



Clarifying the types of online journalism

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Abstract:

This article aims to clarify well-known concepts in the digital press, particularly those that overlap and can cause confusion when used interchangeably. To achieve this objective, we reviewed specialized literature, aiming not only to define these concepts but also to categorize them.

In the first part of the article, we provide a brief overview of the emergence of the electronic press. We then detail the most common concepts. Finally, we present the context of the online press in Algeria, starting with its emergence and providing some examples.

Keywords: Online press; Journalism 2.0; Constructive journalism; Algerian pure-players context.

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1. INTRODUCTION

When confronted with concepts that overlap and appear synonymous, it can often lead to a state of confusion, especially when they are taken from different languages. For instance, when approaching the concept of “electronic press”, we come across a multitude of concepts and terminology that refer to it. The confusion arises when some of them are used indiscriminately to describe a specific electronic press, regardless of their meaning or their type. This situation becomes even more accentuated when the meaning of these concepts is intertwined or refer for several things simultaneously.

The specialized literature on the electronic press has covered many concepts, but we chose to focus on the ones that are commonly encountered and, in our opinion, pose a significant challenge in comprehension.

We have observed, for example, that expressions such as *participatory journalism* and *citizen journalism* are often used to designate a type of journalism that has developed with the emergence of both the web journalism and the Digital Social Networks; and although they appear similar, they nonetheless remain different.

The present article aims to address the most frequently utilized concepts associated with the dissemination of information on the World Wide Web, with an endeavour to offer clarity on their definitions. Noteworthy concepts encompass the electronic press, online press (Charon and Le Floch, 2011), web journalism, participatory journalism (Hermida, 2012), citizen journalism (Degand and Grevisse, 2012; Weisz-Myara, 2012), journalism 2.0 (Le Champion, 2012), infomediaries (Rebillard and Smyrniaios, 2010), mobile journalism (Rieffel, 2001; Briggs, 2014), cyber-journalism (Pelissier, 2001, 2003), pure-players; and others less utilized like slow journalism (Le Masurier, 2015, 2016) are all integral components of the realm of digital journalism.

We are interested in delineating the concepts that have been integrated into the realms of press and journalism in light of the Internet's emergence and its accessibility to the general public, rather than adhering to traditional notions of "press" or "journalism". In order to comprehend the fundamental distinctions among these concepts and the various forms of online journalism, we aim to examine the key advancements in Information and Communication Technologies and analyse how journalism has undergone a process of hybridization (Estienne, 2007). The transition of media to digital platforms not only gave rise to novel professions requiring collaboration with journalists, but also introduced new modes of press and consumption patterns necessitating journalists' adaptation. Furthermore, the digital journalism has special characteristics and has clear existential, social, and economic objectives to achieve (Díaz Noci & al., 2007).

The first section of this article is devoted to the inception of this emerging press entity, the following part will delineate various conceptual frameworks and typologies to establish a more defined demarcation among them. Lastly, an exploration of the Algerian online media environment will be undertaken. Our study drew from scholarly sources to elucidate the frameworks and formulate a succinct typology of online journalism.

1. Emergence of the electronic press.

The inception of electronic media is often attributed by numerous scholars to the emergence of teletext and videotext in the 1970s, which viewers could access through their television sets. The



inaugural electronic journal traces back to 1971, overseen by "The General Post Office" in the United Kingdom. "Prestel," the teletext service, was made available to the public in 1979. Some researchers, however, pinpoint the genesis of electronic media to the partnership between the BBC and IBA in 1976, utilizing the "Ceefax" and "Oracle" systems for teletext services. Despite its lack of success, this collaboration marked a significant milestone in the evolution of electronic journalism, as it spurred advancements in computer technology and programming systems (Ghazi, 2022, p.84-85, Delliou, 2023, p.167-170).

