Impact of Internet and Social Media on Journalism & News

Lovish, Chinmay Rathore, Bk Avinash, Abhishek Srivastava, Mayank Samant, Kuldeep Kumar

Dept. of CSE Chandigarh University Mohali Punjab,India

Abstract—Journalism and even reporting news across the media have received dramatic transformations due to the Internet and media social networks. The impact of these technological aids is examined on the practice of journalism in as much as this is prevalance and the booster in audience reach, conflicts of ethics, availability among others being weighed against disadvantages of the slide in journalistic standard, threats of misinformation among others. Thus, it is the aim of this paper to reflect upon the consequences of the recent changes in terms of news reporting and journalism in the future in light of the literature.

Keywords—Journalism, Social Media, Internet, News Reporting, Misinformation, Digital Journalism

I. INTRODUCTION

Two decades have passed since the advent of the Internet and the social stage, and they have impacted journalism with change at the creation of, distribution of and the consumption of news. These have marked features of providing immediate news distribution, to change the world, informing the public immediately through the internet by breaking new stories. This kind of media has allowed both the professional and citizen journalists to post updates, photos and videos where and when the situations occur making the news coverage very unique and real. However, the very interaction of these platforms has changed the nature of the interaction between news creators and the public making news more engaging and interactive as now the public can give feedback, share or even discuss with reporters.

However, such innovations present real problems, having an impact on the ordinary reporting practices and ethical standards. An enormous amount of pressure is exerted to provide people with news instantly practically at any time, which weakens fact-checking processes and editorial supervision, and occasionally results in people being fed false information. Additionally, social media are designed in such a way that the algorithm brings to the forefront any shocking content, which threatens to overshadow the deep

journalism an responsible coverage. This paper seeks to look at the nature of the opportunities that digital platforms afford journalism and the dark sides of this affair. By analysing these topics, the paper aims to provide balanced perspective on the shifts in news delivery in the context of social media incorporation.

Aspect	Traditional Journalism (Pre-Internet & Social Media)	Modern Journalism (Post-Internet & Social Media)
News Distribution	Fixed publishing times; limited to print, TV, and radio	24/7 updates; immediate sharing on digital platforms and social networks
Audience Interaction	One-directional; passive audience	Interactive; audiences comment, share, and engage directly with content
News Cycle Speed	Daily or periodic updates	Continuous; stories evolve and update in real-time
Verification Process	Extensive editorial review before publishing	Often reduced; speed prioritization can compromise accuracy
Information Sources	Primarily professional journalists and accredited agencies	Diverse, including citizen journalists, influencers, and public figures
Content Format	Text-heavy, minimal visuals	Multimedia-rich; includes images, videos, live streams,

		and interactive elements
Credibility and Trust	High trust due to rigorous vetting	Mixed; reliance on platforms with varying degrees of editorial oversight
Revenue Generation	Subscriptions, advertising in print and TV	Digital ads, subscriptions, sponsored content, crowdfunding, donations

Table 1: Key Aspects of Journalism Before and After the Influence of Internet and Social Media

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Evolution of Journalism with Internet and Social Media

The globality of the Internet has transformed Journalism as news organizations can release information instantly as they reach more people than ever before. Unlike traditional media whereby newspapers, magazines, television and radio programs have to be physically distributed or aired at specific times only, the news through the different internet sites is available every time throughout the globe. This ability has come close to making the world a more informed and connected place, where people can get updates whenever a major event occurs. Among these, SNS, particularly, twitter and face book are central to this change and are now major news producers especially to the young people. They provide a space where user go not only for the news but also to share, discuss and react to it.

The surveys indicate that the youthful people, who possibly may not rely on traditional media platforms for their news information requirements, turn to these digital platforms. The fun aspects of SNSs let NEWS audiences participate; this leads to a more active type of journalism. People can also express What the post contain and help disseminate news articles through 'likes,' 'shares,' and 'comments.' However, this shift brings new challenges into the communication process, or misinforming possibilities along with preferences for sensational or viral content rather than true storytelling.

