



NEW JOURNALISM IN NEW MEDIA

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ABSTRACT

The internet was first used in 1985 and since then it has led to certain significant innovations in many fields around the world. These innovations area also valid for journalism. The internet has transformed both Professional practices and publishing methods in journalism. In our study, we analyzed the transformative impacts of the internet on journalism practices. In accordance with the study, a questionnaire on internet usage habits was conducted to a group of local journalists working in Konya. There are 15 local newspapers active in the center of Konya province according to the 2016 database registration of Konya Press Advertising Agency. Besides there are 33 newspapers in nearby towns of Konya. While the newspapers located in the city center have 225 journalists, the ones in nearby towns have 100 in total. 42 of the journalists who applied the questionnaire have closely experienced some professional transformations while working actively in the press. The survey was conducted to measure how often and to what extent journalists used the internet in the process of making and publishing news. Throughout this survey, innovations that the internet brought to journalism was questioned and the internet's impact on the journalism of tomorrow was reported. The journalists conveyed their internet experiences about the profession and we analyzed how journalism was changed by the internet and new technologies.

KEYWORDS: Internet, journalism, internet journalism, Konya/Turkey, local journalists

RESEARCH FIELD

In our study, a questionnaire on internet usage habits was conducted to a group of local journalists working in Konya/Turkey. There are 15 local newspapers active in the center of Konya province according to the 2016 database registration of Konya Press Advertising Agency. While the newspapers located in the city center have 225 journalists, the ones in nearby towns have 100 in total. 42 of the journalists who applied the questionnaire have closely experienced some professional transformations while working actively in the press. The survey was conducted to measure how often and to what extent journalists used the internet in the process of making and publishing news. Throughout this survey, innovations that the internet brought to journalism was questioned and the internet's impact on the journalism of tomorrow was reported. How journalism was changed by the internet and new Technologies were analyzed.

INTRODUCTION

The famous French philosopher Alain de Botton says that news is considered to be one of the most normal, simplest and most ordinary things in the world in today's life, just like breathing or winking. (Botton: 2014: 11) Our demand to news and the necessity for news are increasing each day not only as an individual but also as a society. Since news is the most indispensable elements of modern life, it is in our pockets, in our hands and right beside us now. As the developing technology makes it easier for us to reach it, it has increased our addiction to news and led us not to be able to live without it. Along with the developing technology, the news which is on the page of the newspaper we bought from the newsagent's yesterday, the news which is reflected on the television screen in front of which we sit every day, and the news coming from the radios has a feature which is mobile, accessible everywhere and can be renewed at any moment. Therefore, for modern people, the news accompanies him like an identity card in his wallet.

The news emerged with the development of capitalism, triggering the emergence of the first newspapers, spreaded parallel to the desire of the bourgeois class to receive news from the world. As Habermas underlined, the news became public in the mid-17th century as newspapers became weekly. (Habermas, 2003, 83) The publicization of the news together with the first newspapers constitutes the first step in the social wisdom of our addiction to the news we are experiencing today. From the 17th century to the present day, news and journalism have undergone a rapid transformation while journalism has gained an institutional structure in terms of professional practices. In this change, social structure, class relations, public demands are determinant. However, news reporting against time is also speed-dependent. The news is fast. (Talu, 2013, 53-72) It is important to be fast and to reach a wide geography in terms of journalism. Technological changes

and the new possibilities that technological changes have brought to journalism have always been decisive in terms of the social circulation of news.

Once again, it is important to emphasize that what underlies this transformation of news is the developing technology. Technological change has also changed news contents and the way they are presented to large masses. It is the existence and the prevalence of mass media structured with the latest form of technology which makes news be so indispensable and spread so widely in terms of modern society. Today, the internet has taken the place of newspaper, radio and television regarded as the most popular mass media yesterday. Internet use has shown a significant increase over the last decade. From the user's point of view, it has turned into an environment where they can visit the internet, art galleries, shop online, watch concerts, worship, participate in classes in any kind of field, chat, buy and sell real estate and access to internet newspapers and news sites every day. (Dreyfus: 2016: 101)

The internet is not only the most important cause of the new life and this change process but also the most important cause and determinant of this change process. However, it is necessary to remember and emphasize the significance of the new technologies that support and improve the internet in this process. The technological renewal ranging from mobile phones that have changed our lives for the past decade to smart phones, laptop computers, iPads and interactive televisions, the latest examples of computer technology both makes the technology individualize and let you take the world wherever you are in your pocket through the internet. A part of the world you take wherever you want is news. News that can be carried with you every moment. This change in communication technologies also made it possible to combine the basic features of communication platforms with different characteristics. In the field of communication, this process is called as the convergence. Convergence is defined as a combination of innovation which can be used in three different areas of communication features. Broadcasting, which was made from three different channels in the previous period, is now intertwined within the telecom and data processing sectors. (Yıldırım: 2010: 122-240) Today, we are now able to use the features of newspaper, radio and television broadcasting technology together in new communication technologies. While this process positively affected journalism, it was possible to trace, produce and share data on both a text and an image basis.

