

Digital Journalism vs. Traditional Media: Changing the Face of Information Consumption

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ABSTRACT

Background. The digital era has changed the way people consume news, with digital journalism increasingly dominating compared to traditional media.

Purpose. This study aims to understand the differences in consumption patterns and public trust in the two forms of media, as well as their implications for the quality of the information presented.

Method. The research methods used are a quantitative approach through a survey and a qualitative approach through in-depth interviews with journalists from both types of media.

Results. The results of the study show that younger generations are more likely to use digital journalism because of accessibility and speed, while older generations still trust traditional media because of their credibility and validity. Although digital media is used more frequently, the level of trust in the information presented is relatively lower compared to traditional media. This shows that although digital journalism offers quick access, the credibility aspect is still an issue that needs to be improved.

Conclusion. The conclusion of the study is that although digital journalism has changed the face of information consumption, the challenges related to the credibility and validity of information remain significant. This research provides important insights into how speed and credibility can be integrated for a more reliable future of journalism.

KEYWORDS

Digital Journalism, Information Consumption, Traditional Media

Citation: Ikhlas, Z. R., Takahashi, H & Nakamura, Y. (2024). Digital Journalism vs. Traditional Media: Changing the Face of Information Consumption. *Journal of Humanities Research Sustainability*, 1(6), 439–449.

<https://doi.org/10.70177/humaniora.v1i1.12663>

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Received: Dec 20, 2024

Accepted: Dec 27, 2024

Published: Dec 31, 2024

INTRODUCTION

In the digital age, journalism has undergone major changes that affect the way people consume information (Yadlin-Segal 2021). Digital journalism offers quick and easy access to news through various online platforms, shifting the role of traditional media such as newspapers and television (Petre 2021). The advent of these platforms has challenged the old structure of news distribution, accelerated the flow of information, and allowed readers to access news in real-time anywhere and anytime.

Traditional media has a long history as the main source of information for the public (Tumber 2021). In



recent decades, newspapers, radio, and television have become the main tools for delivering news (Olabi 2021). These institutions have built a reputation on the basis of credibility and reliability, which makes them a trusted source of news (Flew 2021). However, technological changes have triggered significant shifts in the way news is produced, distributed, and consumed.

Digital journalism brings the democratization of information by allowing anyone to become a news producer (Roth 2021). Blogs, social media, and video-sharing platforms have allowed individuals to share their own content, challenging traditional media monopolies in news production (Valenzuela 2021). However, this openness also raises new problems related to the accuracy of information and the credibility of news sources.

This shift has a direct impact on the way people filter and assess information. Instant and often unverified digital journalism can trigger the spread of fake news (Lischka 2021). The public is required to be more critical in consuming news, because not all information available online can be trusted (Villi 2022). Traditional media that prioritize the editorial process is slower, but still offers more in-depth information validation.

This changing information consumption also has an impact on the media business itself (Tandoc 2023). Traditional media experienced a decline in circulation and advertising revenue as many readers turned to digital platforms that offered free content (Jungherr 2021). In contrast, digital media benefits from online advertising and partnerships with technology companies (Bautista 2021). However, monetization challenges remain for digital journalism as users are reluctant to pay for news content.

Readers' interactions with the news are also changing. Digital platforms offer an interactive experience where readers can instantly comment, share, or discuss news with fellow users (Humprecht 2022). This changes journalism to be more participatory, although it also opens the door to polarization of opinion and manipulation of information. Traditional media is more one-way, where news is delivered to an audience without much instant feedback.

Our understanding of these changes in journalism highlights the importance of adaptation in the modern information age (Carlson 2021). Digital journalism is not only changing the way information is consumed, but it is also influencing how information is generated and delivered (Simon 2023). Although traditional journalism still has an important place in society, the integration between traditional and digital media seems to be the way forward in dealing with the ever-evolving need for information.

The shift from traditional media to digital journalism creates many questions about how these two forms of media can collaborate or even compete effectively in the future (Quandt 2021). The long-term impact of these changes on the quality and reliability of information is still not fully revealed (Waisbord 2022). Although digital journalism offers faster and wider access, its presence raises issues about accuracy and control of information that need to be further researched.

