The Use of the Internet and the Practice of Journalism in Bahrain

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This paper seeks to present the most important results of a field study on the role of using the Internet in enhancing the journalistic assignments in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in accelerating the production and dissemination of news, and in creating new opportunities for communication and interaction with the public. The study also examines Bahraini journalists’ perceptions of the changes in their journalistic practice and the positive and negative effects of the Internet on the journalist’s job. In addition, the study examines the possible changes that the Internet makes in relation to the values and ethics of the press. The results showed that the use of the Internet in the press had a positive impact on journalistic practice. Bahraini journalists tend to adopt and use it in their day-to-day work, although they are cautious about the unreliability of news and information on the Internet, their awareness of increased accountability before the public, and their belief in the negative role that the Internet can play in sacrificing accuracy for speed.

Keywords: journalism, online journalism, Internet, media, Bahrain

Introduction

The Global Competitiveness Report (2017-2018) of the World Economic Forum (Schwab, 2017) states that 98% of Bahrain’s population use the Internet (second in the world) and that the number of mobile Internet subscriptions per 100 inhabitants is 162.1% (ranked first in the world). Hence, Bahrain is considered the first country in North Africa and the Middle East and the first Gulf country to use the Internet. This is an important indicator on the study and analysis of the impact of the Internet on the journalism practice in the Kingdom of Bahrain; the changes that will occur on the daily work of journalists and their relationship with the public, and the evolution of values and ethics professional.

Despite the high percentage of Internet users in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the high technological potential of Bahraini press and media organizations, research and studies on the reality of journalistic practice in light of the tremendous development of Internet use and its strong entry into the newsrooms are almost non-existent. Besides, the online newspapers and news websites do not really reflect the new business models (Charon, 2010; Dagiral & Parasie, 2010) that take into account the developments in the field of journalism and media in relation to technological development.

A previous study on the assessment of the user interface and access to information for Bahraini newspapers (Alsridi, 2011) stressed that it is important to realize that news websites are new media which are different from the traditional press in its form, its elements, the way it works, and its relations with users. What is seen is a reproduction of the contents of print papers published in electronic versions without taking into account the new characteristics of the latter.

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Previous research has attempted to study and analyze many of the problems faced by the press at a time of technological developments, especially in light of the Internet’s access to newsrooms and their intensive use by the public. The two researchers Dagiral and Parasie limited these problems to (1) technical innovation in the press, (2) news production on the Internet, (3) the contribution of Internet users to news work, (4) the restructuring of professional identities, (5) business models for the online press, (6) use of news on the Internet.

In general, the spread of the Internet at the beginning of the 20th century and the increasing number of companies and institutions working in the field of information and advertising raised many questions about the future of journalism. In particular, new issues related to the copyrights of journalists and the strategies of traditional media institutions (printed press, radio, and television) were presented in relation to the websites that provided free news, information, and advertisements, as well as the characteristics of online news writing (Laimé, 2010).

Pelissier (2001) inquired about the nature of the press establishment in the presence of independent individual initiatives to produce online newspapers on the Internet. In his opinion, the press job, which was previously difficult to separate from literature, criticism, and science, has become intertwined with more administrative, documentary, advertising and technological jobs. The author also believes that modern information and communication technologies will not necessarily be a helping factor in the work of news producers, but will have the potential for profound change in the journalistic profession, at both the procedural and substantive levels.

Dahlgren (1996), although warning traditional journalists, encouraged them to invest strongly and sustainably in digital space if they wanted to avoid being marginalized by new players with news production strategies. This, he stressed, requires a different knowledge from the traditional press in that online news does not adhere to traditional news standards, and is supposed to be produced in three basic principles: Navigation, Hypermedia, and Interaction.

The Internet has caused disturbances in journalistic practice, leading to a profound change in the research, production, and dissemination of information. The digital revolution has changed the reality and, therefore, this change must be well reflected in the coexistence of the online and traditional media, and in integration into technological developments, as is the case in market developments, which calls for more stringent ethical requirements (Agostini, 1997).

