



Algerian Electronic Journalism

Technical Descriptivism Specificities and Ethical Professional Challenges

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Abstract

Electronic journalism is considered a new media medium that has emerged at the level of the Arab national and even local media arena, and this new media would have emerged only as an inevitable result of, on the other hand, the significant advancements in the fields of information and communication technologies and Internet traffic. In Algeria, e-journalism has taken on a new and unique technical form., which contributed to changing professional and media practice and highlighted several journalistic ethical challenges.

Article info

Received

January 21.2025

Accepted

March 01.2025

Keyword:

- ✓ *Electronic journalism*
- ✓ *New media*
- ✓ *Ethical professional*

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1. Introduction

Whether it was in relation to the type of media or the content of materials created and disseminated through it, the Arab media landscape in general and the Algerian media landscape in particular saw a number of shifts and advancements that had an impact on all stakeholders and participants in the media process. These advancements at the media level are the result of both improving the structure and efficacy of the Internet on the one hand, and the wealth of invention in the field of information and communication technologies on the other.

Algerian electronic journalism, which has established a significant place for itself in the country's media landscape, is an example of how media outlets and channels have changed over time. Traditional media channels in Algeria include radio, television, and news agencies.

These scientific questions will be addressed in this paper:

- What is electronic journalism, and how does it differ technically?
- How did Algerian electronic journalism arise and what are the factors contributing to its positioning?
- What are the types of electronic newspapers in Algeria and their categorization?

— What level is the Algerian legislator's interest in electronic journalism? What ethical and professional challenges are related to it?

(Times New Roman13, interline 1.15)

2. Electronic Journalism: Conceptual Control and Technical Distinction.

2.1 Electronic journalism: conceptual briefing and technical publishing features

Electronic journalism is among the modern journalistic terms that have emerged on the surface of the contemporary media arena. It is mostly seen as a result of the revolution in information technology and the significant advancements made in the web. In this regard, many definitions and concepts of electronic journalism have been presented.

It should be noted at the beginning, the difficulty of setting a complete and accurate introductory briefing on the term electronic journalism and the inability of ease of describing it accurately. This is what Dr. Sadiq Al-Hammami confirmed. This is due to the unstable nature of the communicative and media environment within which it functions, and on the other hand, due to the phenomenon's novelty and the ongoing changes that take place (Al-Sadiq., 2009) , which is the same thing that Dr. Mahmoud Almuiddin pointed

out about the difficulty of reaching a comprehensive and overarching definition of electronic journalism due to the media's diversity, multiplicity, and ongoing evolution through which it is published, where many terms are used, including:

Electronic Journalism, Online Journalism, Web Press, Instant Press Online, Multimedia Journalism, Interactive Journalism, Convergent Mobile Press, Blogging Press, Citizen Public Journalism, Open Source Journalism, Real-Time Press, Participatory Journalism, Personal Journalism, Smart Press, and Paperless Journalism. All these terms refer to patterns of non-paper electronic journalism, all of which are electronic newspapers but they vary in terms of style and intermediary of publication (Abdul Karim Al., 2011).

Mr. Zaid Mounir Suleiman defined electronic journalism as: a type of communication between humans that takes place through cyberspace, The Internet, information networks and other communications tools, in which the arts, mechanisms and skills of work are used in paper journalism, in addition to the skills, mechanisms and information techniques that are suitable for the use of electronic space as a medium or means of communication, including the use of text, sound, image, and various levels of interaction with the recipient to investigate, process, analyze and

disseminate the immediate and non-time news to the masses through cyberspace in a quick way (Zaid Mounir ., 2011).

Dr. Reda Abdul Wajid examined a definition of electronic journalism based on the following: newspapers that are published and distributed online and that are displayed on electronic computer screens with the newspaper's pages and images displayed, drawings, sound and moving images (Reda Abdelwajid., 2007)

Dr. Fayez Abdullah Al-Shehri points out that it is a technological integration between electronic computers and their enormous potential in storing, coordinating, tabulating and retrieving information in a few seconds and between the tremendous development in the means of mass communications that has made the world a small cosmic village (Abdul Amir., 2014).

