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The reality of the transformations in Journalism at the Algerian Public Television Corporation in light of the digital environment through the news Media

A field study at the regional station in Oran

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Abstract :

This study seeks to investigate the changes that have occurred in journalism within the digital environment by monitoring the reality of the public institution of Algerian television - the regional station in Oran - and how it deals with the changes in the digital environment, especially with regard to the news sources, which until recently were mostly specific and official, yet with the technological development and the resulting explosion in the news flow on the Internet and the diversity of the news sources, Algerian television must keep up with new technologies to obtain reliable news sources that help it to build credibility with its audience and ensure the safety of its audience.

Focusing on this research paper, we tried to address the extent to which the Algerian public television institution has adapted to the digital environment in terms of the news sources and how to deal with them, by conducting a field study of the news department at the regional station in Oran to perform direct interviews with journalists working in this department.

Keywords: Journalism, Digital Environment, News Sources, Algerian Television Public Organisation, News Media

Introduction

The media arena is currently witnessing an accelerating pace of transformations imposed by the developments in the field of media and communication technologies, which has led to the emergence of what is known as the digital environment, like an active and influential factor in the various stages of the media process, starting from collecting information to producing and distributing content, as it has embraced all forms of journalistic practices, such as working in the audiovisual institution, television, which has imposed on the latter in the face of these transformations adapting to the challenges of digitization, especially in light of the fierce competition from digital platforms and social media networks.

The Public Television Corporation represents the most important media body in Algeria. It is a public institution of an industrial and commercial nature,

it is characterized by legal personality and financial independence, and it is placed under the supervision of the Minister of Information and Media . This institution, which works to cover all events across the country, is always looking for reliable news sources that help it to build credibility with its audience and ensure the continuity of its existence, before, not currently far, these sources were the most specific and official most, but with technological development and the resulting explosion in the news flow on the Internet with its diverse sources, Algerian television has become necessary to keep pace with new technologies and media, without forgetting the communication technologies by expanding the digital movement within the organization and focusing on working with advanced devices to keep pace with this shift towards new media and searching for news sources that achieve a scoop and high credibility, Perhaps among the most important traditional sources of news are news agencies, where the media relied on for a long time until rapid technological development in the field of collecting news from its source without mediation enabled it to overcome its reliance on traditional sources.

The Algerian Public Television Corporation, Oran Station, like other media bodies in Algeria, is living a delicate transitional phase that requires a review of its methods of practicing journalism, especially with regard to the news gathering process. Whereas in the past this work relied on traditional channels and field correspondents, recently it requires immediate interaction with digital information sources, and dealing with a huge flow of data and content over the Internet. In this research paper, we will try to monitor the reality of the Algerian public television institution - the regional station in Oran - and how it deals with the transformations taking place in the digital environment, especially with regard to the news sources adopted by the news directorate of the regional television station throughout answering the following question: How does the Algerian Public Television Corporation - the regional station in Oran - deals with virtual world in terms of news sources?

We will conduct a field study of the news department at the regional television station in Oran, interviewing journalists who work in this department to determine how they select news sources under an enormous amount of information available in the digital environment.

THE FIRST TOPIC

The foundations and limitations of the study :

Study objectives:

Monitoring the reality of the Algerian public television institution through the regional station in Oran and how it deals with the transformations taking place in the virtual space, especially with regard to the news sources

- Knowing how journalists have come to deal with sources of information within the digital environment

- Knowing the challenges and stakes facing the Algerian public television institution - the regional station in Oran - to keep pace with digital transformations in the field of audiovisual.

- Identify the most important news sources that news journalists at the regional television station in Oran resort to obtain the necessary information to build television news?

Importance of the study:

The importance of the study lies on the fact that examines and analyzes the reality of media practice within the public television institution, particularly within the news department of the regional television station in Oran, the transformations that have occurred in its approach to virtual space, and the challenges it faces in the intense competition inside the audiovisual sector in the digital environment.

Previous studies:

The first study: Sources of journalistic news: from the news agency to Facebook by researcher Boubaker Bouaziz (**Bouaziz 158**) It is an article that discusses the relationship between the journalist and news sources, and how this relationship has developed historically, professionally, and legally, especially in light of the technological changes that have affected the circulation of news. The researcher points out that journalists have traditionally relied on sources such as news agencies, radio stations, Newspapers, but with the advent of the Internet, digital platforms, especially social media such as Facebook, have become the modern sources for news, resulting in a reshaping of the role of the journalist, especially with the decline of what is known as the "media gatekeeper" function due to the free and rapid flow of information in the digital space, which obliges journalists to adopt digital verification and information auditing skills instead of being limited to transmitting news from traditional sources .

