



**The Impact of Citizen Journalism on Journalism Work**  
**"A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"**

**Benaouda Moussa\***

Ibn Khaldoun University, Tiaret, moussa.benaouda@univ-tiaret.dz

Received: 11/03/2024

Accepted: 29/06/2024

Published: 30/09/2024

---

[DOI: 10.53284/2120-011-003-012](https://doi.org/10.53284/2120-011-003-012)

**Abstract:**

This research seeks to explore the impact of Citizen Journalism on the Work of Algerian Journalists. We conducted a field study employing descriptive and analytical survey methods, interviewing approximately 288 Algerian journalists across various media sectors, including radio, television, electronic journalism, and print. Our findings reveal several key outcomes: citizen journalism significantly affects the performance and roles of Algerian journalists, as they increasingly rely on it as an information source and face competition from traditional media outlets. Social media, a prominent form of citizen journalism, has notably shaped the professional identity of Algerian journalists by altering their responsibilities, influencing the reputation of journalism, and contributing to a decline in trust in conventional media, creating a blend of technical and ethical challenges.

**Keywords:**

citizen journalism, professional identity, journalist.

---

\* Corresponding author

# The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity

## "A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"

---



### 1. INTRODUCTION

Citizen journalism, also known as personal electronic publishing, participatory journalism, democratic media, street journalism, alternative journalism, mobile journalism, and popular journalism, is a non-professional form of journalism that enables individuals to publish, write, and research independently of institutions using various technologies such as electronic blogs, personal pages, social networking sites, and wiki sites. This has revolutionized the transmission of images, sound, and information at high speed, in record time, and at the lowest possible cost. Citizen journalism has the potential to bring about significant social change, increase openness, and broaden media coverage by covering events and facts that traditional media may ignore. It also promotes community involvement and societal awareness through frequent contact with critical topics. Historical examples include the Arab upheavals of 2011 and the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States, which highlighted the ability of citizen journalism to reveal injustice and corruption while effecting change. These traits make citizen journalism superior to conventional journalism, which faces fierce competition and adaptation to changing themes, posing challenges to the journalist's professional identity.

#### **Problem statement**

Citizen journalism is a new media form that allows non-professional individuals to contribute to information gathering, cover events, create journalistic content, and make it available for public interaction. This form of journalism has significantly contributed to the communication of local happenings that are often overlooked by traditional media. However, this new form of media presents challenges for professional journalists, who must now navigate the complexities of sharing their thoughts and ideas without a media degree or affiliation.

Citizen journalism also affects the credibility of the press, as a large volume of unconfirmed information, rumors, and fake news spreads. This challenges journalists in distinguishing between real and fake news, as well as ensuring the accuracy and quality of the information. This can negatively impact their professional reputation. Other issues faced by journalists include public trust in media, intellectual property rights, source security, and privacy, which can impact their professional identity and practice.

To maintain their professional identity and practice, journalists must adapt and learn new skills to meet these challenges. The success of citizen journalism is largely due to its widespread presence.



**The question is** :how much does citizen journalism impact the professional identity of Algerian journalists?

### Study Questions

- To what extent do Algerian journalists rely on citizen journalism as a source of information, and what are the motivations for this?
- How does the Algerian journalist see the future of journalism now that citizens have a major role in disseminating information?
- Has citizen journalism been able to raise issues outside of press circles of interest?
- Has citizen journalism been reflected in the professional performance of Algerian journalists?

### Hypotheses

- The use of citizen journalism as a source of information is due to the journalist's personal characteristics (gender, age, level of education, field of activity, nature of activity, institution and years of experience).
- The citizen journalism has an impact on the professional performance of Algerian journalists, since it introduces new methods of dealing with themes and makes them more media-oriented.
- There is a link between Algerian journalists' levels of professional performance and their usage of citizen journalism as a source of information has .

### Study objectives

- ❖ The objective of this research aims to shed light on the issues that Algerian journalists confront in light of recent changes brought about by the information technology revolution (citizen journalism), as well as to throw light on this idea by highlighting its most crucial elements.
- ❖ An attempt to track the changes brought about by citizen journalism and how they affect professional identity in Algerian media practices.
- ❖ To present a basic overview of citizen journalism in Algeria, including its scope of development and user distribution.

### Study Approach

# The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity

## "A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"

---



In our study, we relied on a survey approach to lay out and analyse the data and information collected on the subject of our study, to identify the sample's beliefs and behaviour towards the new journalistic landscape of citizen journalism, to identify the characteristics of the phenomenon of citizen journalism and the relationship of this phenomenon with the representation of journalists of their professional identity, and to test for the existence of a relationship between The problematic aspects of citizen journalism, as well as how journalists express their professional identity.