The growing habit of consuming information among the younger generation is also an area that is poorly understood. Are the generations growing up with digital access more critical of the news, or conversely, more vulnerable to disinformation? This problem requires more in-depth research to understand the shift in readers' mindsets and behaviors in the digital era.

The role of algorithms and technology platforms in curating news also raises big questions. How algorithms affect information exposure and the formation of public opinion is still not fully understood (García-Avilés 2021). This has sparked concerns about information bias and the effect of filter bubbles that may narrow people's perspectives on important issues.

The sustainability of the digital journalism business model is a big gap that needs to be filled. While digital media is rapidly evolving, an effective and ethical monetization model is still a

challenge (Swart 2022). Many platforms rely on advertising or subscriptions, but not all digital media manage to attract enough revenue to support high-quality journalism (Nee 2022). How digital media can continue to innovate without sacrificing journalistic ethics is a question that needs to be answered.

Filling in the gaps in our understanding of the shift from traditional media to digital journalism is essential to maintaining information integrity in the digital age (Perreault 2022). Further research will help in creating new standards that ensure that digitally disseminated information remains accurate, credible, and reliable (Moran 2022). With the increasing dependence of society on digital platforms, this gap needs to be overcome immediately so that the public still has access to valid information.

The development of policies and regulations governing the use of algorithms in news distribution is also needed to avoid the risk of spreading disinformation (Ilie 2021). A better understanding of how algorithms work and how they affect news exposure can help create a more balanced media environment (Papadopoulou 2021). This regulation will help ensure that the public gets diverse information and is not trapped in information bias.

Research on the sustainability of the digital journalism business will provide deeper insights into how digital media can survive without sacrificing journalistic quality (Shin 2022). Finding a fair and effective business model will help maintain the continuity of independent and integrity journalism, so that the public can continue to enjoy access to high-quality news without being influenced by commercial interests alone.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a quantitative and qualitative research design with a comparative approach. This design was chosen to measure the difference in information consumption between digital journalism and traditional media (Kaliyar 2021). The research also includes content analysis to understand the quality of information presented by both types of media as well as surveys to measure the perception and habits of news consumers.

The study population consists of individuals who actively consume news through digital and traditional media in Indonesia (Torous 2021). The sample was randomly selected by stratification technique based on age, gender, education level, and media use. The sample amounted to 500 respondents, which were divided into two main groups: digital media users and traditional media consumers. The study also included a small group of journalists from both types of media as participants in in-depth interviews.

The instruments used in this study include a closed questionnaire for quantitative surveys and semi-structured interview guidelines for qualitative interviews (Silva 2021). The questionnaire includes questions about news consumption habits, the level of trust in the media, and media preferences (Qiang 2021). The interview guidelines included questions about journalists' experiences working in both digital and traditional media, as well as their perceptions of the quality of information conveyed by both types of media.

The research procedure begins with the distribution of questionnaires to respondents through online platforms and in person. In-depth interviews with journalists are conducted online via video conference and in person (Yuan 2022). Data from the survey were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods, while data from interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis methods to identify key patterns in journalists' perceptions and experiences of the differences between digital journalism and traditional media.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Survey data shows that 65% of respondents consume news from digital journalism platforms, while the other 35% are still loyal to traditional media such as newspapers and television. Of the total 500 respondents, most of the younger generation (aged 18-35 years) prefer digital media with a percentage of 80%, while the older generation (over 50 years old) uses traditional media more with a percentage of 60%. In terms of frequency of news consumption, 45% of respondents who use digital journalism access news more than 5 times a day, while only 20% of traditional media users consume that much news.

The following table summarizes news consumption frequency data by age group and media preferences:

Age Group	Media Digital	Traditional Media	Frequency >5 times/day
18-35 years old	80%	20%	45%
36-50 years old	60%	40%	30%
Above 50 years old	40%	60%	20%

This data shows that the preference for digital journalism is higher among the younger generation, who also consume more news in a single day compared to the older generation.

These findings reflect a major shift in the way information is consumed in the digital age. The younger generation is more accustomed to the instant access offered by digital platforms, which allows them to access news anytime and anywhere. Mobile devices and news apps are the main tools that facilitate this access. Speed and ease of access are the main determinants of why digital journalism is preferred by young age groups.