Second study:

Sources of press release in Algerian digital journalism and its impact on professional practice –A field study on a sample of professional journalists in Algeria - by Dr. Mounir Ayadi and Dr. Nasr al-Din Mahdawi, (**Mounir Ayadi Mahdaoui 118**) The study aimed to identify the most important sources of news

that journalists working in digital journalism in Algeria resort to in order to obtain information, especially what is related to electronic sources, and to determine the impact of this reliance on their professional practice, The study was conducted on a sample of 112 individuals from digital journalists at the level of Algiers, who were deliberately selected.

The study reached a set of results, the most prominent of which is that the Algerian journalist still owes loyalty to traditional news sources such as news agencies, publications, and official documents, but this does not prevent him from relying on electronic sources, especially those related to the official pages verified by their owners with the blue mark on social media networks, especially the platforms Facebook and Twitter.

Similarities and differences of previous studies with the current study:

The two previous studies, prepared by Boubacar Bouaziz under the title "Sources of Press News: From the News Agency to Facebook" (2017), as well as researchers Dr. Mounir Ayadi and Dr. Nasreddine Mahdaoui, show a clear intersection with the topic of our research paper in terms of interest in the impact of the digital environment on journalistic work practices, especially in terms of news sources. It emphasizes that digital transformation has contributed to reshaping the relationship between journalists and traditional news sources, particularly with the emergence of digital platforms and social media networks, which have become essential sources of information. This requires the journalists to keep pace with these transformations by possessing new skills in verifying and promptly analyzing these rapidly flowing and spreading sources.

The current study differs in terms of methodology and field of study, while, the previous other both studies rely on a general theoretical approach without addressing a specific media institution. Thus, our research starts from an applied field approach that focuses on the reality of journalistic work at the Oran Regional Public Television Station, in a specific local Algerian context. This study also expands to include the impact of the digital environment on the dynamics of news gathering and work methods within the institution, and not only on the diversity of sources.

First section

Conceptual framework of the study :

Algerian Public Television Corporation Origin and development :

The Public Television Corporation represents the most important media body in Algeria, and it is a public institution of an industrial and commercial nature. It is

characterized by legal personality and financial independence, and it is placed under the guardianship of the Minister of Information and Media.

It undertakes major tasks determined by a set of conditions in which it follows up on the official activities of state institutions through communication and broadcasting in accordance with what is required by the public interest of the country. It also undertakes the task of guidance and information, in addition to entertainment and education.

Sovereignty was extended over the National Television Corporation on October 28, 1962.

It witnessed several transformations into the Radio and Television Broadcasting Corporation and then into the Radio and Television Corporation until the issuance of Decree No. 86-147 of July 1, 1986, according to which the Public Television Corporation was established, with its headquarters located at 21 Martyrs Street, Algiers. It is an industrial and commercial institution with a legal personality, and the Ministry of Communications is responsible for managing it and determining its budget

Algerian television guarantees coverage throughout the country in order to reach all segments of Algeria through its social and cultural objectives. As a public channel, Algerian television focuses on diverse programs with a primarily national and local dimension, as well as the international community and its various current issues, which takes control to present it to the Algerian public with complete transparency.

Algerian television also ensures keeping pace with new technologies and information and communication technologies, by expanding the digital movement within the institution and focusing on working with advanced devices. The institution is divided into 6 main directorates:

Directorate of News, Production, Programming, Technical Services, Equipment, Public Administration and External Relations, in addition to the Archives Centre, regional stations and commercial directorates

Algerian Television or Terrestrial is an Algerian government television channel affiliated with the Public Television Corporation, established in 1956 during the French colonial period in Algeria. It is one of the most important television channels in Algeria, producing entertainment and variety programs, in addition to many Algerian series and films

Algerian Television is the first channel of the public television institution, established in December 1956 during the colonial period under the name RTF Télévision Alger, by French Radio and Television (RTF). After Algeria declared

independence from France on July 5, 1962, the state took the necessary measures to restore the radio and television building, so that the building would be transformed from French radio and television into Algerian radio and television. Thus, the name changes from RTF Télévision Alger to Algerian Radio and Television (RTA)

After the restructuring of Algerian radio and television, the RTA (RTA) was divided into four main institutions:

National Establishment of Television.

National Broadcasting Corporation.