Today, modern people are able to read news, watch news videos, read news texts on the metro, at work, in parks, on the streets, on smart phones via the internet. It is possible to observe this new situation in every area of life.

Alain de Botton has described one generation before the modern people's addiction to news in these lines, as if he was taking the first photo of the beginning of our present situation.

"We usually take a break from what we are doing to have a look at the news after a time that is not longer than one night (we often have a break even more often, especially when we are relatively restless, maybe we can endure at least ten to fifteen minutes). Since our last look, we suspend our lives with the expectation of a new dose of all the important information about the most important achievements of the human being somewhere in the world, the catastrophes he has gone through, the crimes he has committed, the epidemics he has suffered, and the emotional complexities he has experienced "(Botton: 2005 :11th)

Looking over news is now transformed into a form of action that is renewed every moment, but with technology dependency it has become a new form of social and individual behavior. As the most recent developments are coming to our mobile phones or smartphones or to the screens of our computer at any moment, the desire to live a synchronized life with news and to learn about the next development have become a passion for the modern man.

This technology-supported desire to reach and demand the news has also changed the content, format of the news and its presentation to masses. The news may be consumed so fast in this age; while it is consumed, the next news is demanded by the consumers again. Of course, while this new process is shaping over the internet, publishing which has accelerated the transition from paper print to virtual media have gradually begun to take place over the internet.

While the internet has speeded up the news, reduced costs and simplified many challenging steps in the news flow, it has mediated many new advantages to be taken in the professional sense in terms of journalists. Especially in times of economic crisis in the media sector, internet journalism has become a breathing space for journalists who are unemployed. (Yuksel: 2014: 96)

Serdar Turgut has emphasized this process as follows: "As the new media has started to be formed with new tools and the internet has developed, the new generation has formed a habit of looking over the internet sites instead of the newspapers in response to the old reading period." (Turgut: 2013: 37) While we are talking about a new habit in terms of the reader here, on the other side of this habit, publishing is rapidly moving towards the internet.

Internet publishing has many advantages for journalists. Ayşe Mehveş Evin, who is both the Publication Coordinator in the Akşam Gazette and the Editor-in-Chief of the website of the same newspaper, describes the differences between printed and internet newspapers as a journalist who worked on both sides as follows:

- Internet publishing is like a new planet where a different language is spoken. It's not like preparing only one, but sometimes to preparing fifteen first pages a day.
- The work of Internet journalists is never finished, they work 24/7. Internet technology makes it possible to make intense and variable news.
- News flexibility is more, there is a great speed. But speed can sometimes turn into a disadvantage; error margin is higher.
- It is a great advantage to be able to read the reaction of the reader instantly, to follow what you read and how much you read.
- You are limited to 20-30 square meters in the newspaper writing office. If journalists work in a place that is far away from the city, journalists are starting to live like civil servants. This lifestyle is also reflected into the work. Staying aloof is a universal problem in journalism. You can connect to the Internet journalism from where you want, and you have a chance to be involved in the broadcast. (Yükseler: 2014: 99)

Internet and Internet journalism as Evin once again stated above, has made journalism easier and provided to switch to a more flexible production model. Thus, the daily monitoring of the news became instant and every kind of development started to be transferred to the consumers very quickly. The new media have mediated the emergence of new forms of journalism.

New media such as televisions, computers, smart phones, any kind of electronic devices that can be connected to the network environment, any kind of internet-dimensional communication tools are explained and defined within this concept. As a result, the new media has introduced a new type of publishing and begun to play a major role in news processes especially for journalists.

Today, internet journalism constitutes the most important part of publishing made through new media. Internet journalism is made up of internet news sites broadcasting in the virtual platform or online newspapers publishing on the internet.

This period is also the beginning of a both internet and computer centered news process in terms of journalists. The new media concept has become a part of the professional dictionaries of journalists in the new period (Allan: 2006: 23).

The new media is also the name of a change, a new era in the field of journalism. From this point of view, it has led to the emergence of different contents, a different technological infrastructure, a different broadcasting format and a different consumer-producer relationship compared to the classical media.