Bockzkowski (2009) said that the press and journalists’ work is changing profoundly due to the developments in online news consumption by users for news which has become more consumed at the time and place of work, while print newspapers are read out of working hours.

As to the difference in the frequency of Mobilizing Information between print and online journalism, Hoffman (2006) has rejected the assumption that there is a greater frequency of news mobilization in the online press versus print journalism.

The production of content and making it available to Internet users depends on specific technical devices, mobilized by professionals. Journalists use these devices to coordinate their work and enhance order among different social worlds (news sources, marketing, Internet users, print editing, editing for the electronic version). Nevertheless, the uses of technology are relatively limited and remain linked to regulatory requirements and journalistic practices (Cabròli, 2010).

As for the relation of the press to the contribution of readers to the production of content, the journalist’s profession and its legitimate foundations remain indispensable. Journalism should not be dispensed with but
must be rethought, with further refinement of its broad lines (Canu & Datchary, 2010).

Charon (2010) considers that print journalism has become very weak, as the transformations in the media have undoubtedly led to the dissemination of news on the Internet playing a fundamental and different role.

Domingo (2008), following a constructivist approach in media innovation, examined the interactive feature of online journalism as a powerful myth that journalists must deal with in their everyday work. In his study, he concluded that the professional culture of traditional journalism severely impeded the development of most of the ideas of interactivity that did not fit the routine patterns of production.

Domingo, Quant, Heinonen, Paulussen, Singer, and Vujnovic (2008) conducted a comparative study on opportunities for public participation in the online press. The study consists of a sample of newspapers in Europe and the United States of America. He concluded that basic journalistic culture did not change in most newspapers, as professionals maintained decision-making power at every stage. Journalists retain the role of Gatekeeper in the adoption of user content on their websites. He also stressed the need for studies to take into account the factors of the professional context, the context of the market, and the social context.

Deuze (1999) raised a question to what extent and in what respects Internet journalism differs from traditional journalism. He discussed three specific characteristics: Interactivity, Personalization, and Convergence. He concluded that these characteristics in fact reflect the contemporary global trend towards Community Journalism or Civic Journalism.

In a comprehensive study of the impact of the Internet on the European press, Fortunati, Sarrica, O’Sullivan, Baleytiene, Harro-Loit, Macgregor, Roussou, Salaverria, and De Luca (2009) examined the social construction of journalism in two parts: the first in which journalists provide a positive assessment of the role of the Internet in the physical and institutional organization of work (speed, more publishing, more information, interaction with the public). The second is that journalists are wary of abandoning traditional journalism in terms of organization and professional practice (uncertainty about the unreliability of information on the Internet, acknowledging the difficulty of distinguishing between reliable and unreliable content on the Internet).

Haak, Parks, and Castells (2012) maintains that journalistic independence, which is influenced by daily pressures on journalists, can be strengthened in the digital age because Internet culture and technology are built on a platform of freedom that makes it difficult for governments and corporations to impose censorship in the age of digital networks. The author also believes that journalism networks in the digital age are not considered a threat to independence and the quality of the professional press, but rather a kind of liberalization from the direct control of the company. It is also an opportunity for journalists to excel in a unique way, and for the community to benefit from the spread of endless information and its significant interpretation.

On the strategic role of Norwegian online newspapers, Krumsvik (2006) sees online activities as primarily a defense strategy. The electronic versions of newspapers are mainly used as a defense strategy for market standing among readers and advertisers, as well as a paper-based marketing tool.

A study of the impact of the Internet in the Portuguese press (Bastos, Lima, & Moutinho, 2010) shows that journalists regard the Internet as a positive factor in the most important journalistic practice. It is a catalyst for traditional journalism (news gathering and publishing) and an opportunity to enhance communication. However, the study also showed that the Internet has a limited influence on the political role of journalism within the
context of democratic society (watchdogging, analysis, interpretation, influence on public opinion and political agenda). Nor is it a threat to the values and ethics of the profession or to the quality of journalistic work.