The dematerialization and digitization of data, coupled with the emergence of new storage methods in the 1980s, represented a significant advancement in data circulation, initially through diskettes and later via CD-ROMs. Subsequently, the democratization of the Internet in the 1990s facilitated a paradigm shift in telecommunications by enabling global data exchange and sharing across personal computers and telephone networks.

Initially designated for military applications, the Internet network later found utility in academic settings, fostering disruption in information accessibility and dissemination.

The technological upheavals have led to the establishment of novel vocations, fresh communication methods, and enhanced information availability. Furthermore, the advent of the Internet prompted media outlets to swiftly introduce electronic editions. Major press enterprises in the United States and subsequently in Europe expeditiously launched digital websites featuring visuals and articles akin to their traditional printed newspapers (Charon and Le Floch, 2011).

The emergence of online press faced numerous obstacles. Initially, many newspapers moved onto the internet to reduce production expenses associated with printing and distribution. However, due to economic and technical challenges, they eventually abandoned this endeavour. They struggled with mastering the new edition model, including the costs of creating, launching, and hosting websites, as well as producing multimedia contents. Moreover, technological limitations and a shortage of skilled professionals familiar with this modern approach to dissemination further complicated their efforts.

Once these newspapers have mastered the tool and adapted their economic models, they come back from the early 2000s equipped with technical teams and editors focused on digital media. Their new challenges are to stay close to readers, deliver information quickly, and remain accessible, goals that were previously the domain of radio and television.

Having a presence on the web has become essential for all media outlets, leading them to create websites that reflect their brands and extend their content beyond traditional channels. This transition to the web has been strategized as an "Internet positioning strategy" (Zouari, 2007).

There is fierce competition among media outlets, compelling them to innovate and race to capture larger audiences and readership. Besides traditional media, entirely digital newcomers—referred to as "pure-players"—have emerged. These websites exclusively publish multimedia content online and strive to carve out a niche on the web. Initially, pure-players struggled due to their unstable economic models and lack of digital expertise. However, the most resilient have managed to survive and remain active online, with some even becoming indispensable.

2. New practices, new concepts

Before dealing with the new concepts linked to journalism, we are going to examine some terminology briefly.



Ward (2013) elucidates that the terms 'digital', 'online', 'Internet', and 'World Wide Web' are often utilized interchangeably, despite not being synonymous in meaning.

The digital process involves the conversion of various forms of information (such as data, text, graphics, audio, images, or video) into numerical sequences known as digits. This technological advancement has facilitated the virtual transportation of digital data while simultaneously reducing the hardware requirements for storage. Undoubtedly, one of the most remarkable outcomes of digitalization is the ability to download data from any location worldwide.

Online, as a broad term, is commonly used to describe the accessibility of digital information on the Internet via a modem and telephone connection. A publication that maintains a presence on the Internet is considered to be online.

The distinction between the World Wide Web and the Internet can be confusing. The Internet serves as the foundational infrastructure enabling global computer communication, whereas the web functions as the interface through which individuals can exchange various forms of data online.

3.1. The electronic press

Zouari (2007) posits that a media is comprised of four fundamental components: the integration of multiple information processing techniques, a means of dissemination, content, and the form of said content. He contends that these components have experienced significant advancements as new techniques have replaced old ones, particularly due to the development of computers and electronic media. The electronic press is seen as the outcome of a twofold evolution: a shift in the medium of information dispersal from paper to digital media, and a transformation in the content itself, encompassing the organization, presentation, dissemination, and reception of press information.

The notion of "electronic press" is a prevalent one, denoting websites affiliated with traditional print media that largely mirror their content. It is perceived as a form of diversification, often mirroring the content of the print version in a digital format (Charon and Le Floch, 2011).

The definition of electronic press is not universally agreed upon; in Algeria, terms like "electronic press", "online press", "online information", and "online communication" are interchangeably used to describe all forms of press published online, as stipulated in the Organic Law of Information n°12-05 January, 12th, 2012. This concept is clearly outlined in Article 67 of the law. It excludes online press that relies on a printed newspaper, as articulated in Article 68. Taiebi Moussaoui (2016) elucidates that although the organic law acknowledges the presence of electronic press in Algeria, it does so in a cursory manner. Therefore, it is clear that the term "electronic press" refers to two types of online media: websites for print media and pure-players.