### Study Tools

In our field study, we collected respondent data using a survey, which is the most effective instrument for gathering facts and information from our sample. The form includes information about the respondents' basic characteristics as well as various questions. distributed across two axes. The first is titled: The professional performance of Algerian journalists who rely on citizen journalism. The second axis is named The Algerian Journalist's Professional Identity. This form was issued to our sample, and due to the high number of journalists and their dispersal across the nation, we did it online to save time and effort.

### The study community

Our study community included all Algerian journalists who worked within the press sector, whether in print, radio, television, or electronic media, as well as public and private sector reporters, collaborators, and freelancers.

### The study sample

In our study, we used a basic random sample of Algerian journalists, correspondents, and collaborators working in either public or commercial media institutions. Our sample size was calculated at 288 Algerian journalists.

**Limitations of the study :** The study has temporal and geographical limitations :  
**Temporal scope :** Our field investigation began on January 20, 2023 and will conclude on May 15, 2023.

**Geographical scope :**Our research focuses on the placement of media institutions, namely in Algerian states such as Oran, Constantine, and Bechar.

## 2. Concepts and terminology of the study

### 2.1 Citizen Journalism

**2.1.1 Technically :** it is a phrase that refers to members of the public who actively participate in the process of gathering, transmitting, analysing, and publishing news and information, which forms



online journalism (Al-Lahham, 2015, p. 175). According to "Mark Glaser," the concept of citizen journalism is the ability of people without professional journalism training to use current technology tools and the worldwide Internet to produce, augment, and check media truths for themselves. (Al-Rahiya, 2020).

**2.1.2 Procedurally :** citizen journalism refers to a person who takes on the function of a journalist by gathering information and news, analysing it, publishing it or spreading it to the public via the Internet, and allowing others to read and discuss.

## **2.2 Professional identity**

**2.2.1 Terms:** It refers to a person's image and self-definition as a professional practitioner in a given subject. It is a person's manner of identifying and presenting oneself to others as a member of a certain profession. Professional identity encompasses the attitudes, beliefs, abilities, and experiences that separate a professional from others in his or her area (Althaus, 2000, p. 21).

**2.2.2 Procedurally:** a journalist's professional identity is the extent to which he or she owns his or her name in light of the phenomenon of "citizen journalism," and thus the recognition and defence of journalistic professional excellence, ownership of name and profession, and the set of qualities that enhance the journalist's professionalism in his or her roles, as well as in gathering and conveying information with great professionalism.

## **2.3 Journalist**

**2.3.1 Technically:** he is the one who conducts journalism and considers it a career, and it is his full-time work and source of income. This phrase has also evolved to apply to persons who work on radio to provide information to listeners, edit it, and provide commentary. It can also refer to radio and television programme producers. (Bouamama, 2020, p. 77).

**2.3.2 Procedurally:** the journalist collects news, information, and facts, writes, edits, validates, and follows the laws and ethics of media practice before communicating them to the public in a suitable way. The primary responsibility of the journalist is to communicate the truth through various media.

## **3. The notion of citizen journalism**

It refers to individuals' contributions to the transmission of events, facts, and information over the Internet using their own methods, the most essential of which is the mobile phone. According to "Sayn Bowman," citizen journalism occurs when citizens do what professional journalists do by presenting information in a variety of formats such as text, photos, audio, video, blogs, podcasts, and other internet-based developments. (Hanan Ahmed Selim, 2013, pp. 9-10).

## **The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity** **"A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"**

---



The availability of digital cameras, particularly different electronic devices such as mobile phones, has helped to the expansion of citizen journalism, which has transformed the person who was present at an event into a journalist by allowing him or her to shoot a photo or video. Clip recording this occurrence, resulting in a scoop. Despite the popularity of these phenomena owing to the benefits it provides, such as the speed and convenience of shooting images and the ability to share them instantly through social networks such as Facebook, we now see the media republishing photos or films submitted to them by individuals. (Salman, 2022, p. 46).

According to scholar Wissam Kamal, "Citizen journalism is both a media and communication word, and on a historical level, it is fresh and theoretically unstable. Some refer to citizen journalism as citizen media, while others call it participatory, interactive, solidarity-based media, alternative media, or civic journalism. (Kamal, 2014, p. 44).

We conclude from the foregoing that there are several definitions and notions pertaining to the establishment of the concept of citizen journalism. All of these definitions agree on the public's role and engagement in content creation, although the degree of participation and roles varies.

### **4. Terms and concepts related to citizen journalism**

This environment has introduced new concepts and terms that are frequently used by researchers and specialized media writers on the subject. Amateur journalism, open source journalism, citizen journalism, civic journalism, participatory journalism, interactive journalism, we media, alternative journalism, volunteer journalism, popular journalism, and online media are some of the most well-known terms in the media profession.

#### **4.1 Amateur journalism**

It refers to amateurs' contributions to the gathering and transmission of information on the web, where many individuals record their experiences and opinions in electronic forums that reach a large audience. Amateur journalism is referred to as the "blogger" phenomena. A term derived from the English word web log. It implies (to access to a website) and is commonly shortened as blog(Mustafa, 2010, p. 195).