Electronic journalism was also defined as that press published through the methods and platforms of electronic publication on a regular basis and integrates the ideas of journalism and the sequential file system, contains current events, and is viewed through the computer via the Internet ... Additionally, it is a paper press that is published online, and readers may access, peruse, and search inside it in addition to having the option to save and print content (Abdul Wajid., 2007).

2.2 Technical Publishing Features

The electronic publication of newspapers added a new dimension to the publication process in general and the media work in particular. In addition to the fact that the material is available electronically, it is characterized by several advantages, including:

— The possibility of adding other media such as moving pictures, audio clips, videos and other means of illustration that contribute to the delivery of information.

— Multiple media, speed and ease of searching.

— The possibility of placing links to multiple electronic information.

— The ability to deal with a huge amount of information easily (bin Saleh., 2003).

Dr. Abbas Naji Hassan adds to the above features the following:

— Time shortening: The user only needs a short time to conduct thorough research on what he wants from scientific materials or journalistic content.

— Adding the elements of suspense and pleasure for the reader by inserting audiovisual media into the electronically published material.

— Easy to perform modifications, revisions and even additions and deletions to obtain an updated version for publication without a significant cost.

— Savings in storage, printing, and paper-use costs, as the publishing process is efficient and economically viable (Abbas Naji Hassan., 2014).

Mr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Freej sees other advantages of electronic publishing, as:

— Diffusion: The availability of digital content through the internet, the remarkable speed of e-books, and the possibility of accessing them anywhere in the globe after they are posted on websites or portals without any restrictions.

— Innovative marketing methods: where electronic marketing techniques and search engines are used to promote electronic content and relate to the writer who can afford it and the area of its presence on the Internet.

— Continuity: The electronic version does not carry out its editions from the market and is not available in the printed product on paper.

— Preserving the environment: by reducing pollution from paper manufacturing waste (Adel Mohammed ., 2012) .

3. The beginnings of Algerian electronic journalism and the elements that shaped it

The Internet service made its way into Algeria in 1993 through *CERIST*, which is the research Center for Technical and scientific media, a state-owned center that monopolizes the Internet access service in Algeria. Five years after this limited beginning, Ministerial Decree 256 of 1998 was issued, which ended the state monopolization and allowed private companies to provide Internet services and stipulated the decree on service providers for commercial purposes, the Algerian nationality and submit applications directly to the Ministry of Communications. In 1998, the first private Internet supply companies appeared, the number of internet providers increased to 18 companies by 2000 (Smichi Warda., 2010).

When Algerian journalists first appeared online, it was near the close of the 1990s, known as Internet journalism, and the Algerian media orientation for publishing through the network stems from several reasons and factors, most notably:

- **Technological factors:** These factors are represented by the growing development that the world has witnessed through the emergence of advanced technologies in publishing, like the videotext and telecasts of the 1970s, as well as the significant

contributions provided by the computer in journalistic work, whether in terms of directing, editing, presentation, in addition to the experiences of providing journalistic services by telephone.

- **Political factors:** The dependence of political authorities on means of guiding public opinion and tightening their grip on the course of things led to the search for modern means to achieve the purpose, adopting the methods followed in other countries and relying on this new type of media, which is electronic publishing or electronic journalism.
- **Economic factors:** This is the so-called economic globalization and the speed. It calls for simultaneous investments in products and capital as well as an acceleration of the information flow. This idea has spread and Algeria has become forced to keep pace with technological developments and try to move at the same pace as the global economy (Fatima Timisar., 2011)
- **Media reasons:** Traditional journalistic institutions were forced by the new electronic environment to manage electronic publishing and be present in the digital sphere in order to stay up with media competition, diversify publication methods, and take advantage of the new freedoms

that have been made available, including the removal of high material costs and the breaking of bureaucratic and political constraints.