In a similar study of journalists in the newsrooms (Bastos, Lima, Moutinho, & Reis, 2012), the results supported the idea that the Internet has a positive impact on journalism as the global network enhances work performance and journalists communication, while the impact on the traditional role of journalists in a democratic society is limited.

The Internet seems to be a very useful tool for journalists and is widely included in daily journalistic practice (Hermans & Vergeer, 2009). The views of journalists are not related to the significant impact of the rising Internet applications on business aspects.

In a study on the use of the Internet by Greek journalists in their daily work, Giannakoulopoulos and Codellas (2005) said that political press journalists are not only using the Internet in a holistic manner but also express a positive view of the Internet’s potential to improve journalism in general.

In a study of the Internet and journalistic practice in Nigeria, Talabi (2011) concluded that there is no new media that cancels the old one, but it is rather an extension to it. It was important that the Internet press provided more news, supported by images and multimedia. He stressed that Nigerian press institutions should train professionals in the use of the Internet press, while the state should provide an accessible environment in remote areas.

In another study related to Nigeria, Uwom, Ajaegbu, Oloyede, and Sowemimo-Coker (2014) analyzed the impact of the Internet on news production in the Nigerian press. They concluded that most journalists were familiar with the use of the Internet and therefore adopted it in their efforts to collect news. In the same study, journalists also expressed the idea that the Internet has accelerated news production and has become a daily tool for reporting.

The Internet has opened up new and wide opportunities for journalism in the Arab region (Ben Moussa & Douai, 2014), broadening the audience base and attracting readers and users to contribute to interactive communication. This, in turn, has contributed to the emergence of a strong public space in these countries.

In the Kingdom of Bahrain, a previous study about the uses and gratifications of online news among young adults (Alsridi, 2018), shows that The local news websites have a high percentage of use, although they do not rely on a strategy for editing or providing digital services other than the paper version (Dagiral & Parasie, 2010).

Thus, we conclude that modern technology, especially the Internet, has led to profound changes in the field of journalism in general, and has opened the door to many questions, some of which include the business and cultural models of the press institutions. Others are related to the repercussions on the journalist’s job, the ethics and values of journalism and the new role of the public in the process of producing news and knowledge.

In the same context, this study attempts in particular to: (1) understand the relationship of the Internet use to the journalism practice in the Kingdom of Bahrain; (2) study the changes in the journalist’s job; and (3) identify the evolution of the values and ethics of the profession.

**Theoretical Background**

In order to understand the transformations of the journalism profession in the use of the Internet, we use the same approach adopted by many researchers (e.g.: Bastos et al., 2010; 2012; Fortunati et al., 2009) who
consider journalism as a social construction. This theory finds its roots in the social relationship between journalists, publishers, and readers, i.e., the relationship between journalists and the social context. The theory of social construction considers that social relations are not fixed, but are constantly reshaped within interactions with social actors (Fortunati et al., 2009). In this context, the press is made up of different images, ideologies, and perspectives created by different actors and compatible with the different lines of power existing in their relations (Bastos et al., 2012). It should be noted that the focus of this study will be only on the point of view of journalists as actors at the level of their acceptance or refusal to use the Internet, and the implications of the latter on the job of journalist and the values and ethics of the profession. According to Domingo (2008), the new professional features in the press can be considered as built-in practices based on a combination of material factors (staff size, technical resources) and social (professional culture, organization of work) in the formation of an online news project. This analysis is part of the social construction of the press, which is influenced by the social context.

In order to understand how the adoption of digital technologies in the profession of journalism evolves, we may look at the technological-driven approach, which views the content of the news as dependent on the provision of technologies (Bastos et al., 2010), that is, the shifts in the press can be explained by technological development (Hermans & Vergeer, 2009). News content is determined decisively by the presence of technology. The change in the press is often the result of technological developments (Pavlic, 2010).