#### **4.2 Open Source Journalism**

This refers to readers' contributions to the collection of information and its electronic transmission on websites or networks containing information, news, data, reports, commentaries, and other contributions provided by amateurs, professionals, and members of the public in various parts of the world. The phrase "open source journalism" was invented by researcher Andrew Leonard, and it refers to information contributed by readers, as exemplified in forums. It is also



used to characterize a variety of online posts, particularly those with evidence of public engagement, such as wikis news.(Merim, 2015, p. 66).

#### **4.3 Citizen Journalism**

It seeks to engage citizens in public life in a variety of fields by allowing anyone to write and publish on the Internet images, news, and opinions gathered from their own sources, as well as to post in various formats while exchanging information with others via the Internet.

**Public journalism (civic):** Citizens must participate in media coverage of political and social activities and be perceived as active participants in the transmission, publishing, discussion, and analysis of events.

#### **4.4 Participatory journalism**

That is, embodying the principle of participation in the process of producing media content and making it available to the public so that they can interact with them in the processes of publication and exchange of such information and news, relying on modern technological technologies provided by the internet.

#### **4.5 Interactive journalism**

It allows members of the public to engage with the contact person, publisher, or other users in real time, as well as participate in debates, opinion polls, or referendums held in these and other media outlets. and participate in a discourse with the publisher or the users, among other things. This type of contact is not available in the typical media context.

#### **4.6 We, the media**

We, the media, are distinguished by a unique feature: an emergent process from the bottom up in which very little editorial control is dictated, or rather its complete absence, which scientifically means the end of what was known as the media's guardian, who selected information and assessed its importance.(Shafiq, 2010, p. 5).

#### **4.7 The popular press**

It freely transmits topics that concern individuals and societies without the guardian's or authority's censorship, thereby contributing to freedom of opinion and addressing a variety of issues rather than referring to authoritarian sources or adopting existing and ready-made opinions in traditional media.

#### **4.8 Smartphone Journalism (Mobile Journalism)**



## **The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity** **"A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"**

---



In which journalists and individuals acquire and share information using cellphones and internet-connected devices.

### **5. The emergence and development of citizen journalism**

Citizen journalism, often known as open source journalism, is content created by readers. Leonard shared his concept in a 1999 piece on his website, in reaction to writer John Ingalls' usage of reader answers and comments. on an article concerning... "Cyberterrorism" was first published on the "Slashdot" website and subsequently republished in the "Jeans Angels Review" journal, based on reader feedback and granted them material rights. (Sadiq, Traditional and New Applications of Arab Journalism on the Internet, 2005, p. 17).

There are differences concerning the origins of citizen journalism, and researchers and students have no consistent explanations for this new media. Citizen journalism evolved via three essential stages, which are:

#### **5.1 The first phase, 1990-2003**

Citizen journalism emerged with the rise of blogs, which played a crucial role in reporting details of events such as 9/11 and the Iraq conflict. War blogs allowed American troops to speak as both actors and eyewitnesses. The launch of the News Oh My website in South Korea contributed significantly to the growth of citizen journalism, publishing citizen pieces and promoting progressive values. This site saw Roh Moohyn's first presidential election victory, and the purpose of citizen journalism was to provide an alternative source of information that was incompatible with the current media system. This new perspective of information work aimed to challenge the traditional media narratives.(Ben Labad Salem, 2019, p. 121).

#### **5.2 The second phase, 2006-2008**

The advent of participatory journalism sites like Rue89, which allow citizens to publish their stories after checking that they are in accordance with their rights. This falls midway between professional and non-professional media.

#### **5.3 The third phase, From 2011 till now**

This is an era for advancing and professionalizing citizen journalism. We can observe that some bloggers have joined mainstream media organizations, and the citizen journalist has begun to provide evidence as witnesses to the event via established media outlets. Reality demonstrates that the national press is a vital help to the mainstream media on many unexpected occasions : when these media are missing from crisis hotspots, the common citizen finds himself disseminating





information. Citizen journalism has captured some of the most significant historical events of the twenty-first century, including the tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina in the Americas.

## **6. Characteristics and peculiarities of citizen journalism**

Given that citizen journalism is a new form of journalism in general, and electronic journalism in particular, it is distinguished by certain characteristics that set it apart and unique in the media environment, which can be summarized as follows:

### **6.1 Moving beyond the state of interactivity**

This feature has made it possible to know the dominant ideas in the minds of new media users, allowing us to understand the true trends of public opinion, as opposed to traditional media, which does not clearly show the true trends of individuals and societies.

### **6.2 Freedom**

Citizen journalism provided all users the freedom to publish and ended the monopoly of website owners or capital owners who owned media.

### **6.3 Real-time and immediacy**

Citizen journalism has enabled people to learn about and disseminate information and events as they happen, using specialized technologies and with little effort, resulting in a revolution in the sector. Media exclusivity, scoops, and exclusive information explain why conventional media journalists are adopting new media techniques to acquire and get information, which can be a kind of integration between traditional and new media.