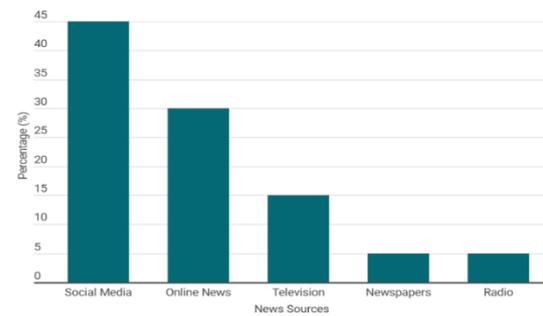Fig 1: Source of preferred news among different age groups
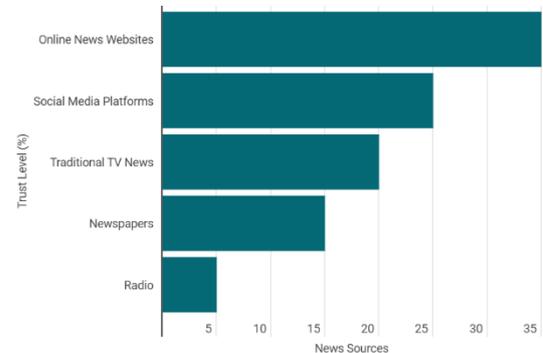

Fig 2: Trust in news source

B. Benefits of Social Media in Journalism

Through this paper, social media is shown to have influenced the field of journalism in various ways and this has been pointed out by the following benefits that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of sharing of news. One advantage concerns the speed that information is disseminated around the world. New media technology in particular makes it possible for the journalist to pass on breaking news all over the world through the social networks such as twitter, face book and Instagram to ensure that the news is posted immediately. The ability to present updates in real time has changed traditional news flows that used to exist in schedules of broadcasts or printed products.

Apart from increasing the rate at which a story is produced, social media strengthens the relationship between the journalist and the public. In that view, while traditional media is often described as a 'push' model of communication, SM allows a 'pull' model. Reporters are able to communicate directly with their

target audience and get feedback immediately, participate in discussions on the content they have published. This direct interaction helps the journalists to gauge the social or the perceived feelers or to clear up or to address certain issues, and the same way probably, the relevance and the accuracy of the news being conveyed to the public are improved.

Besides, social media has been adopted as a key source of direct information for journalists to collect information from. Microblogs, social media platforms such as, twitter are usually real time news feed where users will post pictures, videos, or share narratives of events occurring in real time. This content created by the users can be useful as an important source of information in the situations that require timely data, in the dynamically develop int the closed environment where the regular mainstream media delivery might be potentially limited. Besides, many stories are broken, and information is gathered and shared through social media, which ensures that journalism produces timely information, relevant for societies, and free of clichés.

Social Media

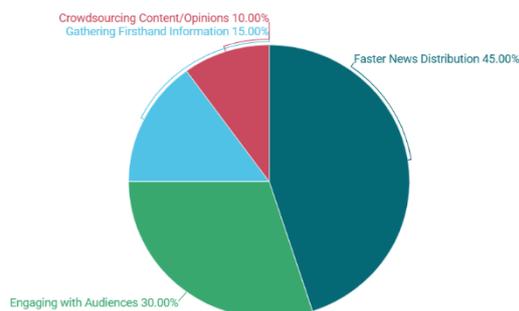Social media significantly enhances journalistic practices and engagement.

Crowdsourcing Content/Opinions 10.00%
Gathering Firsthand Information 15.00%
Faster News Distribution 45.00%
Engaging with Audiences 30.00%

Fig 3: Journalism benefits

III. POSITIVE IMPACTS ON JOURNALISM

B. Increased Accessibility and Engagement

The current world is increasingly interconnected courtesy of social media and the probability of direct communication between the media practitioners and the public has been tremendously boosted. Traditionally, news distribution was a one way street whereby journalists informed passive receiver through television, newspapers and radio. However, with Internet Media, like twitter, face book and instagram, information sharing became more of a communication process where journalist himself is in touch with the public. From the change listed above, news consumers have been able to provide comments on the stories,

share and engage in discourse with the news creators in an instant.

This increased level of communication provides a host of potential benefits of the reporters and their audiences. To reporters, social media sites provide crucial informations that enhances the accuracy and relevance of their works. Real-time interaction helps reporters provide more context and details about topics, correct mistakes in stories, and grasp how articles are received by an audience. In responding to questions and concerns that audiences have, journalists are able to become closer to their readers – or audiences – thus earning a reputation that may appear more credible.

Social media appeals to audiences in delivering an array of twin views and different articulations. Instead of relying solely on word of mouth or conventional media, the public can easily link with various news givers that include citizen journalists, specialists and specific targeting givers. This variety makes it easier for people the news to be shared with a higher number of people with different experiences to come forward to share. Finally, this clarity and learn'd avisement 'improve peoples' trust in news sources, and create a more informed public discourse.'

