



# Basics of New Media

BA(JMC) 301

## Unit-II

by

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## Syllabus- Unit II

### Unit II: [Online Journalism, Cyber Law and Ethics]

- Traditional vs Pen-less/ Paperless Journalism, News and Content Presentation
- Do's and Don'ts for reporting and editing for e-papers, websites and news portals
- Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security: An Overview
- IT Act (2000); Ethics and Limitations: Piracy, Copyright, Copyleft, Open Source, Digital Archives

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## Traditional vs Pen-less/ Paperless Journalism, News and Content Presentation

### Traditional Journalism

- Traditional journalism refers to the conventional and established practices of gathering, verifying, and disseminating news and information.
- It typically involves reporters or journalists who conduct interviews, research, and investigation using pen and paper or digital tools and then produce written articles or reports for print or online media outlets.
- Traditional journalism follows ethical guidelines and standards to provide objective, balanced, and accurate information to the public.
- It includes various formats like news articles, features, opinion pieces, and investigative reports.

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**Traditional vs Pen-less/ Paperless Journalism, News and Content Presentation**

**Attributes of Traditional Journalism**

- **Physical Medium:** Traditional journalism involves the use of physical mediums such as newspapers, magazines, and broadcast media like television and radio.
- **Research and Reporting:** Journalists gather information through interviews, on-the-ground reporting, and research to write their stories.
- **Editing Process:** Journalists go through multiple rounds of editing before their articles or reports are published or aired.

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**Long-form Content:** Traditional journalism typically allows for in-depth and long-form reporting.

**Print Deadlines:** Newspapers and magazines have fixed publication schedules with specific deadlines for journalists to meet.

**Physical Distribution:** Printed newspapers and magazines are physically distributed to readers through various channels.



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**Advantages and Challenges of Traditional Journalism**

Advantages	Challenges
<b>Credibility:</b> Traditional journalism is often perceived as more credible and trustworthy due to rigorous fact-checking processes.	<b>Declining Circulation:</b> Print media has been facing declining readership as more people shift to digital sources for news.
<b>Tangibility:</b> Physical newspapers and magazines offer a tangible reading experience that some readers still prefer.	<b>Limited Interactivity:</b> Traditional journalism lacks the interactive features that engage readers actively.
<b>In-depth Analysis:</b> Long-form articles in print media allow for comprehensive coverage and in-depth analysis of complex topics.	<b>Slow Updates:</b> The fixed publication schedule of print media might lead to outdated information.

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**Pen-less/ Paperless Journalism**

- Pen-less journalism, as the name suggests, refer to journalism that does not rely on the conventional writing tools (pen and paper) for information gathering and reporting.
- It involves the use of modern digital technologies and multimedia elements to tell stories, such as video journalism, audio journalism (podcasts), visual storytelling, and interactive content.
- Pen-less journalism prioritizes visuals, audio, and interactive elements over traditional written articles, but it would still follow the core principles of journalism, including fact-checking, source verification, and accuracy in reporting.

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**Attributes of Pen-less/Paperless Journalism**

- **Digital Medium:** Pen-less/paperless journalism refers to the use of digital platforms like websites, blogs, social media, and online news portals.
- **Real-time Reporting:** Journalists can report and publish news in real-time as events happen, providing instant updates to their audience.
- **Multimedia Content:** Digital journalism often incorporates multimedia elements like videos, images, and interactive graphics to enhance storytelling.

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- **Wider Reach:** The internet allows journalists to reach a global audience instantly, without geographical limitations.
- **Data Journalism:** Pen-less/paperless journalism enables the integration of data analysis and visualization to present complex information.
- **Adaptive Editing:** Digital articles can be updated and edited even after publication, allowing for constant improvements and corrections.



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**Advantages and Challenges of Pen-les/Paperless Journalism**

Advantages	Challenges
<b>Speed and Real-time Reporting:</b> Digital journalism provides instant updates, making it a valuable source for breaking news.	<b>Misinformation and Fake News:</b> The fast-paced nature of online journalism can lead to the spread of misinformation if not verified properly.
<b>Multimedia Storytelling:</b> Digital platforms enable the use of multimedia elements, enhancing the engagement and understanding of readers.	<b>Digital Overload:</b> With a plethora of online sources, readers may struggle to distinguish reliable journalism from sensationalism or biased content.
<b>Cost-Effectiveness:</b> Running an online news portal can be more cost-effective than printing physical copies, reducing production expenses.	<b>Monetization:</b> Finding sustainable revenue models in the digital age remains a challenge for many online news outlets.

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**News and Content Presentation**

News and content presentation in traditional and new media have evolved significantly over the years due to advances in technology and changes in consumer behavior. Let's explore the key differences between traditional and new media in terms of news and content presentation:

**Traditional Media:**  
**Format:** Traditional media includes newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and print publications. The format is typically one-way communication, with content being presented to the audience without direct interaction.