The main differences between new media and classical media can be summarized under three different headings:

- Interactivity
- Demassification
- Updating

Interactivity: While newspapers, television channels, radios and magazines called as classical media are addressing their audiences, listeners, readers, having a mutual communication process on a momentary basis are not possible due to technical conditions. But, it was possible to reach these mass media in the previous period with the means of communication such as letters. However, new media allows direct communication channels between media producers and media users, providing direct communication to consumers. For example, the reader can instantly access an internet newspaper via e-mail or via communication channels designed on the internet, and can submit opinions and suggestions about the content of the publication to the broadcasting corporation. Especially in live broadcasts, the communication possibilities create an 'instant' communication process via phone connections or social media. (Yurdagül, İspir: 2015, 43-64)

Demassification: Demassification is a new situation in terms of publishing, arising especially as a result of the technological advantages of the new media. Traditional media conveys the messages used in a single center to large masses and spreads them to different geographical regions. In this communication process, the message is standard and the individual characteristics of readers, listeners, and viewers are not/cannot be taken into consideration. However, the new media technologically allows readers, viewers and listeners to make preferences and to reach the content of the desired publication via individual characteristics. Thus, publishing has evolved from massiveness towards individuality. At the same time, the prominence of individual preferences has enriched the profile of the media consumers and caused an increase in the product range in the 'publishing market'. Individualization also provides democratization with one dimension.

Synchronicity: It is not possible to make changes on the content in the classical media. Especially for the printed press, the content can only change in the next edition. However, it is possible to add new content, transform the content, or completely remove the content in parallel with time and life change through new media. Especially in internet journalism, the new media has revolutionized in terms of journalistic practices. After making the news with a vocational effort against time, the journalist must follow the change in time. For the journalist, the publication of the news does not mean that the news process is over. Any new developments related to the news are followed by journalists. This process, which is also called as idea tracking in journalism, necessitates following all kinds of developments related to news. The synchronic nature of the new media offers journalists the opportunity to instantly become aware of the new developments related to the news. Pursuit of

news and presentation of latest news can be changed in parallel with flowing time and presented to readers. The synchronicity function performs an important function in order to utilize new opportunities in terms of journalism.

New communication technologies attract attention in terms of providing both technical possibilities and new democratic opportunities. It is possible to summarize these contributions of new communication technologies that contribute to democratic opportunities as follows:

- In traditional media, the same content is presented for all viewers. In new communication technologies, content is user-centered and information access is provided in a multifaceted way.
- The amount of information obtained has been increased. Cable television, satellite broadcasting and computer communication have increased the number of local, national and international news.
- Improvements in communication technologies provide users with the freedom to choose information. The consumer who uses the technology has also become the producer of the message.
- While a centralized structure plays a role in determining the content in traditional communication tools, the hegemony of ownership remains at a certain level in the new communication technologies. Accordingly, monopoly of controlling in the message has been resolved to a certain extent. The Internet has enabled users to create their own electronic journal and even establish their own television. (Akyol: 2015: 1-42)

The new technological features of the new media mentioned above have led to the emergence of different richness in terms of publishing. The contents of the publication have changed, the variety has increased, and this new process has enabled to form a new publishing where individual demands become prominent rather than massive demands.

These technologies have an indispensable place for journalists especially in news production processes of publishing. The internet is a new, easily accessible news source for journalists. The internet is also a mediator to communicate with different news sources. Individual and corporate communication channels have now shifted to the internet, and this process is accelerating and proceeding with strength from today to tomorrow.

For journalists, the internet has also become a tool for opening up new areas at the corporate dimension. As Internet journalism rapidly develops, it contributes to the emergence of new business opportunities for journalists to utilize their efforts. Journalists have also found the opportunity to be heard individually over the internet and to create individual news channels. Now, many journalists have the advantage of being able to overcome organizational limitations individually through the opportunities provided by the Internet.

The internet has also offered journalists the opportunity to convey the news, the reward of their efforts, to larger masses and geographies, and to be heard by different audiences and readers. In this context, the Internet has brought a new perspective and a breath of fresh air to journalism and created a basis for the emergence and development of a new understanding of journalism.

For journalists today, new communication technologies are an important means of communication for professional speed, news formation, news sharing, and access to news sources, individual professional presence and the creation of a more democratic communication environment. Ensuring the democratization, the Internet has offered alternative channels to the profession of journalism both at the institutional and individual level.