C. Speed and responsiveness

The continual advancement of the Internet has changed the speed at which Journalism is accomplished and made it possible for reporters to do live broadcasts on events happening. Compared with the conventional media in which people could only have standard news programs and newspapers, the Internet allows reporters to report the breaking news and latest developments as soon as possible. This has enhanced the hasten and importance of reporting so that news gets to the audiences at the time the event happens.

Real-time media has become one of the critical tools that reporters rely on in shaping the course of breaking news with Twitter forming a central place in the dissemination of such messages. These sites allow journalists to post information to the global audience instantly and avoid intermediaries who would post the news at their own convenience, making it twenty-four-seven news. These kilo-metres of the actual location have made perceiving stories shift because of sharing image, videos, and personal antigue one in real time through live streaming and immediate reporting.

The speed with which digital journalism is produced ensures audiences receive information on time besides improving the level of responsiveness. The audience's impression and reactions on the social media platform can immediately change the reporter's response when new information is gathered.

C. Democratization of News

Recent advances in technology have especially opened the doors to independent dissemination of news by citizens through the social media among other online tools. Social networks like Tweet, Face(book), Instagram, and Youtube allow any person without any journalism experience to report certain events and share some stories immediately. This change has completely transformed the traditional; journalistic model of reporting, which was most of the time owned and controlled by these mainstream media outlets to a more democratized structure on a simple web enabled environment.

This democratization has ensured that there are many incidences of people of different opinion with more stories that could be ignored by the traditional media. As a means by which the information is delivered by proverbial 'joe the platoon', citizen journalism has now seemingly evolved as a strong force, especially in region where mainstream media is either limited, or perhaps hampered. Microblogging sites like Twitter have been instrumental in giving the disenfranchised a platform to give an airing to their experience and concerns to a global audience.

While this means that the oppressed groups are getting to contribute in various platforms, it raises issues of fake news circulation, and content control. Nevertheless, through these barriers the democratization of news is leading to more diverse and pluralistic sources of news, enabling those who have not had a prior opportunity to shape public debate and determine the manner in which news is disseminated to the world.

Aspect	Description	Percentage Impact
Citizen Journalism	Ordinary people sharing real-time information and updates.	40%
Social Media Amplification	Non-journalists using platforms like Twitter to spread news.	35%
Diversity of Voices	Increased variety of perspectives in the media, especially from marginalized groups.	15%
User-Generated Content	Individuals creating news content such as blogs, videos, and social media posts.	10%

Table 2: Impact of Digital Platforms on News Democratization

IV. NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON JOURNALISM

A. Spread of Misinformation

While social media is prominent in supporting growth and dissemination of Journalism it has at the same time become a breeding ground for fake news articles. The availability of these social media fronts—Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and others—or any relative; empowers any 'Anyon' to spread information without the set procedures of fact check and other editorial pursuits that traditional journalism entails. As a result, a dangerous implication is false news, gossip, and deceptive information can spread widely and quickly within a short period of time, before correction or even before verification.

The ability of misleading information to go viral is one of the biggest dangers to trust in the media. It can change people's perception, influence election results and lead to panic or aggression. For instance health alerts, political occurrences and any other social issue that may be perceived and acted on, may sometimes bring negative impacts. Once the mis-information begins the process then it becomes even more difficult to counter it as people would believe the first thing which they hear or read the most – especially if it supports their existing bias or prejudice.

This has been a challenge to journalists who are trying hard to maintain credibility and practice ethos. As the rate of fake news increases, media organizations must improve on their efforts to build credibility to verify news through efficient fact-checking and encourage the community to eradicate fake news. Social media platforms are increasingly coming under pressure to

filter the spread of fake news by improving the content and algorithms moderations.

