian objectives, creating chaotic and disorderly competition. When a few news organizations achieve notable results using digital imaging technology, others rush to adopt similar approaches, compelling photographers to follow trends rather than uphold traditional values. This has precipitated severe challenges to the professional values across the entire news photography industry.

Under widespread adoption of computer software technology, image processing in news photography has likewise expanded beyond film development and paper printing into software applications, primarily utilizing image processing tools for editing and artistic enhancement, offering considerable flexibility and convenience. However, practitioners must carefully consider the multifaceted impacts of digital imaging technology, recognizing both its advantages and disadvantages.

1. The Impact of Digital Imaging Technology on News Photography

Digital imaging technology, also known as digital image technology, encompasses several key stages: image capture, acquisition, processing, and output. During implementation, improper operation by practitioners can generate various negative consequences, particularly regarding news authenticity. Such impacts not only hinder the healthy development of news photography but also erode public trust.

1.1 Impact on Values

Digital imaging technology is merely a scientific tool employed in news photography; its application should not focus solely on technical capabilities but must consider whether practitioners' operations are standardized, rational, and scientific. Currently, many news photographers prioritize click-through rates and commercial success, demonstrating pronounced utilitarian motives. This

leads to misguided analysis when applying digital imaging technology, often resulting in decisions that deviate from professional standards. Furthermore, the information transmission methods in news photography have expanded beyond books, newspapers, and periodicals into network environments, primarily utilizing computer network technology for information sharing and transmission, thereby achieving global and real-time distribution with substantial development potential. Under extensive computer software application, image processing has similarly expanded beyond film development into software applications, using image processing tools for editing and artistic enhancement. However, practitioners must fully consider the technology's various impacts, correctly understanding both its strengths and weaknesses.

1.2 Technical Impact

The application of digital imaging technology has enabled news photography organizations to improve cost control and enhance practitioner efficiency. Photographers are no longer constrained by cumbersome image development and printing processes but can instead utilize software for post-production modification and artistic processing, significantly improving convenience and flexibility [?]. However, China has yet to establish mandatory regulations governing digital imaging technology application, leaving digital photography and image processing practices inadequately standardized. This regulatory gap has led to frequent technology abuse, such as when photographers add or remove objects during post-processing, ultimately destroying news authenticity. Once news loses its authenticity, it loses its readability value, causing the public to increasingly disregard news photography's information transmission function.

1.3 Impact of Internet Technology

News photography primarily presents events through images and text, showing locations, times, environments, and relevant figures, while providing objective commentary to reflect underlying significance and key information. This content comprises not only immediate event photography but also authentic textual additions and supplementary material by photographers. Under widespread network technology adoption in China, the primary workflow involves processing images, adding textual descriptions, and disseminating news through the internet to reach broader audiences. This entire process has become highly simplified, substantially enhancing news sharing capacity and timeliness [?]. However, the internet environment itself is an uncontrollable factor. News enjoys considerable freedom in uploading and downloading, and without regulatory constraints, textual and image tampering occurs frequently, leading to arbitrary and false information publication that severely impacts healthy news photography development. Moreover, China's complex social structure enables individuals with malicious intent to exploit internet technology for disseminating false news information, sometimes even using news photographs to lend credibility to their fabrications, thereby distorting facts to achieve personal gain or other objectives.

2. Improvement Measures for Digital Imaging Technology's Impact on News Photography

The preceding analysis reveals that digital imaging technology affects news photography across multiple dimensions. Therefore, effective measures are necessary to promote its development. Specific improvements include the following.

2.1 Enhancing Practitioner Skills

Improving news photography skills requires two approaches. First, ensuring authenticity by minimizing post-processing. This demands that photographers observe every moment with patience and care during on-site shooting to capture the most representative and authentic images within limited timeframes. When images possess inherent vitality, extensive processing becomes unnecessary—this represents a fundamental professional skill. Second, mastering lens focal lengths, including wide-angle, fisheye, standard, medium-focus, and telephoto lenses. For instance, wide-angle lenses deliberately exaggerate foreground elements and produce strong perspective effects with a 64-90° field of view. A 135 camera's wide-angle lens has approximately 30mm focal length, a 120 camera's about 50mm, and a 4\$×\$5 camera's about 100mm. In news photography, wide-angle lenses' short focal length and broad field of view enable large scenes with substantial information and deep depth of field, providing extensive front-to-back clarity. They excel at expressing spatial perspective and dramatically emphasizing foreground elements while enhancing visual impact. However, when subjects are very close to the camera, technical images exhibit edge distortion that becomes more pronounced with shorter focal lengths. Photographers must therefore carefully consider camera angles and distances to ensure optimal results.

2.2 Strengthening Rational Application of Digital Imaging Technology

While digital imaging technology has revolutionized news photography development, its application has also detached the field from traditional operational norms and technical standards, severely challenging authenticity and impairing public judgment of news events [?]. To ensure healthy development, practitioners must recognize not only the technology's advantages but also its disadvantages, properly balancing their relationship. Simultaneously, news organizations should clarify the industry's ultimate development direction and strengthen news review processes to ensure authenticity from multiple perspectives.

2.3 Strengthening Internet Environment Supervision

The complexity of internet environments has long been a significant research focus in Chinese society, though effective solutions remain elusive. However, reliable measures can be implemented specifically for the news industry. To

promote stable news photography development, media organizations should establish mandatory requirements and digital standards, primarily limiting modification boundaries and scope for digital imaging. Under these conditions, corresponding review systems must also be formulated to effectively ensure news authenticity [?]. Additionally, relevant online media platforms should implement automated monitoring and interception measures for news content. Specifically, image search engine technology can scan and search for individual objects within news images, analyzing authenticity based on matching accuracy. This requires high image quality, necessitating that media platforms demand high-quality news images. Furthermore, media organizations should blacklist individuals who fabricate or maliciously disseminate false news, thereby purifying the online news environment.

3. Conclusion

In summary, digital imaging technology's impact on news photography directly hinders the industry's healthy development. Addressing this issue requires not only improving practitioners' ethical standards but also employing multiple approaches to strengthen rational technology application and enhance internet environment supervision, thereby ensuring news authenticity from various dimensions.

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