### **6.4 Every citizen is a researcher and a source of information**

Every citizen seeks knowledge, and everyone has the potential to become a source of information and news. Traditional journalism is "participatory" in the sense that it participates. Its material features citizen volunteers from various regions.

### **6.5 The transformation of mass media into mass media**

Mass media is based on the spread of information from the individual to the group, whereas citizen journalism reverses the equation and depends on the dissemination of information from everyone to everyone, utilizing citizen journalists.

### **6.6 Journalism for primarily non-profit and non-commercial purposes**

# The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity

## "A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"



Free of charge, with citizen journalists receiving no salary or financial recompense for the information they contribute to the public.

### 6.7 Multimedia Content

Content delivered in a variety of formats, including pictures, sound, text, shapes, and graphics.

### 6.8 Dynamic Content

The various media materials are continually amended and revised in response to changes, events, and facts received by citizens, and after publishing, comments, revisions, and corrections are made by others if any information is inaccurate.(Haja, 2020, pp. 650-651).

### 6.9 Audience fragmentation

By displaying separate material to each individual, everyone sees different content than the rest.

## 7. Analysis of the results of the study

**Table 01:**Distribution of the sample by gender variable:

Gender	Iteration	Ratio
Male	172	59,7
Female	116	40,3
Total	288	100,0

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

Males made up 59.7% of the total, while females made up 40.3%.

Modern media institutions attempt to diversify genres owing to the diversity of material and the diversification of the target audience, with males representing a small majority due to the quality and sensitivity of the journalistic profession. This isn't the only thing influencing journalism. There are also more elements, including talent and abilities. Experience and personality influence a journalist's performance, regardless of gender.

**Table 02:** Distribution of the Sample by Age Variable

Age	Iteration	Ratio
20-29	64	22,2
30-39	104	36,1
40 years and older	120	41,7
<b>total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

We observe that journalists over 40 years old represent the majority of responders (41.7%), followed by journalists aged 30 to 39 (1.36%) and journalists aged 20 to 29 (2.22%).

We find that most Algerian journalists are, and this has a beneficial impact on their professional guides. Young journalists are more enthusiastic and energetic at work, and they are better equipped to adapt to quick changes in the media sector, use current technologies successfully, and experiment in new ways. Present information and engage more successfully with the general population. Age has a huge influence on the profession of journalism.

**Table 03:** Distribution of the Sample by Level of Education

Level of education	Iteration	Ratio
Secondary	45	15.62
University	210	72.92
After graduating	33	11.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

## The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity "A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"



It is notable that 72.92% of respondents have a university degree, 15.62% have a secondary degree, and 11.46% are postgraduate students.

Algerian journalists have a high academic level that qualifies them to work as journalists, and most journalistic organizations demand this level. Some have a secondary degree, and the majority are reporters, collaborators, and contractors.

**Table 04:** Sample Distribution by Field of Work Variable

Field of Work	Iteration	Ratio
Newspaper	58	20.14
Radio Channels	68	23.61
TV Channels	85	29.51
Electronic media	42	14.58
More Ways	35	12.15
Total	288	100,0

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher, 2024

The above table reveals a convergence in the areas of work of journalists, with percentages reaching 29.51% in television, 23.61% in radio, and 20.14% in the written press, followed by those working in electronics and media at 14.58%, and 12.15% of journalists working in more than one field.

Traditional media, such as print, radio, and television, attract journalists to Algeria due to their importance to the public and legal status, whereas interest has gradually grown in electronic journalism and digital media, which allow a journalist to work in one field or specialize in several areas simultaneously, depending on one's personal interests and skills.

**Table 05:** Distribution of the Sample by Institutional Nature Variable

Sector	Iteration	Ratio
Public	168	58.33
Private	120	41.66



<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>
--------------	------------	--------------

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

Algerian journalists worked in the public sector at a rate of 58.33%, while the private sector attracted 41.66%.

In Algeria, journalists' affiliations to the public and private sectors are converging, thanks to an openness policy and the creation of several commercial television channels and electronic newspapers, which have cleared the path for university graduates to find work.

**Table 06:**Distribution of the sample by professional experience variable

<b>Professional experience</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>From 1 year to 6 years</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>47,2</b>
<b>From 06 to 10 years old</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>16,7</b>
<b>More than 10 years</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>36,1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

It is important to note that 47.2% of Algerian journalists have professional experience in media organizations ranging from one to six years, 36.1% have more than ten years of experience, and 16.7% have experience ranging from six to ten.

Over time, the journalist obtains more expertise in his or her industry and develops a deeper grasp of the themes and how to handle them. This experience might be valuable for analysing occurrences and creating more detailed reports.