THE STUDY ON THE INTERNET AND THE NEW JOURNALISM

In this study, we've examined the transformative effects of the internet at the occupational dimension on journalism practices. In the scope of the study, a survey has been conducted about internet usage habits with a group of journalists working in the local press in Konya. There are 15 local newspapers operating in the center of Konya province according to the data of Konya Press Ad Foundation in 2016. The number of newspapers is 33 in the surrounding districts of Konya. While the number of journalists in the center is 225, the number of journalists in the districts is 100. While 50 journalists participating in the survey are actively working at the beginning, they are also closely experiencing professional transformations in their lives. In the survey, it has been tried to measure the internet usage levels of the journalists during news processes and publishing stages while practicing their professions. The innovations that the internet brought to the journalism profession have also been asked in the questionnaire and the effects of the internet on the journalism of tomorrow have been revealed. While the journalists participating in the survey have reported their professional experiences on the internet, the change in journalism over the internet and new technologies has also been analyzed in the study. The data of the study has been converted into numerical data in the tables below. Each table also consists of the questions in the questionnaire prepared for the study and the answers given to the questions.

GENDER OF THE PARTICIPANTS

FEMALE	12
MALE	38
TOTAL	50

Table 1: Gender distribution of the participants

Table 1 shows the gender distribution of 50 journalists responding to the questionnaire who work in the local press in Konya. 12 women journalists and 38 male journalists have answered our questions.

AGE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

UNDER 20	2
20-29	25
30-39	13
40-49	5
OVER 50	5
TOTAL	50

Table 2: Age distribution of the participants

Table 2 shows the age distribution of journalists participating in the survey. In total 40 journalists are over 40 years old and 10 journalists are in between 40-over 50. The majority of working journalists are young.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

MARRIED	28
SINGLE	22
DIVORCED	0
TOTAL	50

Table 3: Marital status distribution of the participants

Table 3 shows the marital status of journalists participating in the survey. 28 journalists are married, 22 journalists are single.

EDUCATION LEVELS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

LITERATE	0
PRIMARY SCHOOL	2
SECONDARY SCHOOL	3
HIGH SCHOOL	13
UNIVERSITY	26
MASTER DEGREE	6
DOCTORATE	0
TOTAL	50

Table 4: Education distribution of the participants

Table 4 shows the educational status of journalists participating in the survey. While 2 journalists are primary school graduates, 3 journalists are secondary school graduates, 13 journalists are high school graduates, 26 journalists' university graduates and 6 journalists have master degrees. There aren't any literate journalists or journalists with doctorate degree.

DO YOU USE THE INTERNET?

YES	50
NO	0
TOTAL	50

Table 5: Internet usage distribution of the participants

Table 5 contains numerical data about the Internet use of journalists. All 50 journalists said they used the internet. This data shows us the prevalence of internet usage in professional terms.

FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USAGE

EVERYDAY	49
A FEW DAYS A WEEK	1
A FEW DAYS A MONTH	0
EVERY FIVE OR SIX MONTHS	0
TOTAL	50

Table 6: Distribution of the participants' frequency of internet usage

Table 6 shows the numerical data of journalists' internet usage frequency. The number of journalists who use it every day is 49 and the number of journalists who use it a few days a week is 1.

HOW MANY HOURS A DAY DO YOU USE THE INTERNET ON AVERAGE?

LESS THAN 1 HOUR	3
1-2 HOURS	8
2-4 HOURS	14
4-6 HOURS	15
MORE THAN 6 HOURS	10
TOTAL	50

Table 7: Distribution of participants' average hours on the internet

Table 7 contains the numerical data of how many hours a day the internet is used. While the number of the journalists who use internet for less than 1 hour is 3, the number of those who use it 1-2 hours is 8. While 14 journalists use the internet for 2-4 hours, 15 journalists use it for 4-6 hours and 10 journalists use it for more than 6 hours.

IS YOUR NEWS BEING PUBLISHED IN NEW MEDIA?

YES	39
NO	11
TOTAL	50

Table 8: Distribution of the publication of the participants' news in the new media

In Table 8, the answers the journalists give to the question 'Is your news published in the new media?' are given in numerical distribution. While 39 journalists said yes and 11 journalists said no.

IF SO, HOW OFTEN IS IT PUBLISHED?

EVERYDAY	24
A FEW DAYS A WEEK	9
A FEW DAYS A MONTH	4
EVERY FIVE OR SIX MONTHS	2
TOTAL	39

Table 9: Distribution of the publication frequency of participants' news in the new media

Table 9 contains the numerical results of how often the news of those who say yes to the eighth question takes place on the internet. While the number of journalists who say every day is 24, the ones who said a few days a week is 9. While 4 journalists said a few days a month, 2 journalists said every 5-6 months.

DO YOU HAVE AN ACCOUNT IN SOCIAL MEDIA?