National Radio and Television Broadcasting Corporation.

National Audiovisual Production Corporation.

Thus, the official name of the main channel of the National Television Corporation became Algerian Television

Since its establishment, the institution has witnessed several important developments, but the most important of them was on April 24, 1991, by law, when the National Television Corporation was transformed into a public institution of a commercial nature, managed by a board of directors and subject to the specifications of the task book that limits its duties

Preface on the first requirement and the issues to be addressed,
Preface on the first requirement and the issues to be addressed.

Coverage:

Algerian television guarantees coverage throughout the country through its first or terrestrial channel, in order to reach, through its social and cultural objectives, all segments of Algeria. As a public channel, Algerian television's interests focus on diverse programs with a primarily national dimension, as well as the international community and its various current issues, which the institution is keen to present to the Algerian public with complete transparency. Algerian television is also working to keep pace with new technologies and information and communication technologies, by expanding the digital movement within the institution and focusing on working with advanced devices. Today, 19 directorates are overseeing the operation of the Algerian Public Television Corporation.

Second section:

Virtual space and the shift towards a digital environment :

It is a virtual world connected by a global network. It is a computer-based world, meaning it is accessed via devices connected to the global network. It is a manufactured and multidimensional science. In daily usage, the term digital space includes the Internet, electronic mailing lists, discussion groups and forums, chat rooms, and e-mail, in addition to social media networks **(Nasr 10)** Joseph Nye believes that is a tight operational scope using electronics, to discover information across interconnected systems and their infrastructure. **(Ehab 27)**

Joël Rosnay also sees it as a space that combines two components: electronic space and time, and then, through the social networks that were established between computers, it is a space for automated and organic networks that are interconnected in an infinite manner, without limits. **(Hajiya 170)**

Digital Environment: The term "digital transformation" refers to the transition from traditional methods and technologies to the use of digital media in the production, distribution, and management of content. In the media field, this transformation represents a qualitative leap that has impacted various stages of the journalistic process, from information gathering to editing, production, and publication

In the media field, this transformation has led to the emergence of a new media environment characterized by the rapid flow of information, the multiplicity and diversity of its sources, and the public's involvement in its production and circulation. Digital media has also contributed to re-crystallizing the relationship between journalists and the public, and has forced media institutions to restructure their internal systems to keep pace with this new context.

News sources:

News sources: Press news sources mean "the tool that the newspaper or magazine obtains for the press news. This source may be a person such as official and popular dignitaries, stars of social life, or prominent social figures who visit the country, and other live sources. This source may also be an entity such as local and foreign news agencies and radio stations, and local and foreign newspapers" **(Zeid 96)**

Procedurally: News sources are all the sources from which news journalist at the regional station of Algerian television in Oran always draws his information to build his news material in an effort to achieve journalistic scoop. The news sources that our study singled out are television news sources and the extent of their adaptation to the digital environment that has imposed transformations on the audiovisual industry, including sources that have been transformed from traditional sources to electronic sources.

THE SECOND TOPIC

Methodological procedures of the study :

The method used: The survey method (Survey) is considered a set of steps that are conducted by interrogating a group of individuals to obtain information that helps the researcher reach the results. During this method, the researcher does not study the relationship or deduce the reasons, as the survey method in media and communication studies is one of the most widely used methods because its characteristics are consistent with many of the problems raised by the field of media and communication sciences (**Youssef 66**)

Research community: The comprehensive survey looked at the small number of journalists in the news department of the Oran regional station of Algerian public television. 3.3

Data collection tool: We relied on the direct interview to collect the necessary data and information about the study. The interview is considered a "serious conversation directed towards a specific goal", and therefore it is considered a conversation with a specific goal. This scientific goal is based on precise cognitive foundations to answer some research questions. It is used to obtain broad information about specific phenomena, especially those related to the actions of individuals and groups towards specific issues in important historical periods (**Jarboua et Taniou 100**) where we designed the interview questions divided into four axes according to the objectives set for the study, which serve to answer the main problem of this research paper .

Axis 1: Sociodemographic data of the sample consisting of three questions: gender/specialization/seniority in the news section .

The second axis: The reality of the regional station in Oran and how it deals with the transformations taking place in the digital environment, especially with regard to news sources

Axis 3: Digital transformations and their impact on news sources.

Axis 4: Challenges and challenges facing news journalists in the digital environment.

Shifting from traditional sources to electronic sources in the television news industry:

Traditional news sources

The definition of traditional news sources is linked to the means used in this field to collect various types of information during this century. Most of this news has reached us in one of the following ways:

Through specialized editors and correspondents who are always present at event venues, or official news sources.