3.2. Online press

The notion of "online press" encompasses various press and information websites, although it lacks clarity and necessitates a more precise definition. The term "online" denotes the accessibility of data through a terminal or personal computer connected to the Internet via a modem, as discussed in previous studies (Schulte and Dufresne, 1999; Ward, 2013). Thus, the terms "online press", "online journalism", or "web journalism", often used interchangeably, imply the ability to access press websites by connecting a computer and a modem to the Internet.

Charon and Le Floch (2011) emphasize the ambiguity surrounding the concept, stating that the online press is mainly comprised of editorially produced information content. Digital media



disseminates a wide range of information, from basic data to highly sophisticated content. The context and social role of the media in mediating between events, phenomena, and issues within society and its members is where press information is explicitly situated. Their explanation is that historically, media outlets and their staff, particularly journalists, have been the means by which this role has been formalized and professionalized. Therefore, online press fulfils this purpose by making use of the capabilities and potential of digital technologies online.

The authors establish a direct correlation between the functionalities and technological capabilities of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) via the Internet on one hand, and the journalism profession, starting with journalists who adapt to fulfil their role, on the other hand. Nonetheless, they note that not all news websites fall under the category of online press, as the information available is not solely journalistic and may originate from new sources and pathways before reaching a user's screen.

3.3. Journalism 2.0

New forms of communication, such as web journalism 2.0 or citizen journalism, emerged in the 2000s with the advent of web 2.0 technologies, fostering participatory journalism in various forms. Technological advancements have facilitated individual communication through blogs and digital social networks, leading to collaborations between journalists and ordinary citizens. This interactive dynamic disrupts the communication process, necessitating the integration of citizens as new actors and information sources, potentially serving as the primary or sole eyewitness to an event, thereby transforming them into amateur journalists. The terms "web journalism" and "online journalism" are often used interchangeably to denote journalism on the web with its myriad possibilities.

Before delving further, it is imperative to establish a clear definition of web2.0. The term "web" denotes the World Wide Web (WWW) and signifies the interconnectedness of information on the Internet.

The term "web 2.0" amalgamates the word "web" with the numerical annotation "2.0" to emphasize the enhanced interactivity of web pages. This advancement was made feasible through dynamic programming languages, distinguishing it from the static nature of "web 1.0." Consequently, users gained the ability to engage with web content, marking a pivotal shift from passive browsing to interactive participation. This evolution greatly catalysed the participatory aspects of online journalism (Weisz-Myara, 2012, p.74), transforming static web pages into dynamic multimedia platforms that empowered users to navigate through hyperlinks, tags, and engage with the content through comments. This interactive dimension of web 2.0 fostered novel practices and user engagement (Briggs, 2007), facilitating a symbiotic relationship between internet users and journalists.

This interactive landscape birthed novel concepts that are encapsulated within the realm of web journalism 2.0. This paradigm encompasses various features associated with web 2.0 functionalities (Le Champion, 2012), notably participatory journalism, collaborative journalism, pro-am journalism, and citizen journalism, which are widely prevalent. Central to these concepts is the active involvement of non-journalists in information creation and dissemination.

3.3.1. Participatory journalism

Participatory journalism serves as a comprehensive framework that often overlaps with citizen journalism, epitomizing the active engagement of the public information collection, analysis, and



distribution traditionally undertaken by professional journalists (Hermida, 2012). This active involvement materializes through non-journalists contributing to news creation, either through direct submissions to editorial offices or via interactions on digital platforms and social media channels (Singer & al., 2011). Notably, during events like the Arab Spring, media outlets globally leveraged citizen journalists in regions like Syria, Egypt, and Tunisia to provide coverage in the absence of local correspondents.