We may also consider the technological determinism theory in interpreting changes in the journalistic profession (Bastos et al., 2012). This theory, though important, remained limited and was often rejected in favor of models more in line with the theory of social construction (Bastos et al., 2010). Innovation associated with the development of technology is seen as a complex process of interaction among professionals, institutions, and economic factors (Hermans & Vergeer, 2009). On this basis, social context factors (workplace, working conditions, professional values...) have become key factors in the study and analysis of technological innovations in the press.

This study considers that Bahraini journalists represent an important player in social construction through their continuous and complex interaction with the Internet in the context of the practice of journalism on the one hand and their interaction with the public and other actors within the social context on the other.

**Research Questions**

RQ 1: Do Bahraini journalists consider the Internet as an incentive to enhance journalism and accelerate news dissemination and a new opportunity to communicate and interact with the public?

H 1: The younger journalists are the most responsive to new opportunities offered by the Internet to promote journalistic practice.

H 2: Journalists with Internet training are most responsive to new opportunities offered by the Internet to promote journalistic practice.

RQ 2: Do journalists consider the changes made by the Internet to be positive or negative to the journalist’s job?

H 1: It is difficult for journalists to identify this change.

H 2: Older journalists are more aware of these changes.

RQ 3: Do journalists develop new values related to the ethics of journalism while using the Internet?

H 1: Older journalists are more resistant to these developments.
H 2: The credibility of news on the Internet varies between the most and the least used, as well as between males and females.

Methodology

A questionnaire was prepared, reviewed, and approved by two members of the Scientific Research Committee of the Mass Communication Department at the University of Bahrain. The questionnaire was randomly distributed to 10 journalists. Some of the questions that seemed unclear were modified. The questionnaire was then distributed randomly to Bahraini journalists, most of whom belong to the Bahrain Journalists’ Association and work in the print, audiovisual, online media and the press agency. The questionnaire was distributed electronically via Survey Monkey software (N = 172), and directly through the printed form (N = 60), with the aim of giving all participants the opportunity to use the method of their choice in filling out the form. As a result, 232 applications were received, representing 40% of the number of journalists registered under the Bahraini Journalists’ Association, according to official statistics issued by the Bahrain Journalists Association (2018). The collection process was completed between 12 February and 16 April 2018. The completed forms received resulted in the exclusion of 28 forms that did not meet the scientific criteria. A final figure of 204 was retained. Participation in this study was voluntary and anonymous for all participants. The final sample includes 61% of males and 39% of females. The majority of them are at the bachelor level (65%). The sample also includes 43% of journalists working in print media, 23% in the audiovisual media, 22% in the press agency, and 12% in the online media. 67% of the journalists work full-time, 33% part-time. 57% of the sample is from the youth group (25-35 years). Most of them have been using the Internet for journalism for more than five years (65%).

The survey includes 21 questions, divided into quantitative and qualitative questions. The combination of the two types of questions gives greater enrichment to the level of results. Also the qualitative questions are important in giving the participants the opportunity to express a direct opinion on some of the questions, contrary to the process of selection of ready answers.

The survey aims to identify the impact of the Internet on journalistic practice as a catalyst in enhancing journalistic work, speeding up publication and an opportunity for greater communication and interaction with the public. The study also examines the changes in the journalist’s job in the use of the Internet, as well as understanding the professionals’ perception of the impact of the Internet on journalistic values and ethics.

As for processing and analyzing the data results, Survey Monkey software was used to prepare and compile data on the Internet. All the data were exported in Excel format, including the final numbers and percentages of the quantitative answers. The analysis of the results was done in more depth by the SPSS software.