Most Algerian media headlines currently rely on electronic publishing as a way of distributing their content as a complementary role to the printed version, and among the first paper newspapers that developed electronic versions are (Yemena Belaalia., 2006) :

— *Al-Watan* newspaper issued in french language was the pioneer in producing an electronic version of its paper edition *November 1997*

— *Al-Khabar* newspaper: *April 1998*

— *Liberté*: *January 1998*

— *Al-Youm* newspaper: *February 1998*

— *Al-Shaab* newspaper: *June 1998*

— *El Moudjahid* newspaper: *July 1998*

— *Le Soir d'Algérie*: *November 1998*

— *Elassil* newspaper : *March 2000*

Algeria Interface newspaper is the first purely electronic newspaper established in *November 1999* by Algerians abroad with funding from SIDE: the *Swedish Development Agency* (Badiss Lounis., 2008) . The newspaper *Le Journal du Net* was established in Algeria on the initiative of a group of young Algerians (Mohamed Laqab., 2003), which was considered one of the first electronic newspapers in Algeria. The following table refers to the first pure electronic newspapers (without paper origin) that were created in Algeria :

Table 1. A table of the most important electronic newspapers emerging in the period 1998-2006 (Yemena Belaalia., 2006)

	Name of the electronic newspaper	Website	Nature of the activity and slogan	Observations
01	Algeria Interface	http:// www.algeria-interface.com	First electronic newspaper in French and English sober and reliable for all those who want quality economic and political information	stopped releasing due to financial conditions
02	Algeria Watch	http://www.algeria-watch.com	Information on the human rights situation in Algeria	1998 To 2006

03	Le souk	http://www.lesouk.org	A website for an electronic newspaper of the friends of the Faculty of Medicine in order to return the smile of infected children in Algiers	It has now a printed copy which is distributed within the faculty of medicine in limited numbers.
04	Auto Algérie	http://www.autoalgerie.com	/	/
05	Algérie la grande Kechfa	/	The 1st online Algerian satirical newspaper, it has spontaneous publications	Last publication was on the 14th of July 2004.
06	La nouvelle du Bled	/	/	/
07	Planet Dz	http://www.planetdz.com	A website of Charity organizations and solidarity with Algeria	/
08	Eldiwane	http://www.Eldiwane.com	A new cultural website	/

Source: yamena belaalia, 2006, 153.154



4. Categories of electronic journalism in Algeri

Algeria, like other Arab countries, has mounted the electronic journalism train, aware of its importance and usefulness in terms of strengthening the media scene and a desire to gain more opportunities for expression and freedoms, so that 2007 is considered the year of the return and the emergence of many electronic media addresses (especially those embraced abroad) with young media pens and cranks who had cumulative experiences and media practice in traditional press channels and means, which no longer have them due to the narrow ways of creativity and an

attempt to break the bureaucratic political and legal restrictions that were imposed to them, whether repressive, confiscation or even arbitrary, as well as to keep pace with the interests and aspirations of the digital reader. A study published in 2012 by two Algerian companies specialized in the field of Internet marketing, *Medcom* and

Idiatic, found that about 74% of Internet users in Algeria prefer to use the Internet as an information tool (Doha Centre ., 2015). The distinctive feature of the Algerian electronic newspapers is that it is divided into three main categories.

4.1. Electronic versions of printed media

The advent of newspapers printed on paper is an example of electronic publication through the Internet, in line with technological development, and an attempt to gain readers of the network and to impose its journalistic existence and increase its popularity and spread in light of fierce media competition. In this category of electronic newspapers, we distinguish two types of publication: a partial electronic publication of the paper newspaper's contents and a full electronic publication of the paper version. An example of an electronic newspaper with paper support is shown in the table below