Furthermore, the essence of interactivity manifests prominently in user comments, serving as a platform for users to seek clarification, rectify misinformation, or provide firsthand accounts, thereby fostering a dynamic exchange between internet users and journalistic entities.

Contributions may also manifest as notifications alerts on RSNs and platforms. Internet users leverage the technical accessibility to news platforms through mobile devices (especially smartphones) which saw a significant increase especially following the introduction of 3G and 4G mobile Internet networks by promptly sharing images and videos with the editorial team's website.

There exists a third type of contribution, which involves engaging with the editorial team by taking part in editorial meetings and directly suggesting subjects to the journalists present during the gathering. In such instances, a community manager is designated by the editorial staff to relay messages to journalists via emails or digital social platforms. Participatory journalism is succinctly described as the outcome of the "interaction" among providers of original documents, sourced information, and journalistic methods of authentication and information processing in an "iterative process" that revolves around a "common belief that the final journalistic output adheres to higher information standards than the sum of individual contributions" (Weisz-Myara, 2012).

3.3.2. Collaborative journalism

This form of journalism, while similar to participatory journalism, emphasizes collaboration among various actors in the information production process. It truly comes into its own when built around cooperation between information professionals, whether journalists or press organizations, particularly in the context of investigative journalism or editorial projects. This collaboration can occur at local, regional, or international levels, aiming to address the resource constraints (economic, technical, etc.) faced by small press companies and the challenges of maintaining a large network of journalists and professional correspondents both locally and globally. Studies by Jenkins and Graves (2019) and Mesquita (2023) have provided examples of this type of journalism. An example of editorial projects is the Story Lab, cited by Antheaume (2013), launched in the USA by the Washington Post in 2009, which involved collaboration between professional journalists and amateur internet users to work on news topics and share information sources.

3.3.4. Citizen journalism

"Citizen journalism," inherently participatory, involves individuals who report events or expose facts, contributing to information production with a democratic purpose. It gained momentum in the 2000s with the rise of social media (a prime platform for citizen contributions), the spread of smartphones, and the expansion of mobile internet networks (2G, 3G, and 4G). However, citizen journalism is not limited to the internet, as citizens sent documents and videos to media outlets even before the internet era (Roberts, 2019).

One of the first participatory sites and a pioneer in citizen journalism is the South Korean news site OhMyNews, launched in 2000. Its slogan, "Every Citizen is a Reporter," encapsulated its model



of operation, which involved over sixty professional journalists supervising more than 50,000 citizen contributors (Weisz-Myara, 2012).

The concept has faced significant criticism. Some, like Arnaud Mercier, argue that there is no such thing as citizen journalism. At the 5th international conference on "Social Networks, Digital Traces, and Digital Communication" held at the University of Le Havre on June 6-8, 2018, Mercier stated, "There are no citizen journalists. There are journalists, and there are citizens. Helping your little brother with his homework does not make you a citizen teacher. We should rather talk about citizen informants."

Others consider citizen journalists as semi-professional amateurs, unpaid, or lacking the time to thoroughly develop their articles, or as incompetent. Despite these criticisms, researchers agree that citizen journalists are often ordinary people who witness extraordinary events (Wall, 2015).

Civic journalism and public journalism, both associated with citizen journalism, describe a particular orientation where journalists reject the professional value of objectivity in favour of actively seeking to serve the public interest. Civic journalism is the term for journalism that takes this approach, while public journalism refers to a movement from the 1990s that encouraged professional journalists to focus on the needs of their communities (Roberts, 2019).

3.3.5. Pro-am journalism

Pro-am journalism (pro = professional, am = amateur) is a type of collaborative journalism that involves both professional journalists and amateur citizens. Professional journalists oversee the information production process, ensuring that data collection, processing, and analysis adhere to professional standards. Amateur citizens contribute by providing testimonies, photos, documents, and raw videos. This collaboration between professionals and amateurs fosters a cooperative attitude while maintaining a professional approach to information production (Weisz-Myara, 2012; Hermida, 2012). The term pro-am can also refer to an amateur who works, produces, or innovates according to professional standards and criteria (Bruns, 2011).