Through public relations, or advertising agencies and their employees.

The presence of press correspondents in the midst of events of special news importance. **(Herbert 113)**

Study limits:

Objective boundaries: This research paper examines the adaptation of the audiovisual institution to the digital environment in terms of news sources, as we studied and analyzed the experience of the news department at the regional television station in Oran .

Time limits: from March 15 to June 15, 2025.

Spatial boundaries: Headquarters of the regional television station in Oran, located on Colonel Ahmed Ben Abdel Razzaq Street.

First requirement:

News sources in the digital environment:

The emergence and spread of modern communication technologies - especially - in the last decade of the twentieth century seems to have changed the equation, as the emergence of these technologies, most notably the Internet, social networking sites, and blogs, imposed... A new reality in the concept of "news sources" as we have defined it in media literature is a reality through which the recipient has bypassed the media institution (the intermediary) and reached the source directly, even though the source itself has passed the media institution (the intermediary) and reached the recipient directly

The Internet as a source of news in media institutions:

All sectors of media work have benefited from modern information technologies, especially newspapers, in the news aspects. This benefit is clearly evident in the processes of speeding up the transfer of information and memorization techniques. Modern technologies help journalists build their news story and add images and graphics to it the moment they write it, without the need to resort to technical departments to carry out such work. **(Bouaziz 160)**

Social media as a source of news:

Various social networking sites have brought about a new revolution of a different kind in transmitting news and information, as these sites have become media outlets that many rely on to obtain news, express opinions, and know what is happening around the world as quickly as possible, due to their distinction in the speed of transmitting information and delivering it to a large number of the public These sites have also contributed to raising and discussing many issues and

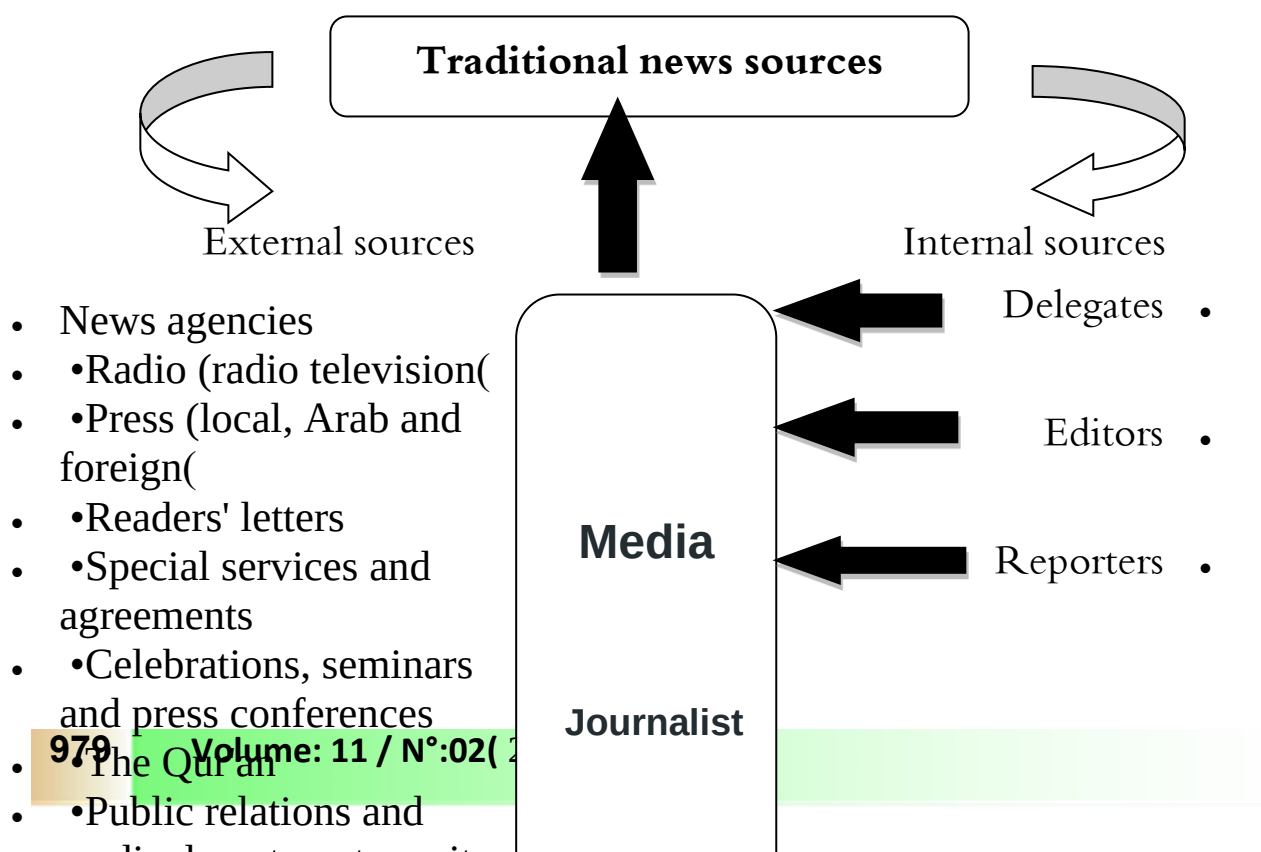
reaching solutions for them. There are those who believe that they are considered an important source for obtaining information and news, and there are those who believe that they are not a source of trust and that what is published on them does not fulfill the purpose, and they are considered indicators for searching for the rest of the sufficient information.