In order to analyze the role of the Internet and its impact on journalistic practice, some of the main issues such as daily journalistic practice, journalists’ perception of the job, ethics of the profession and the relationship with the public were highlighted. The questions are based on a “psychometric Likert scale” so that respondents determine their degree of agreement to the statement. For this, the answers were converted in the form of a scale where the number 1 represents a strong negative effect and the number 5 is a strong positive impact of the Internet on the variable we are analyzing. The study also included comparison of groups (group comparisons) through analysis of variance.
The Impact of the Internet in Enhancing Journalism

Respondents, whether they work in the print or online press, the audiovisual media, or the press agency, male or female, working full-time or part-time, regardless of their average daily use of the Internet, on Internet training or not, agree that the use of the Internet helps to improve the speed of news production (Harmans et al., 2009; Bastos et al., 2012; 2010; Giannakoulopoulos & Codellas, 2005; Uwom et al., 2014; Ben Moussa & Douai, 2014). This result can also be explained by the high rate of Internet use in Bahrain (Schwab, 2017).

Most respondents consider Internet tools to be a positive and important factor in news gathering, the most prominent of which are websites, search engines and e-mail. It is strange, however, that the interview technique remains the preferred tool for collecting information according to respondents. The results show that the older respondents prefer this technique most. On the other hand, both fax and public libraries, as tools for collecting information, recorded a clear decline according to respondents.

The results also show that the importance of using SMS (WhatsApp), as techniques for collecting information in the journalistic work, increases with the most frequently used Internet users, while social media and blogs are less important with the least frequently used Internet users. As for the use of the personal archive as a technique for collecting information, it remains affected by the daily rate of Internet use. The most frequently used Internet users tend to underestimate the use of the personal archive. The use of public libraries as a source of information is also influenced by the educational level factor. Postgraduate students tend to think more about the importance of public libraries as a source of information collection.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
<th>t</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Std. Error</td>
<td>Beta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>0.842</td>
<td>0.303</td>
<td>2.782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internet use</td>
<td>0.178</td>
<td>0.059</td>
<td>0.399</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note. Source: Survey from field analysis, 2018.

The majority of the respondents agree that the Internet helps in carrying out journalistic assignments in various forms, especially in accessing and searching for information. On the other hand, we note that part-time respondents are less inclined to consider the Internet as a tool to investigate the validity of information. This may be due to the different working environment between the two types of work in that the full-time environment is more stable to adopt the Internet and rely on it to accomplish the journalistic tasks.

Table 2

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<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Std. Error</td>
<td>Beta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>0.717</td>
<td>0.433</td>
<td>1.655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>0.877</td>
<td>0.303</td>
<td>0.389</td>
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Note. Source: Survey from field analysis, 2018.
Respondents consider that the issues of “reaching the widest possible audience” and “providing news to the public as quickly as possible” are the two most important issues to be achieved using the Internet. A smaller percentage of respondents also believe that the Internet also affects “maintaining contact with the public”, “spreading new trends and ideas”, and “responding to journalistic reactions”.

We note that there is a correlation between the issue of the impact of the Internet on “dissemination of reliable information” and “gender”. Females are less likely than males to agree with this view, while older journalists who are more likely to use the Internet in journalism are less conciliatory than their newer colleagues in the Internet.

The “type of work” is an explanatory element of the influence of the Internet in “analyzing and interpreting complex issues”, so that full-time journalists are more likely than part-time journalists to regard the Internet as an important element in analyzing and interpreting complex issues.

Respondents said they considered the Internet an important element in influencing public opinion. The results show that younger respondents are more likely to have this view compared with older respondents.

It also appears that age is an explanatory indicator of the impact of the Internet on “creating a good environment for advertisers”. The younger respondents tend to take this view, while the older respondents are less aware of this issue.

Most respondents consider having links with the public is important for the online press, and combining the possibilities of print journalism and electronic journalism improves the relationship with the public. By contrast, most respondents do not agree that print journalism is more reliable and serves better than the online journalism.

Although most respondents believe that the public would prefer that newspapers use online resources, it also believes that the public needs news and not interaction with journalists. Finally, the majority of respondents believe that the public favors print journalism when it comes to important issues.