3.4. Networked journalism

The rise of video-sharing platforms like YouTube and digital social networks such as Facebook and Twitter have empowered internet users to populate the web with personal photos and videos. These new expressive spaces played an unexpected role during the Arab uprisings, as local citizens began sharing photos and videos of events in their countries. The absence of professional journalists on the scene led these citizen contributions to become a new source of information. This scenario is a prime example of networked journalism (Pélissier, 2001), where citizen journalists collaborate with professional journalists by publishing, verifying, correcting, supplementing, or refuting information shared on digital social networks.

Networked journalism represents a model that outlines the interactive environments in which journalistic organizations operate today, reflecting the evolving landscape of news gathering, production, and exchange. It signifies a shift from traditional hierarchical structures to collaborative relationships between audiences and journalistic entities. In networked journalism, information flows through a decentralized and non-linear structure, where various nodes, including traditional media outlets, bloggers, and independent journalists, contribute to the information exchange within the network. This model emphasizes multidirectional information flows and the absence of strict hierarchies, facilitating diverse connectivity opportunities and the integration of different nodes into the network. Networked journalism underscores the need for journalistic organizations to adapt to



the changing information landscape by strategically positioning themselves within the network and determining how to engage with different nodes to ensure their voices are heard amid vast information exchanges (Heinrich., 2012).

These new practices have given rise to a new concept, "the information network economy," which revolves around individual and decentralized action that prioritizes the collective. The innovations implemented through non-market mechanisms are also based on non-proprietary principles (Sonnac, 2012).

3.5. Pure-players

We must acknowledge the concept of the pure-player, which differs from that of the electronic press. As mentioned earlier, the electronic press refers to traditional newspapers that have an online presence but also produce a print version. In contrast, a pure-player is an information site created specifically for the Internet (Charon and Le Floch, 2011). It is run by a press company that publishes exclusively online, with an editorial team composed of professional journalists from the print or audiovisual sectors, or journalists native to the web — often young journalists without pre-Internet journalism experience. Pure-players rely entirely on the Internet for their article publications.

3.6. Mobile journalism

The development of mobile phone networks, advanced smartphones with high-resolution cameras, ample audiovisual data storage, long battery life, and internet access has provided today's journalists with essential tools, leading to the rise of mobile journalism.

This type of journalism relies on three key elements: a high-quality smartphone with cutting-edge features, a high-speed Internet connection (such as 3G or 4G), and a laptop for data processing, image editing, video editing, and article writing. However, according to phone manufacturers, future smartphones may function as miniaturized computers. Until then, mobile journalists must utilize current equipment and be versatile to perform their duties effectively.

In his manual for journalism students, Briggs (2014) emphasizes the importance of mastering basic programming for effective broadcasting, as well as proficiency in image processing and video editing software. The goal of a mobile journalist is not to produce broadcast-quality audiovisual content, but rather to provide information that is "as factual and instantaneous" as possible. A mobile journalist, who has limited demands regarding the quality of on-the-spot content, is tasked with continuously covering events on their newspaper's website and/or on social networks, publishing updates with each development. Once the event concludes, the mobile journalist has the time to write a detailed article based on all previous updates and comments received during the event. This final article becomes a comprehensive and precise summary of the event compared to the real-time updates.

However, the concept of "mobile journalism" should not be confused with "mobility." Rieffel (2001) explains that there is increasing mobility among journalists throughout their careers. Some may temporarily leave the profession and later return, or even change their profession entirely for various personal or professional reasons. He specifies that this mobility can be geographical, thematic, or functional. In other words, today's journalists "move" more, spend less time in a single position or company, and switch sections if necessary. This mobility is often linked to the versatility of their skills and expertise. It involves not only mastering the basics of journalism but also being proficient in a wide range of formats and broadcasting techniques required by the profession today.