YES	47
NO	3
TOTAL	50

Table 10: Distribution of Participants' social media account

In Table 10, 47 journalists said yes and 3 journalists said no to the question whether you have a social media account.

WHICH SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM DO YOU USE?

FACEBOOK	40
TWITTER	25
BLOGGER	2
YOU TUBE	16
LINKEDIN	1
INSTAGRAM	6
OTHER	4
TOTAL	94

Table 11: Distribution of the social media used by the participants

Table 11 shows the numerical data of social media platforms used by journalists. While the number of journalists who use Facebook is 40, the number of those who use Twitter is 25. While 2 journalists use Blogger, 16 journalists use YouTube, 1 journalist uses LinkedIn, and 6 journalists use Instagram. The number of the journalists who use the other is 4. The most preferred social media platform is Facebook.

THE INTERNET HAS SPEEDED UP THE JOURNALISM

I STRONGLY AGREE	33
I AGREE	17
I AM UNDECIDED	0
I DISAGREE	0
I STRONGLY DISAGREE	0
TOTAL	50

Table 12: Distribution of participants' view about the opinion of "the internet has speeded up the journalism"

In Table 12, the internet has the numerical results of the answers given to the question of "the internet has speeded up the journalism". While the number of journalists who said 'I strongly agree' is 33, 17 journalists said 'I agree'. The number of those who said 'I'm undecided' and 'I do not agree' is 0.

NEW MEDIA IS MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THAN TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPER IN TERMS

OF JOURNALISM

I STRONGLY AGREE	16
I AGREE	15
I AM UNDECIDED	9
I DISAGREE	8
I STRONGLY DISAGREE	2
TOTAL	50

Table 13: Distribution of participants' view about the opinion of "New media is more advantageous than television and newspaper in terms of journalism"

Table 13 presents numerical results of the responses to the proposal of "New media is more advantageous than television and newspaper in terms of journalism ". While the number of journalists who said 'I strongly agree' is 16, 15 journalists said 'I agree', and 9 journalists responded with 'I am undecided'. While 8 journalists said 'I don't agree', 2 journalists said 'I strongly disagree'.

NEW MEDIA HAS IMPROVED THE PROFESSION OF JOURNALISM POSITIVELY

I STRONGLY AGREE	11
I AGREE	18
I AM UNDECIDED	11
I DISAGREE	7
I STRONGLY DISAGREE	3
TOTAL	50

Table 14: Distribution of participants' view about the opinion of "New media has improved the profession of journalism positively"

Table 14 consists of the numerical data of the responses to the proposal of 'the new media has improved the journalism profession positively'. While 11 journalists said 'I strongly agree', 18 journalists said 'I agree', 11 journalists said 'I'm undecided', 7 journalists said 'I don't agree' and 3 journalists said 'I strongly disagree'

INTERNET JOURNALISM HAS ENRICHED THE PROFESSIONAL FIELD

I STRONGLY AGREE	21
I AGREE	22
I AM UNDECIDED	2
I DISAGREE	2
I STRONGLY DISAGREE	3
TOTAL	50

Table 15: Distribution of participants' view of "Internet journalism has enriched the professional field"

Table 15 consists of replies to the proposal of 'Internet journalism has enriched the professional field'. While the number of journalists who said 'I strongly agree' is 21, 22 journalists said 'I agree', and 2 journalists responded with 'I'm undecided. While 2 journalists said 'I don't agree', 3 journalists said 'I strongly disagree'.

RESULT

- A survey of 50 journalists working in Konya's local press has revealed the use of internet, social media and new communication technologies among journalists. The study shows that the internet has been used extensively among news reporters in news processes.
- Social media is also a new communication channel used in news processes.
- While journalism is shifting towards the internet, it is possible that we can see its results in the findings of the study. Journalists are publishing their news through new media in this process and reader reactions are also obtained through this channel.
- It is possible to observe intensive individual and institutional technology ownership and usage in journalists' work environments. Technological infrastructures such as smartphones, laptop computers, and internet connections are observed.
- The Internet has made it possible for local press, especially small-scale organizations, to compete with the national media both at the individual dimension and at the institutional level. It was possible to overcome the local borders by internet publishing.
- In particular, parallel to the cheaper technology, it has become easier to access and use technology, which has increased the quality of publishing. Digital publishing is both cheaper and brings new possibilities for publishing in terms of quality.
- In this process, equality has emerged in technological possibilities, especially in terms of the use of technology by all the journalists working at the local press and by the institutions that have an increased production capacity with technology.
- As new communication technologies bring a new breath to journalism, they increasingly exist as a rising trend on the professional scene each day.



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