Since their emergence, social media sites have contributed to breaking down the traditional barriers of public space, which are formed by traditional media. With the expansion of electronic media, the nucleus of the virtual public space gradually began to form, reaching the peak of crystallization with the expansion of the use of Facebook and YouTube primarily, exploiting the state of media repression that the individual experiences as a result of the censorship imposed on traditional media. **(Hamza 227-228)**

Social News Sites

By blocking, instead of relying on obtaining news from well-known news channels, a wide network of users can be relied upon to find important news, as users provide news that they find important and then readers upgrade it if it is really important. What distinguishes these sites is the focus on what is new and in the world's field of interest. Many social news sites also provide classifications that help you determine your field of interest. **(Refaat 37)**

Much information and news may not be provided by traditional media, whether intentionally or unintentionally, or due to pressure from governments and the institutions that own them, which makes alternative media an effective means of revealing these issues and hidden information about them. **(Boumedine 42)**



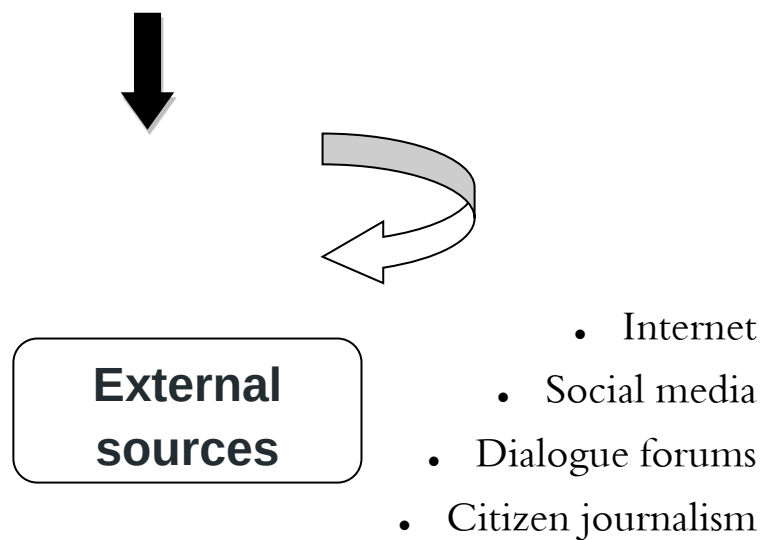


Figure 01 shows modern traditional and electronic news sources.

Journalism in the 21st Century: Technology has changed journalism in ways no one could have imagined. Moreover, the computer is to journalism today what the invention of printing, telegraphy, and television were to journalism in earlier eras. Technology has changed the rules of the game and also the way people receive news about any event. **(El-Gendy 15)**

This development has given rise to digital journalism, reliant on innovative and cutting-edge technologies, which has come to be known as "New Media." This term emerged from the convergence of communication and broadcasting technologies with computers, the digital world, its networks, and its various applications. Many names have emerged as a result of this rapid technological advancement. "Digital Media" describes applications that rely on digital technology or incorporate any computer application. It is also called "Interactive Media" when it allows for interaction among internet users. "Info Media" refers to the convergence of computers and communication tools, leading to the emergence of a new media that leverages technological advancements to access journalistic information.