As a consequence, we infer that respondents with one to six years of experience comprise the majority of the target population. This is owing to the fact that media institutions have hired a huge number of journalists in the last six years, at a pace comparable to journalists with more than ten years of experience. Second, these two examples demonstrate their significant knowledge in this industry.

**The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity**  
**"A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"**



**Table 07:** Distribution of the sample according to the recognition variable of the existence of citizen journalism

<b>Recognizing the existence of citizen journalism</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>81,9</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>18,1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

The percentage of Algerian journalists polled who recognized the presence of citizen journalism topped 81.9 percent, up from 18.1 percent. They refuse to admit it.

Algerian journalists' recognition of the presence of citizen journalism reflects the changes that have occurred in the media business. This new sort of media activity, in which people may convey and spread information to the public on a massive scale using the Internet, has become an alternative medium for them.

**Table 08:** Sample distribution based on the citizen journalism rely on variable

<b>Rely on citizen journalism</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>With</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>40,3</b>
<b>Against</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>59,7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

According to the data, 59.7% of journalists are opposed to using citizen journalism as a source of information, while the remaining 40.3% approve.



We conclude from the preceding data that the journalist does not embrace the concept of depending on citizen journalism as a source of information, but that it has established itself as a media alternative for media professionals and the public, as well as a source for them.

**Table 9:**Sample Distribution by Variable: Reasons Why Journalists Do Not Accept Citizen Journalism as a Source

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>Inability to connect with specialists</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>38,9</b>
<b>There is no editorial board that follows up on the press release.</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>26,4</b>
<b>The information chaos that will occur</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8,3</b>
<b>Information reaches a tiny group, resulting in media fragmentation.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,8</b>
<b>Failure to confirm the source of information</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>23,6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

The most common reason why citizen journalism is not recognized by journalists is a lack of connection with professionals (38.9%), followed by the absence of an editorial board that checks press news (26.4%), and finally the inability to verify the sources of information. At 23.6%, the situation becomes chaotic. The resultant information is 8.3%, and it eventually reaches a limited group, resulting in media fragmentation of 2.8%.

Professional journalists may find it difficult to accept citizen journalism as a source of information at times, citing a lack of verification, trustworthiness, and professional standards owing to the difficulties of determining the source's authenticity, and the ethical implications of releasing citizen journalism information. In light of these findings, it has to be seen whether journalists are scared of citizen-published news for fear of facing professional and legal consequences.



**The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity**  
**"A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"**



**Table 10:** Sample distribution based on the variables of the most major forms of citizen journalism deployed by Algerian journalists

<b>Types</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>Social media</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>48,6</b>
<b>Smartphone apps</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13,9</b>
<b>Electronic mailing lists</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8,3</b>
<b>E-Blogs</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13,9</b>
<b>Video, Image, and Audio Streaming Sites</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>15,3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

The main types of citizen journalism on which Algerian journalists rely for information are social media (48.6 percent), audio and video streaming sites (15.3 percent), and smartphone applications (11.1 percent). relied on them, whereas email lists and blogs were used by 13.9% of journalists in equal measure.

Algerian journalists are interacting and addressing among audiences and readers in new ways using the internet, including social networking sites, to obtain fresh news, information, ideas, trends, and sources, while audio and video streaming services appear to be among the most popular. Designated areas for journalist access, as the video technology gives additional information about the occurrences. Citizen journalism relies on human engagement and personal documenting of various events and concerns, which people rely on platforms like Facebook and YouTube for.

**Table11: Sample distribution based on citizen journalism's influence on conventional journalism**



<b>Citizen journalism's influence</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>It influences</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>83,3</b>
<b>It does not affect</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>7,16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

Citizen journalism is assessed to have an 83.3% effect over conventional journalism, while 16.7% of respondents believe it has no influence on traditional media.

Citizen journalism has altered the media landscape: owing in part to the Internet, it is now feasible for the public to create, modify, and direct events. The expansion of the latter is characterized by a deterioration in people' trust in the capacity and seriousness of conventional media operations. Citizen journalism has a significant influence on traditional journalism in various ways, the most prominent of which are comprehensive coverage, publishing speed, presence in difficult-to-reach areas, citizen contact and participation through comments, postings, and conversations

Citizen journalism has also contributed to the variety of the media and media trends, as well as the strengthening of diversity and inclusion in the coverage of news, opinions, and sources given to the public.

**Table 12:**Sample distribution based on the variable of citizen journalists who have inadequate literary and technical skills

<b>Citizen journalists suffer from inadequate skills</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>Suffer</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>97,2</b>
<b>Does not suffer</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

97.2% of respondents believe citizen journalists have poor editorial and technical abilities, while just 2.8% say they do not.

## The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity "A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"



Citizen journalists have inadequate writing and technical abilities because they are unfamiliar with the profession of journalism, which is seen as a complex and noble job that requires academic background and years of professional experience.