A journalist must, therefore, master multi-editorial skills (such as written press in all its genres, audiovisual, radio, photography, etc.), possess a broad general knowledge, and have a well-developed ability to synthesize information. Additionally, specialization in a specific field can be a significant asset on the resumes of these future journalists.

3.7. Infomediaries

Infomediaries are intermediary sites that specialize in the exchange of information based on consumers' identities and preferences. Their task is to extract and classify content related to current events, presenting it to users in an "editorialized" form. According to Rebillard and Smyrniaos (2010), the term "infomediaries" combines "information" and "intermediation", a concept introduced by Kimon Valaskakis in 1982. They describe Valaskakis' definition as: "The process by which an increasing number of human activities, in different domains, (...) are being either mediated or replaced by high-tech information processing devices."

They also referenced Hagel and Rayport's 1997 definition, which describes infomediaries as intermediaries specializing in the exchange of information about consumers' identities and preferences. In this context, the role of the infomediary is to ensure the proper use of consumer data by service and product providers, while also providing these providers with opportunities for commercial exploitation (Rebillard & Smyrniaos, 2010).

The content provided by infomediaries is largely sourced from other places (such as press sites) and assembled automatically using algorithms that collect, classify, and cross-check information before redistributing it to internet users. Google News is a prime example of an infomediary.

In essence, advances in algorithm programming have made it almost possible to have a newspaper without journalists, as everything is done automatically. This technique can even offer targeted information directly to users based on their interests. Infomediaries generate billions of clicks to various information provider sites, thereby acting as audience providers for these sites. Software developed in the USA in the 2000s is capable of automatically managing home pages, and some even compile sports or economic data into articles, which are then directly published on news sites (Antheaume, 2013).

3.8. Cyber-journalism

The term "cyber-journalism" combines the word "journalism" with the prefix "cyber-", which, as defined by Larousse 2008, pertains to activities related to the Internet network. Pélissier (2001) adopts this term to denote network journalism, specifically focusing on journalism conducted online. Cyber-journalism encompasses what Pélissier describes as the essential components: hypertext, navigation, and interaction.

Pélissier (2003) emphasizes that a cyber-journalist must possess skills in "hypertextual writing," the creation of "navigation circuits," and active participation in "interaction devices." Throughout this process, the cyber-journalist is expected to maintain their professional identity and expertise as a journalist.

3.9. Data-journalism

Caroline Goulard (2012) describes data journalism as a journalistic practice that utilizes extensive databases to generate information presented in a readable and visual format, such as graphs and infographics. This approach has opened up new investigative avenues for journalists,



particularly in the realm of economics. To effectively leverage these databases, journalists must either acquire new skills or collaborate with data professionals. In essence, data journalism is a refinement process where raw data is transformed into meaningful and relevant content. Its role involves extracting, processing, comparing, and discussing data, and then presenting it in a visual format that facilitates understanding through active visualization, known as data visualization. This approach also enables journalists to use visual content in storytelling.

Many news organizations have embraced data journalism as an additional method, becoming primary sources of data collected from various origins or compiled internally by the news organization itself (Aitamurto et al., 2011).

3.10. Slow journalism

Slow journalism traces its origins to the Slow Food Movement that began in Italy in 1989. This movement promotes eco-gastronomy, alternative consumption practices, and responsible consumption with the motto: Good, Clean, and Fair. It has grown into a global non-profit association advocating for eco-conscious consumption and encouraging people to know the origins of what they consume, while also advocating for a slower, more deliberate approach to life. This philosophy has influenced various sectors, including the media, giving rise to slow journalism. In contrast to the rapid-fire, scoop-driven journalism often seen in online media, slow journalism emphasizes a methodical and thoughtful approach to news reporting. Different genres of journalism have always operated at varying paces, both creatively and in terms of information dissemination. However, in the context of slow journalism, "slow" refers not only to the time taken to produce articles but also to the meticulous sourcing, thorough analysis, and transparent presentation of content. Narrative storytelling often plays a significant role in slow journalism, aiming to deepen understanding of complex issues by contextualizing facts and highlighting their uncertainties. In essence, slow journalism embodies the principles of the Slow Food Movement's motto—Good, Clean, and Fair—by focusing on well-researched, analytical, and often investigative articles that take time to produce (Le Masurier, 2015).