Data Point	Statistic	Source
Misinformation on Facebook	69% of U.S. adults encounter misinformation regularly on Facebook.	Pew Research Center, 2023
Spread of False News on Twitter	False news spreads 6 times faster than true news.	MIT Research, 2023
Encountering Misinformation Online (India)	62% of Indians report encountering false or misleading information online.	Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2022
Misinformation Leading to Distrust (India)	63% of Indians say misinformation on social media makes them distrust the news.	Pew Research Center, 2021
False Messages About Election Fraud (India)	Over 50% of messages related to election fraud during the 2019 Indian General Elections were false.	BBC News, 2019
COVID-19 Misinformation in India	1 in 4 Indians reported confusion due to misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic.	World Health Organization (WHO), 2020
Fact-Checked Articles Published	Over 200,000 articles of fact-checked content published in 2022.	International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)

Table 3: The spread of misinformation and its impact on journalism

B. Reduced Journalistic Standards

The new profession demand of fast delivery of news in the information age has done much to bring the quality of reporting down in journalistic practice. This explains why new content is always on the rise and the competition to capture the attention of the audience more often than not requires overlooking accuracy. The social nature of media requiring online channels demands that articles are released as fast as possible to remain relevant and fascinate the readers. This rush leads to less time to complete fact-checking, verification and comprehensive analysis which are key for traditional journalism. As a result, news at times is published instantly without sufficient scrutiny with the final product containing mistakes and false information. The social media platforms deepen this trend, the journalists are under increased pressure to post updates as they compromise the formalities of reporting. However, attention is attracted by mosquitoes, and headlines and sensationalization are perhaps sometimes adopted at the expense of credibility and impartiality. avenging reduces and demoralizes the credibility of the media and therefore the population loses faith with the organizations that divulge the news. Formalistic aspects are eroding, which becomes a growing concern as the intense tempo of modern media undermines the reliability and accuracy of the dissemination of legitimised facts and, consequently, the ability of the audience to distinguish between reliable information and sensationalism.
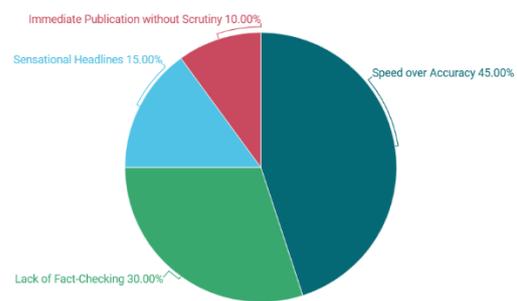

Fig 4: Impact of Fast News Delivery on Journalistic Standards

Speed over Accuracy (45%): By and large most of the challenges experienced today in the journalism practice are as a result of haste in reporting. Media practitioners bear the brunt of being forced to provide news on the precise time with little regard to accuracy and credibility.

Lack of Fact-Checking (30%): Because the articles need to be posted as quickly as possible, clear facts are not verified, and people continue to share misinformation.

Sensational Headlines (15%): To popularize the content and make people click on the links, headline are very provocative and can sometimes mislead the audience.

Immediate Publication without Scrutiny (10%): Sometimes news is aired or released in the media without adequate extensive conduction of research leading to many flaws.

C. Financial Trouble for Traditional Media

Geopolitical Communications has describes how the growth of a digital media has caused serious economic challenges to traditional media, with new source of income and structures staffs being affected. Newspaper, Television, Radio have relied on this factor as their source of revenue since time of their establishment. However, the shifting of the advertising dollars to digital media, Google, Facebook, and YouTube many traditional advertising media companies have found it difficult to support their financial needs. The targets can be reached with less cost compared to media institutions, thus digital platforms give more specific advertising opportunities. Thus, many newspapers and TV networks experienced sharp cuts of their advertising revenues and, accordingly, job cuts, layoffs, and deteriorating investigative journalism. As a result, traditional media organizations have been forced to practice paywalls or subscriptions and/or turn to online media which, more often than not, has not been sufficient to recover all lost revenues. This has however put pressure on the financial component front developing and leading to compromised quality and quantity of journalism produced out of scarce resources. However, pure web players like BuzzFeed and Vice or those having significantly lower overheads are thriving, which just adds a competitive pressure to legacy media.

V. ETHICAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. Privacy and Surveillance Issues

This is due to the increased use of social media and the extensive use of social media in journalism hence raising huge issues on issues to do with privacy and surveillance. Despite the ease in sharing and retrieving personal information on the social media platforms, there has been raised ethical issues regarding journalism. Even though es-sources are now more commonly used to source information, conduct interviews and engage with the audience, it also exposes individuals to privacy breaches. Some of the obstacles with which journalists may be confronted, and which could stem directly from the case, are likely to relate to the amount of personal data that can be gathered from the sources without violating a specific individual's rights. For instance, personal social media updates such as using them for verifying news or gathering background information may for common interested unintentionally disclose information that was intended only for a selected circle. Further, the supervisory features of social media also have become part of the ethical plays. As algorithm track user activities and likes, journalists are often put in a quandary as to how much stock should or can be put in this information. The challenge is to maintain objectivity and independence of the media alongside the mission of providing the public timely and relevant information together with the respect of individual's right to privacy. This delicate balance requires that journalists employ ethical frameworks that would require the subject to give consent, especially when taking pictures of people in the cyber space environment.