Table 2: An electronic version of the printed newspaper's table				
	Name of the electronic newspaper	Website	language	Nature of the newspaper
1	El Nasser Daily	http://www.annasronline.com	Arabic	Governmental
2	El Khabar Daily	http://www.elkhabar.com	Arabic	Private
3	Akhabar El Youm Daily	http://www.akhbareyoum.com	Arabic	Private
4	AkhirSaa Daily	http://www.akhirsaa-dz.com	Arabic	Private
5	El Hayat Daily	http://www.elhayatonline.com	Arabic	Private
6	El Hiwar Daily	http://www.elhiwardz.com	Arabic	Private
7	Ech-aab Daily	http://www.ech-chaab.com/ar	Arabic	Governmental
8	El Ahdath Daily	http://www.elhadeth.net	Arabic	Private
9	Ennahar Daily	http://www.ennaharonline.com	Arabic	Private
10	El Tahrir Daily	http://www.altahrironline.com	Arabic	Private
11	Akhabr El Youm Daily	http://www.akhbareyoum.dz	Arabic	Private
12	Echourouk Daily	http://www.echoroukonline.com	Arabic	Private
13	Eddiar Daily	http://www.adiyaronline.com	Arabic	Private
14	El Moudjahid Daily	http://www.elmoudjahidonline.com	Arabic	Governmental
15	Esselam Daily	http://www.essalemonline.com	Arabic	Private

16	El RaedDaily	http://www.elraaed.com	Arabic	Private
17	Kawaliss Daily	http://www.kawalisse.com	Arabic	Private
18	Sawt El Ahrar Daily	http://www.sawtelahrar.net	Arabic	Private
20	El Makam Daily	http://www.elmakam.com	Arabic	Private
21	Liberté Daily	http://www.liberte-algerie.com	French	Private
22	El Watan Daily	http://www.elwatan.com	French	Private
23	Le quotidien d'Oran	http://www.lequotidien-oran.com	French	Private
24	L'expression Daily	http://www.lexpressiondz.com	French	Private
25	Compétition	http://www.competition.dz	French	Private
26	El Moudjahid	http://www.elmoudjahid.com	French	Governmental
27	Horizons	http://www.sudhorizons.dz/fr	French	Private
28	Le temps	http://www.letempsdz.com	French	Private
29	Le buteur	http://www.lebuteur.com	French	Private
30	Dzfoot	http://www.dzfoot.com	French	Private

Source: prepared by the researcher, march 2021

4.2. Standard electronic newspapers

They are electronic newspapers that were born on the Internet and do not have an origin or a paper pillar, and their main goal is to broadcast news to the largest number of Internet users, benefitting from Internet technologies and electronic publishing, characterized by interactivity between several actors and opening the fields of opinion and expression widely compared to paper newspapers and the original media. It is also characterized by

specialization (such as cultural and sports) and local or neighborhood newspapers (neighbor media). Local electronic newspapers that care about the local affairs of the citizen and convey their concerns are a link between the citizen and local executive authorities, thus embodying a new concept in the media, which is the electronic neighborhood media. One of the most prominent purely Algerian electronic newspapers is in the table 3

4.3 Electronic media branches of traditional press organizations

Traditional media organizations, such as television satellite television, radio stations and press news agencies, have become fully aware of the importance of being on the Internet through complementary websites, to win their audience and maintain their media entity. Examples of electronic media arms of traditional Algerian media organizations include what is shown in the table below:

4.3 Ethical challenges and efforts at legal and ethical framing of the Algerian electronic press:

Those who follow Algerian media at all levels and in all formats claim that the country's electronic newspapers, despite their lustre and technical excellence, produced many imbalances and moral and professional violations, such as:

misleading public opinion by publishing false and inaccurate news, infringing on intellectual and literary property rights, lack of credibility, accuracy, and objectivity, violation of the private life of individuals, have become a platform for anti-authority parties, publishing electronic advertisements that are not compatible with the values and customs of Algerian society, slander, insult, and deliberate distortion of others (especially officials), opening platforms for discriminatory, regional and tribal comments, manipulation of digital media materials, resorting to the content of users and citizens without verifying their credibility, deliberate ignorance of news and information sources, unbalanced coverage, especially during election periods, and the journalistic lands between users' comments and their exploitation