According to the well-known web encyclopedia Webpedia, the term "New Media" refers to the many newly developed forms of electronic communication systems made possible by computers. The term is also linked to older media systems. (Sadiq 32)

Characteristics of New Media:

One of the characteristics that distinguishes New Media from its predecessors, traditional media, is interactivity, where users interact with media outlets by adding comments. The observations then went even further in the post-interactivity phase with the emergence of free, collaborative websites like YouTube and Wikipedia. This also included a non-mass nature, where communication messages can be targeted to a specific individual or group rather than the entire public, and mobility, where we utilize mobile devices for communication. Furthermore, it encompassed diversity and integration. Just as it transcended the boundaries of time and space, this media model also overcame cultural barriers and limits. Globalization flourished with the continuous expansion of the internet and the increasing number of its users, encouraged by the availability and low cost of communication tools.

As for its functions, they expanded with the ease of access to thousands of media and news websites and the ability to provide a vast amount of diverse information. It gained a greater capacity to shape regional and global public opinion and to exert cultural influence and dominance. Its use in education, training, and entertainment also expanded, and marketing and advertising became widespread and influential. However, drawbacks and disadvantages emerged, such as the difficulty of verifying the accuracy of published information and its sources, the difficulty of establishing controls to ensure that religious, cultural, and social values are not violated, and the difficulty of... Controlling violence and terrorism, the emergence of cybercrimes, the ease of copyright infringement, the imbalance between the quantity and type of media messages and the recipient's readiness for them, and the fragmentation of the audience according to individual needs and inclinations.

An analysis of interview responses and conclusions:

Based on the results of interviews with journalists in the news department of the regional station of the national television in Oran, several key trends can be identified that illustrate the significant transformations in the nature of journalistic work in the news department in recent years. These changes are part of the digital transformation and the spread of social media, which have affected how news is gathered, processed, published, and even circulated.

General findings:

Accelerated pace of journalistic work:

All journalists indicated that the pace of work has become noticeably faster, with increasing pressures related to competition on websites and instant news pages on Facebook. There is no longer sufficient time for in-depth analysis or scrutiny of news as in the past, which has affected the quality of analysis and the depth of journalistic treatment.

The shift in news sources:

All respondents confirmed the reliance on field sources. Direct reporting has decreased, and news is increasingly gathered from social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter, which are often associated with breaking news. Images and videos frequently appear on social networks before any official statement, making them a primary source of news.

Difficulties in News Verification: All journalists faced significant challenges in verifying news coming from social networks due to the rapid spread of images and videos.

The most significant problem is the limited time available to verify the accuracy of information, which increases the risk of publishing misinformation. Therefore, journalists rely on comparing sources and contacting witnesses whenever possible.

Ethical and Professional Challenges: All journalists stated that time pressure negatively impacts credibility and makes privacy issues difficult, especially when using images from Facebook without permission.

These challenges increase ethical risks, such as publishing unauthorized or inaccurate content.

The Impact of Digital Reliance on News Quality: All journalists observed that news quality has been negatively affected by the rush and speed of reporting, especially since digitization has provided rapid access to information, resulting in a relative loss of depth and accuracy.

Conclusion:

The interview results show a broad consensus among journalists regarding the challenges and transformations in journalistic work. Speed and reliance on digital sources have become prominent features, but they face significant

challenges in terms of accuracy and ethics. The digital revolution and social media platforms have radically transformed the work environment, making speed and instant access to information essential, yet at the expense of the depth, accuracy, and ethical standards that once formed the foundation of the profession. Based on the opinions of the journalists in the study sample, a clear and consistent picture emerges of the reality of journalistic work in the digital age—a reality where advantages and challenges are intricately intertwined. Therefore, media organizations need to adopt strategies that integrate traditional and digital media, while enhancing verification capabilities and maintaining professional standards. It can be said that journalistic work today stands at a crossroads. On the one hand, modern technologies have opened unprecedented horizons for covering events, making the public a partner in the newsgathering and dissemination process. On the other hand, journalists now face immense pressure to pursue scoops in a frantic race against time, threatening credibility, which is the profession's most fundamental asset.

What we gathered from the interviews with journalists is their emphasis that the future of journalism does not lay rejecting digital development, but rather in consciously adapting to it. Survival belongs to the institutions that can balance the demands of speed with the necessities of accuracy, and that invest in building the capabilities of their staff to deal with the content of the digital space with professionalism and ethics. Therefore, enhancing content verification, respecting privacy, and maintaining analytical depth are the compass that should guide the course of journalistic work in this era, to ensure that journalism remains a reliable source of knowledge amidst the flood of information we are **experiencing**.

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