**Table 13:** Distribution of the sample according to the variable of reasons for the weakness of citizen journalists in writing and technical skills

<b>Reasons for Citizen Journalists' Weakness.</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>Limited academic level.</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>43,1</b>
<b>Lack of resources and facilities.</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>31.25</b>
<b>Inability to analyse situations and combine events</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>22.91</b>
<b>Time constraints</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>2.77</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

The reasons for citizen journalists' lack of editorial and technical skills are as follows: 43.1% due to a lack of academic level, 31.25% due to a lack of resources and facilities, 22.91% due to an inability to analyse situations and connect events, and 2.77% due to time constraints.

Many variables contribute to the inadequacy of a citizen journalist's talents, including a restricted degree of specialization and scientific training, a lack of practical experience, and a lack of resources and facilities. access to journalistic equipment and methods, such as professional cameras or specialized programmes, which limits its capacity to produce high-quality journalism. In addition to time restrictions and other duties, journalism is done as a hobby or in conjunction with other work, which limits the amount of time available for developing journalistic abilities.

**Table 14:** Distribution of the sample based on the characteristics that determines citizen journalism as credibility



<b>Citizen journalism is characterized by its credibility</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>Is characterized</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>30,6</b>
<b>Isn't characterized</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>69,4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

A large proportion of journalists questioned, 69.4%, feel that citizen journalism lacks credibility, while 30.6% believe that citizen journalists are credible.

The citizen journalist lacks credibility for a variety of reasons, the most notable of which is the difficulty in confirming the veracity of the information and news he gives. They may lack the ability to assess sources and verify facts before the publication. Additionally, his lack of editing, writing, and journalistic research abilities to acquire material, conduct interviews, and analyse data may have an impact on the quality of the reports and articles published.

**Table 15:**Distribution of the sample by the variable Why citizen journalism is not characterized by credibility

<b>Why Citizen Journalism Isn't Characterized by Credibility</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>relying on sources that are not reliable</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19,4</b>
<b>Lack of work ethic.</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>30,6</b>
<b>Not valuing journalistic material.</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>22,2</b>
<b>Rapid dissemination of information without checking.</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>27,8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

The findings of the previous ratios, which represent the distribution of the sample according to the variable that characterizes citizen journalism as credibility, show that the majority of the

## The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity "A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"



journalists surveyed agree, at 30.6%, that the reason for not being ethical is professional ethics, secondly, the speed with which information is disseminated without verification, with a rate of 27.8%, and thirdly, the lack of valuation of journalistic material.

Commitment to journalistic values and professional ethics, use of trusted sources, and meticulous information verification prior to publishing are all necessary for citizen journalism to be credible.

**Table 16:** Distribution of the sample according to the variable of increase in professional performance based on citizen journalism as a source of information

Increase performance	Iteration	Ratio
<b>It increases</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>43,1</b>
<b>Decreases</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>56,9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

We find that the highest percentage of respondents whose professional performance decreases when relying on citizen journalism as a source of information is 56.9%, while the percentage increase in professional performance is 43.1%.

In light of the above results, we conclude that the predominant tendency among Algerian journalists included in the study is a lack of professional performance while depending on citizen journalism as a source of information, owing to the journalistic profession's scientific nature, and scholarly in presenting significant issues and ideas through the media, but cannot always rely on journalism. The citizen is a source of information without thoroughly researching the facts from the sources.

**Table 17:** The sample distribution based on the journalist's level of confidence in citizen journalism as a source of information.

Journalists' confidence	level of Iteration	Ratio
-------------------------	--------------------	-------



<b>High</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,4</b>
<b>Medium</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>44,4</b>
<b>Weak</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>54,2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

Most respondents (54.2%) have low faith in citizen journalism as a source of information, followed by 44.4% who have medium confidence and only 1.4% who have strong confidence.

The predominant trend among Algerian journalists included in the study is a lack of trust in citizen journalism as a source of information due to certain reservations and protests against it, such as lack of credibility and professionalism and the difficulty of verifying information. should not be used or relied upon as a source of information.

**Table 18:**The sample distribution based on the effect variable of citizen journalism on the media.

<b>The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Media</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>Positive effect</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>40,3</b>
<b>Negative effect</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>59,7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher,2024

According to respondents' replies, citizen journalism has a negative influence on conventional media of 59.7%, while the positive impact rate is assessed to be 40.3%, based on total respondents.

Citizen journalism has reduced the major role that the conventional press formerly performed, but the good impact of replies may be attributed to the fact that citizen journalism has assisted professional journalists in innovating and facilitating various duties. Mobile journalism and modern technologies enable them to write texts, take photos, and record... Videos, and even video interviews, making it easier for them to collect information and post it immediately on social media platforms or send it to media organizations at any time, as long as the mobile phone has access to the internet.

## The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity "A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"



**Table 19:** Sample distribution based on the citizen journalist variable that represents a threat to the journalist's professional identity.