Table 3: A table of typically electronic newspapers in Algeria. (Without paper origin)

	Name of the electronic newspaper	Website	Year	Language
1	Sétif Info	http://www.setif.info	1999	French
2	Djelfa Info News	http://www.djelfa.info/ar	Jan 2007	Arabic
3	TSA	http://www.tsa-algerie.com	Jun 2007	French
4	maghrebmergent	http://www.maghrebmergent.info	2008	French
5	Algérie-focus	http://www.algerie-focus.com	Nov 2008	French
6	Kayna	http://www.kayena.com	2009-2014	French
7	Tamurt	http://www.tamurt.info	1/12/2010	French
8	Algériepatriotique	http://www.algeriepatriotique.com	Jan 2011	French
9	Zenga News	http://www.zenganews.net	2011	Arabic
10	Setif Net	http://www.setif.net	2011	Arabic
11	Djelfa News	http://www.djelfanews.com	2011	Arabic
12	Setif Info	http://www.setif-info.com	2012	Arabic
13	Sawt Djelfa	http://www.sawtdjelfa.com	28/1/2012	Arabic
14	Algérie 1	http://www.algerie1.com	2013	French
15	impact 24	http://www.impact1.net	2014	French

16	Algérie 24	http://www.aljazair24.com	5/12/2014	Arabic
17	Sabq Press	http://www.sabspress.net	8/8/2015	Arabic
18	dia-algerie	http://www.dia-algerie.com	Oct 2015	French
19	Cultural Windows	http://www.nawafedh.org	29/11/2015	Arabic
20	Alg24	http://www.alg24.net	Dec 2016	French
21	Setif News	http://www.setifnews.com	/	Arabic
22	Voice of Setif	http://www.sawtsetif.com	/	Arabic
23	Algeria Press Online	http://www.algeriapressinline.com	/	Arabic
24	Algérie 360•	http://www.algerie360.com	/	French
25	Berberes	http://www.berberes.com	/	French
26	Oranais	http://www.oranais.com	/	French
27	Sudhorizons	http://www.sudhorizons.dz	/	Arabic
28	Algeria and the world	http://www.algeriaworld.net	/	Arabic
29	Algeria	http://www.aljazayr.com	/	Arabic
30	Al Rae News	http://www.elrainews.com	/	Arabic
31	Akhbar Djelfa	http://www.akhbardjelfa.com	/	Arabic

Source: prepared by the researcher, march 2021

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media materials, resorting to the content of users and citizens without verifying their credibility, deliberate ignorance of news and information sources, unbalanced coverage, especially during election periods, and the journalistic lands between users' comments and their exploitation.

All of the aforementioned violations and imbalances may be attributed to the following reasons: weak professional experience and fragility of academic training, lack of knowledge about the ethics of the profession in the first place, the difficulty of the tasks assigned to the electronic journalist (technical and editorial journalism), the reenactment of the portal guard role and the removal of the editor-in-chief's supervision, the electronic newspaper's media orientation, the lack of professional conscience and moral deterrence, the electronic journalist's weak financial return, and the absence of the Algerian legislative and media system in the field of electronic journalism.

In turn, the Algerian legislator included the subject of electronic journalism among the points and issues it addressed and included in organic Law No. 05.12 of January 12th, 2012 relating to the media issued in the Official Journal No. 02

of January 15th, 2012(Organic Law No. 05.12., 2012) .

Article 71: Emphasised the obligation of electronic newspapers and audiovisual activity via the Internet to respect the provisions of this organic law and the legislation and regulation in force with respect to:

- the Republic's laws and Constitution.
- The faiths of Islam and others.
- the society's cultural values and national identity.
- National sovereignty and unity.
- National defense and state security needs.
- The economic interests of the nation.
- Public Service duties and responsibilities.
- The right of the citizen to complete impartial information.
- Confidentiality of judicial investigations.
- The diversity of viewpoints and concepts.
- Individual and collective liberties and human dignity.