According to Le Masurier (2016), slow journalism is not prescriptive and enacts a critique of the limitation and dangers of the speed of much of the mainstream modern journalism. It seems that slow journalism is the answer to bad quality articles, compromised ethics and eroded users' attention in the hyper-accelerated and over-produced journalism context.

3.11. Constructive journalism

In the 1990s, journalistic approaches inspired by positive psychology began to emerge. Terms such as constructive journalism, solutions journalism, impact journalism, and contextual journalism started to be used interchangeably (Amiel, 2017). Academic interest in these concepts only seemed to develop around the 2000s. Researchers like McIntyre and Gyldensted (2018) have endeavoured to define these concepts and establish a typology for these approaches. According to them, all these approaches employ positive psychology techniques. They define constructive journalism "as an emerging form of journalism that involves applying positive psychology techniques to news processes and production in an effort to create productive and engaging coverage, while holding true to journalism's core functions." It aligns perfectly with the aim of positive psychology, which is to study, measure, and apply the conditions that enable individuals, communities, and societies



to thrive. This objective is consistent with the ultimate goal of constructive journalism: enhancing individual and societal well-being by incorporating positive psychology techniques into reporting. They suggest that constructive journalism can be divided into four categories: solutions journalism (which emphasizes solutions), prospective journalism (which focuses on the future), peace journalism (which encourages dialogue and conflict resolution, often overlapping with prospective journalism), and restorative narrative (which shares hopeful life stories).

In essence, constructive journalism adopts an audience-centred approach, aiming to cover current affairs and events with a greater emphasis on solutions, actions, and perspectives (McIntyre, 2019; Hermans & Glydensted, 2018).

However, solutions journalism is the most prevalent concept among the four in literature. Organizations like Reporters d'Espoirs (established in France in 2004 - <https://reportersdespoirs.org/>) and the Solutions Journalism Network (founded in 2013 in the United States - <https://www.solutionsjournalism.org/>) have significantly contributed to its growth. The French association defines solutions journalism as a method that "works to analyse and disseminate knowledge of initiatives that provide concrete, reproducible responses to societal, economic, social, and ecological issues." According to this association, an article written in this style must include the context of the problem and its causes, present an initiative or response, explain the process of solving the problem, show the impact of the results, and provide a critical viewpoint on the responses and their limitations. (« Journalisme de solutions », s. d.)

4. The Algerian context

4.1. A Brief introduction

After gaining independence, Algeria's media landscape was exclusively composed of public media until the media sector was opened to private entities in 1990. This change prompted many journalists from the public sector to start their own newspapers, benefitting from government aid and advertisements provided through ANEP (National Communication, Publishing and Advertising Company), the national agency responsible for distributing advertisements between public and private press (Brahimi, 2002).

With the advent of the internet in the 1990s, both private and public media outlets gradually launched websites that mirrored their printed newspapers, often offering a free downloadable PDF of the daily edition. El Watan was the first to do so in 1997, followed by other newspapers. The first pure-player, "Algerie Interface", was launched in 1998 but did not last long. The same company that owned "Algerie Interface" launched "Maghreb Emergent" and "RadioM" over a decade later (Taiebi Moussaoui, 2016), and both closed in June 2024. It was in the 2000s that more professional pure-players began publishing, many of which are still active today (Delliou, 2023).