Citizen threatens journalist Threat	Iteration	Ratio
Threat	156	54,2
Not Threatening	132	45,8
Total	288	100,0

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher, 2024

The percentage of citizen journalists who threatened the journalist's professional identity was 54.2 percent, while respondents' replies were 45.8 percent. Those polled do not feel this is a threat.

We observe that the citizen journalist threatens the journalist's professional identity by openly reporting many events. This problem may impact professional journalists by increasing rivalry for visibility and audience attractiveness. Some Algerian journalists' incapacity to recognize this threat stems mostly from their belief that a citizen stays a citizen, and does not rely on journalistic practices and lacks credibility in news coverage because of its vocation. Journalism is subject to ethical and legal limitations to ensure that it does not become a pastime for everyone. This is what will lead to the end of journalism. The profession of journalism has grown as a result of foreigners entering the field and its norms.

### **Open-ended question 1:** How does citizen journalism affect traditional media?

In their responses, respondents criticized citizen journalism, which may help disseminate rumours, fake news, and incorrect stories rapidly and with excessive subjectivity, yet attracts a lot of attention from the public. It promotes community contact and provides journalists with sources and information that they would not otherwise have access to. These additional sources can provide new perspectives and analysis, as well as deepen journalistic coverage, forcing professional journalists in traditional media to redouble their efforts to reach sources, while media institutions must adapt to technological advancements by having a presence on social networks.

### **Open-ended question 2:** How does the Algerian journalist perceive the media in light of the benefits he gains from citizen journalism?

Interviewees feel that citizen journalism has influenced conventional and even modern media in terms of form and substance, forcing them to embrace new techniques of media coverage and public relations. In Algeria, conventional institutions have not gained significantly from citizen journalism, thus attention must be paid. While the area of digital media must be governed by





frameworks such as legality and the rate of technical progress, as long as impartiality, inquiry, and control are maintained, and citizen journalism is used as a means rather than a fixed standard.

### 7.1 Overall Study Results

1. Since journalism is a fieldwork-intensive profession, the majority of journalists are men. Furthermore, the majority of the study sample is between the ages of 30 and 39, indicating a group of young people who are active, prepared, knowledgeable about the various aspects of this field, and enthusiastic about gathering information and presenting it to the public. The experience of Algerian journalists examined ranged from one to six years, owing to the media organizations' emphasis on youth more than any other demographic, split evenly between the public and commercial sector.
2. Algerian journalists recognize the existence of citizen journalism as a new kind of media delivered via the Internet.
3. The Algerian journalist does not support the notion of using citizen journalism as a source of information. This can be explained by the fact that journalism, like other professions, is built on morality, values, and ethics. Fear of content published by citizens for fear of legal ramifications, whereas citizen journalism has allowed traditional media institutions to rely on it as a source of information, particularly in remote areas where it is inaccessible or has no correspondents, with the requirement to verify it beforehand.
4. The Algerian journalist believes that citizen journalism has influenced traditional journalism because it has altered the media landscape: after being overlooked in debates between itself, the media, and the authorities, the public is now doing what the Internet has enabled. He has unlimited freedom since he is the one who organizes the event, adjusts it, and leads the transition. From passive receiver to positive emitter.
5. Sometimes the information that people share via the Internet encourage journalists to be lazy and rely on them to collect information without exerting significant effort or travelling to the field and scene of events.
6. Some respondents recognized the value of citizen journalism as a platform that complements established media.
7. Some respondents believe that citizen journalism is now a viable rival to their established organizations.
8. Relying on citizen journalism weakens professional performance and robs journalism of its professionalism, despite the wealth of information to which citizen journalists have contributed,

## **The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity** **"A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"**

---



while people have begun to suffer as a result, have become thirsty for truth, and require conventional techniques. The media is as crucial as ever for individuals who use it to find accurate information.

9. Most journalists agreed on employing the term "eyewitness" rather than "citizen journalist."
10. The majority of journalists stated that citizen journalism alone is insufficient to cover events and serve the public interest; conventional institutions must also be involved.
11. Citizen journalism is distinguished by poor writing and technical abilities as a result of media enthusiasts' inadequate training and lack of awareness of the ABCs and media work ethic, which necessitate academic instruction and training.
12. Because citizen journalism adheres to media practice guidelines, its content lacks total legitimacy. It sometimes disregards journalistic ethics, and other times it violates the sanctity of society norms. Because the media has complete control over how stories are transmitted and presented to the public, citizen journalism has become an environment for the propagation of fake news, rumours, and vitriol.
13. Journalists hesitate to accept citizen journalism as a source of information, and they should not, because journalism is built on honesty in reporting on occurrences. Some publications provide room for citizen journalism, thus media organizations exercise prudence when dealing with this information. Readers' messages and TV networks show some of the videos with the highest ratings, whilst radio stations rely on audio recordings to supplement their programmes, using citizen journalism as a source.
14. Due to citizens' distrust of traditional state-funded institutions and private regime-aligned organizations, they browse, watch, and read what the citizen press publishes.
15. Citizen journalism competes with established media for scoops and access to information.
16. Journalists continue to rely on Facebook and YouTube to stay up to date on breaking news.
17. To adapt to citizen journalism, journalists reported that their conventional media organizations were developing websites to connect with the public and find a space for them on social networking sites, including YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
18. Citizen journalism jeopardizes the journalist's professional identity, as he competes with hundreds of virtual sites that distract people by reading diverse and numerous information across many media, resulting in a detrimental influence on media.