Traditional media users, especially those of the older generation, still have more structured habits in news consumption (Soroya 2021). This habit may have been formed because of a long-established pattern, where news was obtained through newspapers or television news programs at certain times of the day. Time constraints and traditional media formats limit flexibility in accessing news, which makes it less appealing to younger generations who want more dynamic access to news.

The higher use of digital media among the younger generation can also be attributed to the interactivity factor offered by digital platforms. Digital media allows users to share, comment and discuss news directly with fellow users, creating a more participatory news consumption experience. Traditional media, on the other hand, tend to be more passive because news is delivered in a one-way format without direct feedback from the audience.

This phenomenon underscores how digital media is changing the way news is consumed, particularly in terms of frequency and the way readers interact with information. In this context, the preferences of traditional media by older generations reflect more historically formed habits than the intrinsic appeal of the media itself.

In terms of trust in news sources, 70% of respondents who use traditional media stated that they trust news delivered by print and television media more than digital media. In contrast, only 40% of digital journalism users fully trust the news they consume, with the majority stating that they often verify news from multiple sources before trusting it. Digital media is often considered faster but less credible compared to traditional media which has a more rigorous editorial process.

Trust in news sources also varies by age group. Older respondents tend to trust traditional media more, while younger generations are more skeptical of digital media. However, the younger generation also demonstrated the ability to verify information through various sources, demonstrating higher media literacy compared to the older generation. Factors such as media

credibility, information accuracy, and algorithmic involvement in news distribution are the main focuses in this difference in perception.

The following table summarizes trust levels based on media used and age groups:

Age Group	Digital Media Trust	Traditional Media Trust
18-35 years old	40%	60%
36-50 years old	50%	70%
Above 50 years old	30%	80%

This data shows that although digital journalism is more popular, there are still significant doubts about its credibility compared to traditional media.

The higher trust in traditional media can be explained by the rigorous verification process and journalistic standards held by print and television media. The public sees traditional media as a source that has gone through a more comprehensive filtering and fact-checking process. Meanwhile, digital journalism is often caught up in the race to be the fastest in presenting news, which sometimes comes at the expense of information accuracy.

Doubts about digital journalism are also due to the fact that digital platforms are often open to anyone, including individuals with no journalistic background. A lot of news on digital media comes from obscure sources, which makes it difficult for users to distinguish between true and false information. This encourages people to be more skeptical of the news they receive from digital media, even if the platform is popular.

On the other hand, higher media literacy among younger generations shows that they are more likely to verify news from multiple sources before trusting it. This is in contrast to the older generation, who tend to trust news from one main source, especially the traditional media they use. This difference shows that there is a change in the way people view information in the digital era.

Criticism of digital media does not mean that this media is irrelevant. On the other hand, the speed and accessibility offered by digital media are very important in the modern information era, but there needs to be an improvement in terms of verification and credibility so that this media can be more trusted by the public.

The relationship between media preferences and trust levels shows a gap in the perception of information. Although digital media is more commonly used by the younger generation, their level of trust in the media is relatively lower compared to the older generation who use traditional media. This raises questions about how digital platforms can increase user trust without sacrificing speed in news presentation.

The role of algorithms in news distribution also affects trust in digital media. Algorithms used by social media platforms and search engines tend to prioritize the popularity of content over accuracy, which can lead to the spread of false or misleading news. The relationship between news consumption through digital platforms and declining trust in information further makes it clear that technology plays an important role in public perception of news.

On the other hand, more curated and structured traditional media are able to maintain a higher level of trust despite a decline in the number of users (Rathi 2021). The rigorous editorial process and reputation built over decades are the main cornerstones of public trust in this medium. The public sees traditional media as a more reliable guardian of truth than faster but often unverified digital media.

This relationship between media and trust levels shows that the sustainability of journalism in the digital age requires an integration between speed and accuracy. Digital media needs to adopt

several journalistic standards from traditional media to maintain public trust, while traditional media needs to adapt to digital technology to remain relevant in the eyes of the younger generation.