Article 72 excludes news materials aimed at the purposes of promoting or a branch of industrial or commercial activity from the activity of electronic or audiovisual journalism through the Internet.

It should be noted that the Algerian legislator issued an executive decree No. 12-411 on 24 Muharram of 1434

AH, corresponding to 08 December 2012, specifying the modalities for the operation of the special allocation account No. 093-302, entitled "Fund for written, audiovisual, and digital press assistance as well as initiatives to raise the caliber of journalists and information specialists' educational and professional development"(Executive Decree No. 12-411., 2012). It is a fund dedicated to supporting the various Algerian media to promote them and improve their media level and the level of their employees. The category of electronic journalism was included, thus enabling it from the subsidies of this fund to enable it to stand out and improve its work and improve its media contributions more. With this inclusion and classification, Algerian electronic journalism has a second recognition from the Algerian legislator as it is a new media outlet.

The freedom of the press, whether through classical channels or The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria's 2016 Constitution, which was published by the Law, dealt with the Internet press: No. 01-16 dated: March 06, 2016, which includes the constitutional amendment, and included in the Algerian Official Gazette issued in issued on 27 Jumada I 1437 AH corresponding to March 07, 2016 AD(Law No. 01-16,, 2016) .

The 2016 constitutional amendment's language is divided into four primary sections:, each section contains several chapters and a total number of 218 articles.

The first chapter, entitled: the overall standards governing Algerian Society, included a chapter (Chapter 04, Article 32 to Article 73) on the rights and freedoms of citizens.

Article 50 (a brand new article) of the Algerian Constitution of 2016 stipulates: « *The freedom of the written and audio-visible press and on media networks is assured and has no longer limitation of any shape of censorship.* »

This freedom cannot be used to harm the dignity, freedoms and rights of others.

- Disseminating information, ideas, images and opinions freely guaranteed within the framework of the law and respecting the constants of the nation and its religious, moral and cultural values.

-The misdemeanor of the journalism cannot be subject to a deprivation of liberty.

The following shall be drawn from this article:

- Implicit recognition of the Algerian legislator of Internet journalism and the assurance of freedom of records and expression for all media, which include on line media.
- Lifting tribal controls on journalistic work.
- Emphasising the need to guard the liberty of the click with the aid of using now no longer abusing and

harming the rights and freedoms of others.

- The need to sanctify the constants and values of the country at some stage in the workout of the proper to disseminate information, thoughts and images.

- Decriminalize journalists and punish them by depriving them of their freedoms because of a journalistic misdemeanor.

Table 4: A table of electronic media branches of Algerian traditional press organizations

	Name of press organization	Website	Nature
1	Algerian television	Http://www.entv.dz	Governmental
2	National Algerian Radio	Http://www.radioalgerie.dz	Governmental
3	Algerian Press Agency	Http://www.aps.dz/ar	Governmental
4	Echourouk Satellite Channel	Http://www.tv.echourouk.com	Private
5	Ennahar Tv Channel	Http://www.tv.ennahar.com	Private
6	Al Khabar Satellite Channel	Http://www.web.kbc.algerie.com	Private
7	Al-Jazairia Channel	Http://www.el-djazairia.tv	Private
8	Dzair News Channel	Http://www.dzairnews.net	Private
9	El Bilad Channel	Http://www.elbilad.net/static/tv	Private

Source: prepared by the researcher, march 2021

6. CONCLUSION

Electronic newspapers in Algeria are of great importance and have a special location within the walls of the Algerian media house, especially the so-called pure or pure electronic

newspapers, which are the birth of media suppression, thus casing attempts to impose media restrictions by exploiting Internet technologies and goods.

However, this new type of media has brought with it many problems, most notably encroachments and moral violations while practicing its media activities, so everyone should pay attention to electronic journalism and develop its experience and refine it through the connectedness of all efforts, whether by the authority, professionals or even academics, to provide a properly digital media this is dedicated to the ethics of the career and the alphabets of journalistic work

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