We observed that the Algerian pure-players were founded by either experienced professional journalists, such as 24H Algérie (<https://www.24hdz.dz/>) and Twala (<https://twala.info/fr/>), or by non-professional journalists who are also well-educated citizens, as seen with Inumiden (<https://www.inumiden.com/>). The Algerian news websites produce a wide range of news in various formats, covering almost all sectors. They primarily use Arabic and/or French, some of them also publish in local dialects (Amazigh) and in English in addition to Arabic and/or French.

Belalia and Bouadjimi (2024) summarized the development of the Algerian electronic press, highlighting the political, legal, economic, and technological factors that influenced both its



emergence and growth. Furthermore, this press—including both electronic versions of traditional print media and pure-players—appears to face greater challenges with the rise of non-professional and citizen journalism, which has flourished through social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube.

The electronic press was recognised legally for the first time by the government in the Organic Law of 2012. However, the terms and conditions for carrying out online information activities and the dissemination of updates or corrections on electronic sites were set in the Executive Decree of November 22, 2020. In the latest Organic Law related to information of 2023, the electronic press is jointly cited as part of the Algerian media landscape.

4.2. The types of journalism present in the Algerian media landscape

Based on the concepts discussed in this article and observations of Algerian pure-players, it can be said that most are general information pure-players with newsrooms that employ both permanent and non-permanent, professional and non-professional journalists. Prominent examples like TSA and 24H Algérie employ professional journalists and educated editors who may not have studied journalism but are university graduates with strong language skills. Many of these outlets use collaborative journalism, working with experts in various fields to compensate for their small staff and to maintain a steady flow of content.

Despite their continued presence, pure-players like IntyMag and Inumiden, which were good examples respectively of participatory and collaborative journalism, have been inactive for many years. On the other hand, citizen journalism is more prevalent on social media platforms like Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube, where content can be posted without technical constraints related to website creation and hosting. These citizen journalists typically focus on regional or local events. For instance, the public Facebook page JijelNews, with 1.7 million followers, regularly posts about Jijel and its surroundings, covering tourist spots, markets, and social issues. Similarly, pages like "Culture Diaries in Algiers" – *يوميات الثقافة بالجزائر العاصمة*, created by a freshly graduated journalist, are also active.

There is minimal data journalism in Algeria. The official website of the Algérie Presse Service (APS.dz) occasionally provides data in the form of tables and infographics. Ecostat-Algeria, which used to sell economic surveys through its website, seems to have closed, although its Facebook page remains open but inactive since 2019.

The pure-player Twala is an example of slow and networked journalism, with one of its founders, Lyas Hallas, being part of The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

Algerie 360 was a well-known news aggregator for years before becoming an original news provider. Its articles used to contain links to the original articles. The function of an aggregator is to republish articles from various sources (Isbell, 2010).

The Algerian online press is still evolving and struggling economically, relying on advertising for survival. Financial instability, even after several years of operation, hampers their ability to pay or retain journalists, leading to slow content production and irregular updates, sometimes going days to years without any new content. Additionally, since the Executive Decree of November 22, 2020, Algerian online press outlets must obtain government approval to practice online journalism.



5. CONCLUSION

It is clear that the evolution of technology has helped the development of digital journalism in all its aspects. The transition to an interactive web allows journalists and citizens to exchange not only points of view and experiences, but also enables the common citizen, especially when they are the unique source, to become part of and an actor in the creation of information.

It is important to note that the concepts discussed in this paper spark debate about both their definitions and the status of new professions related to the online press. ICTs will continue to evolve, and with this evolution, new concepts and professions will emerge, becoming integrated into the fields of press and journalism.

With regard to the Algerian context, it seems difficult to assimilate the Algerian pure-players with the common concepts established by researchers. Moreover, the difficulty in reaching the editors, website owners, or journalists, because many pure-players have adopted anonymity for their staff, makes the analysis of the content even more difficult.

Thus, to have a real typology of the Algerian pure-players that deal with online news, we first need a larger and more exhaustive sample that covers all the websites dealing with news. Then, we need total cooperation from the owners and journalists to understand the functioning of this new press and to distinguish the professional online press from the amateur press.

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