The results show that respondents with a lower level of education are more inclined to believe that print journalism is more reliable than online journalism, and also believe that the public needs news rather than interaction with journalists.

Referring to the first research question (Do Bahraini journalists consider the Internet as an incentive to enhance journalism and accelerate news dissemination and a new opportunity to communicate and interact with the public?), we note that the hypothesis that younger journalists are more responsive to new opportunities offered by the Internet to promote journalistic practice has not been fully confirmed. It is noted this positive relationship is only within the influence of the Internet in the issues of “influencing public opinion” and “creating a new environment for advertisers”. In the same research question, the second hypothesis was not confirmed (journalists with Internet training are most responsive to new opportunities offered by the Internet to enhance journalistic practice). The results showed that there was a great response among the respondents to the new opportunities provided by the Internet to enhance the journalistic practice without any relationship with the training factor.

The Impact of the Internet on the Journalist’s Job

In response to a question about the impact of the Internet on the future and strategies of print journalism, most respondents agree that long-term online journalism is a necessary strategy for print journalism (Dahlgren, 1996). They also consider that news should be published online as quickly as possible regardless of the
schedule of the printed newspaper. Most respondents also acknowledge that multimedia is an important new element in presenting news to the public (Talabi, 2011). However, a small percentage of respondents express their negative view of the impact of the Internet on print journalism. They believe that the Internet has not opened up new opportunities for print journalism (22%), that multi-channel publishing is a recycling of the same content through different channels (22%), and that blogs and civic journalism are not considered real journalism (23%).

Most respondents consider free news published on the Internet reduce the value of journalists’ work that the electronic version is a drain on the real function of the newspaper, and public press is a threat to newspapers.

The “educational level” factor explains the divergence of opinion on the impact of the Internet on opening new opportunities for print journalism. The higher the level of education, the greater the tendency for the Internet as a new opportunity for print journalism.

According to the results, the elements of “seniority in the use of the Internet in journalism” and “the technological capabilities of the press establishment” are essential elements in determining the respondents’ view of the role of online journalism as a necessity strategy for the future of print journalism. The greater the use and the greater the technological potential of the institution, the more positive the vision of online journalism as a future strategy for print journalism.

Females are more inclined than males to the idea that publishing free news online reduces the value of journalists’ work. Older, female, and less-used respondents are more likely not to regard citizen journalism and blogs as real journalism.

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>2.059</td>
<td>0.335</td>
<td>6.147</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet use</td>
<td>-0.221</td>
<td>0.056</td>
<td>-0.481</td>
<td>-3.950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>0.229</td>
<td>0.095</td>
<td>0.292</td>
<td>2.404</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Source: Survey from field analysis, 2018.

Most respondents agree that with the development of the Internet, the importance of the technological skills of journalists has increased significantly (Ben Moussa & Douai, 2014). Most respondents also believe that with the Internet, journalists can get more information in their stories than before and can produce more attractive forms of journalism. Respondents also believe that working for multiple media makes journalism more rewarding while a small percentage of respondents do not see that a good journalist in the printed newspaper is usually good in the electronic newspaper. The results also show that respondents with high technological potential in the press establishment are more likely to be influenced by the Internet to develop more attractive forms of journalism.

Most respondents agree that print newspapers will have to adopt the Internet to survive (Dahlgren, 1996). They see that journalists have better tools within the online media to provide basic information and context than the printed press. They also believe that they can enrich their work by moving through different publishing
channels (printed/online) for the same newspaper. They also see that Internet journalists are closer to their audience than print journalists. The results show, on the other hand, that a significant proportion of respondents believe that the Internet leads the press to more office work and makes it more superficial.

With regard to the second research question (whether journalists consider the changes made by the Internet as positive or negative to the journalist’s job?), the first hypothesis that it is difficult for journalists to update this change is not confirmed, nor is the second hypothesis that older journalists are more aware of these changes. The results show that all respondents agree that the Internet is positively reflected in the journalist’s job. There is a growing tendency for this opinion to be positive among respondents who are more Internet-savvy and have high technological potential in the press establishment.