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**Time-bound:** Traditional media follows specific schedules, such as daily or weekly newspaper releases, fixed TV/radio programs, and monthly magazine issues.

**Presentation:** News in traditional media is usually presented in a standardized and formal format, adhering to established journalistic principles and style guidelines.

**Limited Space:** Print media, such as newspapers and magazines, have limited space, which can restrict the amount of information that can be conveyed in a single publication.

**Visuals:** Traditional media often incorporates visuals like photographs and illustrations, but the scope for interactive or multimedia elements is limited.

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**New Media:**

**Digital Platforms:** New media primarily encompasses online platforms like websites, social media, blogs, podcasts, and digital publications, providing instant access to information from any location with an internet connection.

**Interactivity:** One of the significant advantages of new media is its interactive nature. Audiences can engage with the content through comments, likes, shares, and discussions.

**Real-time Updates:** New media allows for real-time updates, ensuring that the latest news and content can be accessed immediately, breaking away from traditional fixed schedules.

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**Multimedia Content:** New media platforms can incorporate various forms of multimedia content, including videos, animations, infographics, and interactive elements, enhancing the overall user experience.

**Personalization:** Digital media platforms often use algorithms to tailor content to individual preferences and interests, providing a personalized news feed.

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**Convergence of Traditional and New Media:**

- Over time, there has been a convergence of traditional and new media.
- Many traditional media outlets have established an online presence, combining their print or broadcast content with digital platforms.
- This convergence allows for a broader reach, increased interactivity, and the integration of multimedia elements.
- New media outlets also need to adopt some elements of traditional journalistic practices to ensure credibility and accuracy.

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The shift from traditional to new media has brought both challenges and opportunities.

- Challenges include the prevalence of misinformation and the difficulty in monetizing digital content.
- On the other hand, new media presents opportunities for citizen journalism, increased global reach, data-driven storytelling, and innovative ways of engaging with audiences.

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Do's and Don'ts for reporting and editing for e-papers, websites and news portals

Reporting and editing for e-papers, websites, and news portals require adherence to specific guidelines to ensure accuracy, credibility, and professionalism. Here are some essential do's and don'ts to keep in mind:

**Do's:**

**Verify Information:** Ensure the accuracy of all facts and sources before publishing any content. Use reliable sources and cross-check information from multiple sources if possible.

**Write Clear and Concise Headlines:** Craft headlines that accurately reflect the content of the article and are easy for readers to understand at a glance.

**Follow the Style Guide:** Adhere to the website's or organization's style guide, including grammar, punctuation, and formatting rules.

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Do's and Don'ts for reporting and editing for e-papers, websites and news portals

**Use Proper Attribution:** Give credit to original sources and avoid plagiarism. Cite quotes, statistics, and information from other publications appropriately.

**Engage the Audience:** Write in a reader-friendly manner to engage your audience. Use clear language and avoid jargon whenever possible.

**Add Multimedia Elements:** Use relevant images, videos, infographics, and other multimedia elements to enhance the reader's understanding and interest.

**Fact-Check and Review:** Double-check facts, figures, and names before publishing. Review and edit the content for grammar, coherence, and clarity.

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**Consider Ethics and Sensitivity:** Be mindful of cultural sensitivities, privacy concerns, and potential harm when reporting on certain topics.

**Responsive Design:** Ensure that the website or e-paper is optimized for mobile devices and has a responsive design for a seamless user experience.

**Stay Updated:** Keep abreast of the latest news and trends in your field to produce relevant and timely content.

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**Don'ts:**

**Plagiarize:** Avoid copying content from other sources without proper attribution. Plagiarism can damage your credibility and the reputation of the publication.

**Rely on Unverified Sources:** Avoid using unverified or unreliable sources, as it can lead to spreading misinformation.

**Exaggerate or Sensationalize:** Present information objectively and avoid exaggeration or sensationalization to grab attention. Stick to the facts.

**Ignore Legal Implications:** Be cautious about copyright laws, defamation, and libel issues. Seek legal advice if necessary.

**Overlook Grammar and Spelling Errors:** Poor grammar and spelling mistakes can negatively impact the reader's perception of your content and the publication.

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**Disregard Feedback:** Be open to constructive feedback and use it to improve your writing and reporting skills.

**Be Biased or One-Sided:** Maintain impartiality and present all sides of a story, especially when reporting on controversial topics.

**Ignore SEO Guidelines:** Consider search engine optimization (SEO) best practices to improve the visibility and reach of your content online.

**Delay Corrections:** If you spot errors or inaccuracies in your published content, address them promptly and issue corrections or updates as necessary.

**Publish Unverified Breaking News:** Verify breaking news from credible sources before publishing to avoid spreading false or misleading information.

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**Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security: An Overview**

### Cyber Crimes

Cybercrimes, also known as computer crimes or internet crimes, refer to criminal activities that are carried out using digital technology, primarily over the internet. These crimes can target individuals, organizations, or governments and can have significant financial, social, and psychological impacts.