B. Legal Challenges

The flood of user-generated content on the new media has been a blessing in disguise for journalists and media organizations in several ways. One of them is the increased probability of copyright infringement. Many a time, journalists and reporters incorporate other Liked web contents, such as videos, photos, and social media updates, into their articles. This has however given rise to concerns on the illegitimate use and violation of copyrights. Due to the increasing reliance present today in social media including the likes of twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, questions of ownership and frameworks of fair use have changed a great deal. Another legal effect of user generated content is defamation. Large social media networks provide users with the opportunity to post materials with references to other people's reputations, and journalists may receive and share unverified or falsified information that may lead to legal action. The spread of wrong information is actionable for libel or slander. These is why new laws and regulations needed for protection of rights of individuals as well as for journalists to convey news without any obstacles. These rules should satisfy the call for more responsibility by journalists without

complicating prospects for delivering varied digital content, and ensure that legal requirements evolve with the advances in technology.

- Privacy Violations (45%): In cases of using social media as a source of information, most journalists experience ethical issues concerning the privacy of the actors involved.
- Surveillance Concerns (30%): Cyberspace use of the tracking by different platforms is a point of controversy concerning journalistic practice and the moral use of the data.
- Copyright Infringement (50%): In my experience most Journalist are likely to use 'user generated content' without seeking permission hence facing legal repercussions.
- Defamation Risks (40%): When it generates defamation, such unverified content tends to attract legal repercussions.
- Fair Use of Content (35%): Deciding on how fair use policies should apply online content is still an emerging concern for majority of journalist lawyers.
- Data Privacy Regulations (25%): Reporters remain susceptible to the constantly emerging legal policies on data privacy that define how news is gathered and disseminated.

VI. CASE STUDIES

Thus, the interference of the Internet and social media in the journalistic process has been observed, the benefits that can be obtained, as well as the problems that arise when getting those benefits, will be considered based on numerous case studies.

Case Analysis 1: The Arab Spring (2010-2012)

This paper brings out how the Arab Spring is a prime example of how social media and the internet have impacted on journalism. During this round of the anti-government protests in the Middle East & North Africa region, cyberspace especially; micro blogging service-twitter, social networking site- Face book & video sharing site- You Tube as key reference tools among activists and journalists. These platforms allowed residents to disseminate information, images, and videos freely and without the mediation of state-controlled media outlets. They were able to record genuine narratives of events which normal news gathering companies would have ignored or covered up. The use of social networks during the Arab Spring underlined the declared effects of social media

involving people into the process of producing and sharing news actively.

Case Study 2: Misinformation Dilemma (2016 U.S Presidential Election)

The 2016 U.S Presidential Election was an example of how social media presence yielded the negative impact in journalism. Communication through these media like Facebook, Twitter, etc. Spread fake news and tremendously influenced opinions and result of elections. Fake news and conspiratorial beliefs were actively shared, often without bothering which was true or not and the source of that information. This seems to precede the handling of misinformation in the age where news can be passed to numerous people with little to no control and oversight. This led to a number of discourses regarding the role of these social media companies in ethic display of duties and the call for legislation to ban fake news.

Case Study 3: The COVID 19 pandemic (2020-2022).

During COVID-19 crisis, live reporting dominates social media since travelling and in-person reporting are limited for almost everyone. Social media sites like Twitter, YouTube offered opportunities for posting all essential information referencing the virus, the government, and health organizations' measures. It also led to a surge in the spread of wrong information and health-related anything wrong. The pandemic brought into focus the function of verification and the responsibility that rests on journalists and service providers to ensure the credibility of information flow especially during disaster.

These case studies demonstrate that social media impacts the journalism in a positive way offering new possibilities for enhanced reportage, and in the negative way, raising questions about the misinformation, ethical standards, and a vital need to deliver the news as soon as possible.

VII. DISCUSSION AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

The development of the journalism profession is therefore very much tied to the fast advancement in technology. The fundamental HIS functioning principles are truth, accuracy and neutrality; thus, to remain important, news outlets have to adapt to the changed environment. Emerging technologies such as AI and block chain present new opportunities for

improving the techniques of journalism in its broadest sense. Using AI technology, one of the most important roles is to give a quick assessment of the facts and content to determine the reliability of the source and existence of fake news. AI apps can auto transcribe interviews, or sort through thousands of news articles, thus allow the journalists to focus more on serious work and research.