The Impact of the Internet on the Values and Ethics of the Press

The vast majority of respondents is wary of dealing with the information provided by the Internet and considers it unreliable (Fortunati et al., 2009). They also argue that online interaction has made journalism more accountable to the public, but at the same time they consider that the Internet provides the use of a wide range of sources, making it easy to verify information.

Most respondents acknowledge that online journalism has sacrificed accuracy for speed. They are encouraged to consider that the Internet may threaten the quality of the press. This finding contradicts Haak et al.’s (2012) conclusion that journalism networks in the digital age are not considered a threat to the independence and quality of professional journalism.

The younger respondents tend to believe that online interaction makes journalism more accountable to the public. On the other hand, the results confirm that the more the Internet is used every day, the more respondents think that the Internet does not threaten the quality of the press. Journalists working in the print and audiovisual media tend to believe that the Internet threatens the quality of the press more than journalists working in the online press or the press agency. Those working part-time also agree less on this issue.

The results show that journalists working for institutions with high technological potential believe that the Internet allows journalists to use a wide range of resources.

Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>-1.509</td>
<td>1.022</td>
<td>-1.477</td>
<td>0.147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet use</td>
<td>0.434</td>
<td>0.181</td>
<td>0.309</td>
<td>2.394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>0.901</td>
<td>0.305</td>
<td>0.385</td>
<td>2.952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>0.323</td>
<td>0.141</td>
<td>0.300</td>
<td>2.296</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note. Source: Survey from field analysis, 2018.

In relation to the third research question (Do journalists develop new values related to the ethics of journalism while using the Internet?), respondents tend to develop new values related to journalistic ethics, such as greater caution about the reliability of online information, awareness of increased accountability to the public, and sacrificing accuracy for speed. However, the first hypothesis is not confirmed (older journalists are more resistant to these developments) and the second hypothesis (the credibility of the news on the Internet varies between the most and the less used as well as between males and females).
Discussion and Conclusion

The results of the study of the impact of the Internet on journalistic practice in the Kingdom Bahrain, showed that all respondents agree that the Internet contributes effectively to improving the speed of press production regardless of gender, place of work or seniority in the use of the Internet.

The relationship of journalists, as an active social actor, to the Internet, seems to be different and complex. Although expressing a generally positive view of the role of the Internet in enhancing journalistic work (news gathering, research and investigation, multimedia availability, rapid dissemination, communication with the public), they are wary of the unreliability of news and information from the Internet, and believe in increased accountability to the public.

It is also clear that the degree of using and adopting the Internet, as an effective tool in enhancing journalistic practice, is influenced by the type of work. Full-time journalists are more pro this issue. Perhaps the explanation is that the full-time work environment provides professional stability that encourages the use and adoption of the Internet in journalism. Many Bahraini journalists work full-time in non-press jobs and part-time in journalism.

This different relationship to the Internet also appears to be based on the belief of the absolute majority of respondents that online journalism should be adopted as a future strategy for the print press and the media in general, and to proceed with the publication of the news as quickly as possible without taking into account the publication schedule; the adoption of multimedia as tools that support analysis and purposeful interpretation, and the use of better tools within the online press to give the basic information and context compared to the print press. On the other hand, a small percentage of journalists are still rejecting the Internet pros they see it as not opening new opportunities for print journalism. Free news on the Internet, blogs, and citizen journalism are a threat to the journalist’s job. They see the Internet leading the press to a more superficial and office-based work.

With regard to the impact of the Internet on the values and ethics of the press, most respondents are cautious about the unreliability of news and information from the Internet, despite the availability of a large number of sources and tools to assist in the investigation of information. As for the relationship between the Internet and the speed of publication, most respondents admit that the press sacrificed accuracy for speed, in a social and economic context characterized by intense competition for news and advertising, and free, faster and cheaper alternative digital publishing.

References


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