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**Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security: An Overview**

### Some common types of cybercrimes:

**Hacking:** Unauthorized access to computer systems or networks to steal sensitive information, disrupt operations, or cause damage.

**Phishing:** Attempting to deceive individuals into revealing sensitive information like passwords, credit card details, or personal data by posing as a trustworthy entity.

**Malware Attacks:** Distributing malicious software (such as viruses, ransomware, and spyware) to compromise computer systems and data.

**Identity Theft:** Stealing personal information to impersonate someone else or commit fraud.

**Cyberbullying:** Harassing, threatening, or intimidating individuals online.

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**Online Scams:** Fraudulent schemes to trick people into providing money or valuable assets.

**Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attacks:** Overloading a website or online service with traffic to disrupt its functioning.

**Data Breaches:** Unauthorized access to sensitive information stored by organizations, resulting in the exposure of personal data.

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**Cyber Security**

Cyber security is the practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from cyber threats and attacks. Its primary goal is to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information technology resources.



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**Some essential components of cyber security:**

**Firewalls and Intrusion Detection/Prevention Systems:** These technologies help monitor and control network traffic, identifying and blocking suspicious activities.

**Encryption:** Data encryption converts information into a code to prevent unauthorized access, even if the data is intercepted.

**Multi-factor Authentication (MFA):** Requires users to provide multiple forms of identification before accessing sensitive information or systems.

**Regular Software Updates and Patch Management:** Ensuring that software and systems are up to date with the latest security patches to address vulnerabilities.

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**Employee Training and Awareness:** Educating employees about cyber security best practices to reduce the risk of human error and social engineering attacks.

**Secure Network Architecture:** Designing networks with security in mind to minimize potential weaknesses.

**Incident Response and Disaster Recovery Plans:** Having procedures in place to respond to and recover from cyber incidents effectively.

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**IT Act (2000); Ethics and Limitations: Piracy, Copyright, Copyleft, Open Source, Digital Archives**

**IT ACT 2000**

- The Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) is an Indian law that governs various aspects of electronic commerce, digital communication, and online activities.
- The Information Technology Act (IT Act) was passed by the Parliament of India in the year 2000, and it came into force on October 17, 2000.
- The primary objective of the act is to provide a legal framework for electronic governance, e-commerce, and electronic transactions in India.
- The IT Act was amended in 2008 to address emerging challenges in the digital space and enhance cyber security measures.

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**IT Act (2000); Ethics and Limitations: Piracy, Copyright, Copyleft, Open Source, Digital Archives**

**Objectives of IT Act**

- To facilitate electronic transactions and promote e-governance.
- To provide legal recognition to electronic records and digital signatures.
- To regulate and govern the use of electronic communication and data.
- To address cyber security concerns and establish mechanisms for handling computer-related offenses.
- To provide legal remedies for cybercrimes and digital disputes.

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**Amendments in IT Act (2008)**

- The 2008 amendment addressed issues related to data protection, introduced new offenses, and enhanced penalties for certain cybercrimes.
- It also expanded the definition of intermediaries and their responsibilities regarding user-generated content.
- This amendment introduced the controversial Section 66A into the Act.
- Section 66A gave authorities the power to arrest anyone accused of posting content on social media that could be deemed 'offensive'.
- As per the said section, a person could be convicted if proved on the charges of sending any 'information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character'.

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**Piracy**

- Piracy refers to the unauthorized reproduction, distribution, or use of copyrighted material, such as software, movies, music, or books. The IT Act, in conjunction with the Copyright Act, deals with issues related to digital piracy.
- Section 43 and Section 66 of the IT Act deal with penalties for unauthorized access, downloading, or distribution of computer data, including copyrighted content. These sections provide for civil and criminal penalties for offenses related to computer systems and data.



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**Copyright**

- The Copyright Act, 1957, protects the rights of creators and copyright holders from unauthorized use, reproduction, or distribution of their work.
- The IT Act complements the Copyright Act by providing legal recognition to electronic records and digital signatures, which are essential for online copyright enforcement and protection.



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**Copyleft**

- Copyleft is a concept used in open-source software licensing.
- It allows users to modify, distribute, and share the software freely, provided that any derivative works also remain open source and carry the same license terms.
- The IT Act does not explicitly address copyleft, but it does provide a legal framework for electronic signatures and transactions, which can facilitate the licensing and distribution of open-source software.



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**Open Source**

- Open-source refers to software that is freely available, and its source code can be viewed, modified, and redistributed by anyone.
- The IT Act does not specifically focus on open-source, but it enables electronic transactions and digital signatures, which can be useful for open-source projects in terms of licensing and distribution.



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**Digital Archives**

- The IT Act does not have specific provisions concerning digital archives. However, it indirectly supports the digitization of records and documents by providing legal recognition to electronic records, electronic signatures, and electronic contracts.
- This has implications for the preservation and maintenance of digital archives.



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