With the help of blockchain technology it is possible to find a constructive clue to increase transparency in journalism. By making an immutable record of the news source and content, blockchain may help find solutions to such issues as fake news and plagiarism. Media houses and journalists could use blockchain technology to lead to a record of ownership of news articles where the information spread is accurate and authentic.

Also, double check reviews gain significance as mis informations remain active; hence, it is crucial for media to focus on corrective factual information release only. Increasing media education among audiences will be necessary as readers will need to assess the news information critically and find reliable sources instantly. These developments make it possible for journalism to be more responsible in achieving its goals as an industry so that it can deliver on the idealism of offering reliable information in the best way possible and with the hope of regaining the current State trust of people in the information being communicated. However, we've seen that privacy, monitoring and ethical questions require dedicated approach in order to keep the new digital environment responsible.

VIII. REFERENCES

[1] A. Smith, "Social media use in 2023," Pew Research Center, 2023.

[2] M. Anderson, "How journalists use social media to report on breaking news," Journal of Media Studies, vol. 32, pp. 1–10, 2022.

[3] J. Kim and R. Dennis, "Public engagement with news on social media," International Journal of Digital Communication, vol. 29, pp. 95–110, 2021.

[4] R. Lewis, "The role of Twitter in live news reporting," Global Media Journal, vol. 12, pp. 35–45, 2021.

[5] S. Patel, "Citizen journalism in the digital age," Digital Media Journal, vol. 14, pp. 67–76, 2022.

[6] L. Scott, "Fake news and its impact on journalism," Journal of Online Ethics, vol. 11, pp. 52–63, 2023.

[7] D. Nguyen, "Journalistic standards in the era of clickbait," Press Journal, vol. 24, pp. 130–140, 2022.

[8] C. Zhao, "Economic shifts in traditional media due to the Internet," Economics of Media, vol. 18, pp. 76–85, 2023.

[9] E. Ford, "Ethics of privacy in online journalism," Journal of Media Ethics, vol. 20, pp. 105–115, 2021.

[10] R. Martinez, "Legal risks in digital news reporting," Digital Law Review, vol. 16, pp. 45–53, 2022.

[11] G. Hassan, "Twitter and the Arab Spring: A case study," Social Media and Politics, vol. 15, pp. 83–92, 2021.

[12] P. Harris, "Facebook and fake news during the U.S. elections," Journal of Political Communication, vol. 13, pp. 60–70, 2020.

[13] T. Green, "Blockchain technology in journalism: Opportunities and challenges," Digital News Review, vol. 25, pp. 115–123, 2023.

[14] H. Wang, "Impact of social media algorithms on news delivery," Journal of Digital Journalism, vol. 28, pp. 40–48, 2021.

[15] L. Davis, "Social media influencers and their role in journalism," Media Influence Quarterly, vol. 19, pp. 58–65, 2022.

[16] K. Brown, "Public perception of news accuracy on social media platforms," Journalism Studies, vol. 36, pp. 101–113, 2021.

[17] M. Thomas, "Ethical challenges in online news sourcing," Media Ethics Journal, vol. 18, pp. 33–42, 2023.

[18] F. Clarke, "User-generated content and its effect on journalistic integrity," International Communication Review, vol. 23, pp. 79–90, 2021.

[19] R. Ford, "The evolution of citizen journalism in the digital age," Global Journalism Review, vol. 34, pp. 99–108, 2022.

[20] S. Williams, "Digital media and the erosion of traditional reporting standards," Press Ethics Journal, vol. 27, pp. 101–110, 2022.

[21] J. Scott, "The role of media literacy in combating misinformation," Media Education Quarterly, vol. 15, pp. 65–73, 2023.

[22] L. Carter, "Journalism in the era of fake news: An exploration of media trust," Journalism and Society, vol. 31, pp. 119–128, 2022.

[23] R. Turner, "Social media platforms as news outlets: A comparison study," International News Analysis, vol. 22, pp. 51–60, 2021.

[24] P. Lee, "Challenges to journalistic objectivity in the digital age," Journalism Ethics Review, vol. 17, pp. 72–83, 2023.

[25] D. Ellis, "Misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic: A case study of media impact," Journal of Public Health Communication, vol. 11, pp. 144–156, 2023.