19. Journalists emphasized the importance of regulating the journalism profession, particularly electronic journalism, as well as establishing rules and regulations for information dissemination via the Internet, while also attempting to unify Algeria's code of ethics for media practice, particularly following the publication of the Media Code. Law 23-14

## **7.2 Discussion of Study Hypotheses**

### **7.2.1 First hypothesis**

Based on the study's findings, the hypothesis that the use of citizen journalism as a source of information is due to the journalist's personal characteristics (gender, age, level of education, field of activity, nature of activity) was confirmed, institution and years of experience).

### **7.2.2 Second hypothesis**

The study's findings demonstrate that citizen journalism has an impact on the professional performance of Algerian journalists, since it introduces new methods of dealing with themes and makes them more media-oriented.

### **7.2.3 Third hypothesis**

The idea that there is a link between Algerian journalists' levels of professional performance and their usage of citizen journalism as a source of information has been confirmed.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

The study of Algerian journalists reveals that citizen journalism is unlikely to quickly establish itself in the traditional Algerian journalistic scene, which values professionalism and credibility. The professional division of opinion is a topic of debate among journalists and experts. While the new journalistic landscape has become a strong competitor to traditional media institutions, it has also become an alternative. The professional identity of journalists faces new challenges, as the distinction between a professional journalist and a citizen journalist has become blurred. Professional journalists must focus on developing their professional identity, clearly defining their tasks and responsibilities, and instilling faith in journalism. They can benefit from current advancements in journalism by embracing new methods and technologies, enhancing the quality of media material, and honing their media and communication skills to compete in the employment market.

## The Impact of Citizen Journalism on the Journalist's Professional Identity "A field study on a sample of Algerian journalists"

---



Ethical and professional standards must be upheld, with an emphasis on truth, trustworthiness, and impartiality in reporting, analysis, and opinion on events. Professional journalists must guide the audience, provide accurate and trustworthy information, and analyze events professionally and logically. They must strive to establish their professional identity and enhance their role in society, while also improving the quality of professional journalism.

Professional and citizen journalists can collaborate to achieve the common aim of sharing information transparently and accurately, as well as improving journalism's role in the development of democratic civil societies.

### 9. Bibliography List:

#### 1. Books :

- Hanan Ahmed Selim, Citizen Journalism, Reality and Future, Dar Al Nahda Al Arabiya, Cairo, 1st edition, 2013.
- Althaus, C., & Tewksbury, D. (2000). Patterns of Internet and traditional news media use in a networked community. *Political Communication*, 17.
- Hussein Saad Salman, The Image of the Press and Digital Terrorism, Amjad Publishing and Distribution House, Amman, 1st edition, 2022.
- Wissam Kamal, Electronic and Mobile Media between Professionalism and the Challenges of Technological Development, Dar Al-Fajr for Publishing and Distribution, Cairo, 1st edition, 2014.
- Farid Mustafa, Journalistic Art, Dar Osama for Publishing and Distribution, 1st edition, Amman, 2010.
- Hussein Shafiq, New Media - Alternative Media - New Technologies in the Post-Interactive Era, Dar Al-Fikr Al-Fan for Printing, Publishing and Distribution, 1st edition, 2010.
- Larbi Bouamama, Professional Training and Ethics of Journalists and Communication Practitioners, Publications of the Laboratory of Communication and Media Studies and Discourse Analysis, Algeria, 1st edition, 2020.

#### 2. Theses:

- Dherban Merim, Employment of Citizen Journalism in News Channels, Master's Thesis in Media and Communication Sciences, Specialization in Cinema, Television and Modern Communications, Faculty of Media and Communication Sciences, University of Algiers 3, Dali Ibrahim, 2014/2015.

#### 3. Journal article :



- 
- Ahmed Ben Haja, Citizen Journalism Between Profession and Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Voice of Law Magazine, Volume 7, Number 01, May 2020.
  - Ben Labad Salem, Hadri Muhammad Amin, Citizen Journalism – Origins and Development, Mediterranean Thought, Volume 2, Number 8, 2019.
4. **Seminar article:**
- Abbas Mustafa Sadiq, Traditional and New Applications of Arab Journalism on the Internet, Conference on Internet Journalism in the Arab World, Reality and Challenges, University of Sharjah, 22-24 November 2005.
  - Khadija Al-Rahiya, Citizen Journalism, published by the Syrian Virtual University, Syria, 2020.