Case studies from some popular digital media in Indonesia, such as Detik.com and Kompas.com, show that they have begun to adopt some elements of traditional journalism in an effort to increase their credibility. Both platforms have introduced larger editorial teams and stricter fact-checking processes to ensure that the news they present is accurate and trustworthy. They also seek to present the news in a more in-depth format, similar to the format found in print media.

On the other hand, traditional media such as daily newspapers are also starting to penetrate into digital platforms to reach a wider audience. Media outlets such as Kompas Daily and Jawa Pos have developed websites and mobile apps that allow readers to access news online (Maheshwari 2021). They maintain a rigorous editorial process, but face challenges in attracting the attention of younger generations who are more accustomed to a quick and short news format.

Case studies from international media such as The New York Times show that traditional media can succeed in the transition to digital if they find a balance between credibility and speed. The New York Times has successfully integrated a rigorous editorial process with rapid digital distribution through various online platforms. They also rely on a subscription model to ensure that quality journalism remains sustainable in the digital age.

These examples show that the success of digital journalism depends not only on speed, but also on the credibility and quality of the information conveyed. Media that is able to integrate these two aspects will be more successful in maintaining public trust while remaining relevant in the digital era.

The success of media outlets like The New York Times in the digital transition shows that credibility and speed don't have to be at odds with each other. By maintaining a robust editorial process and introducing technological innovations, traditional media can remain competitive in the digital age. This adjustment allows traditional media to maintain public trust while adapting to changes in news consumer behavior.

This change is also seen in Indonesia, where digital media such as Detik.com are starting to strengthen their credibility with the adoption of stricter editorial processes. People are starting to realize that even though digital media offers quick access, the quality of information conveyed must remain a priority. Media that fail to maintain this quality tend to lose public trust, especially amid increasing awareness of the importance of information verification.

Traditional media are also beginning to understand the importance of speed in delivering news. Kompas and Jawa Pos daily that have ventured into digital platforms show that traditional media can succeed in the digital world if they are able to provide quick access without sacrificing credibility. Their success in attracting the attention of younger audiences is proof that this adaptation allows traditional media to survive in the digital era.

The exploration of this case study emphasizes the importance of integration between traditional and digital journalism to create a balanced model of information consumption. Credibility, speed, and accessibility must be considered simultaneously in designing the future of relevant journalism.

The relationship between credibility and speed in news delivery is crucial in understanding the future of journalism. Digital media that prioritizes speed but ignores accuracy tends to lose public trust, while traditional media that are slow to adapt to digital technology risk losing relevance among the younger generation (Zhang 2021). This relationship shows that the sustainability of journalism in the future requires a balance between the speed of information distribution and the accuracy of content.

Case studies from various media, both national and international, show that media that successfully integrate these aspects are more likely to gain public trust while remaining relevant. Maintained credibility in a rigorous editorial process allows digital media to strengthen its position in the eyes of the public, while traditional media that quickly adapts to technology is able to attract the attention of younger audiences.

News distribution algorithms and technologies also play an important role in the relationship between information consumption and trust. Digital media that successfully adopt this technology appropriately without sacrificing the credibility of information will be better able to build a strong relationship with its audience (Rossi 2022). This is important to ensure that the information presented is not only fast, but also reliable.

This relationship emphasizes that the journalism of the future must combine the best elements of both worlds: the accuracy and credibility of traditional journalism, and the speed and accessibility of digital journalism. Media that is able to combine these two aspects will be better able to survive and thrive in the ever-changing media landscape.

This study shows a significant shift in the way people consume news. The younger generation is more likely to use digital media because of the speed and accessibility it offers, while the older generation still relies on traditional media. The level of trust in traditional media is higher, but digital media users are more likely to verify information through various sources. Although digital journalism dominates in terms of user numbers, credibility-related challenges remain a major concern.

Users of digital journalism consume news with higher frequency, but they are more skeptical of the accuracy of the information received. Traditional media, albeit slower, is considered more reliable by most respondents, especially from older age groups. This phenomenon shows that media preferences are determined not only by the speed of access, but also by the level of user trust in news sources (He 2022). Digital media has managed to attract the attention of the younger generation, but still faces challenges in building long-term trust.

The results also show that trust in traditional media remains strong among older generations, although the number of users of such media continues to decline. On the other hand, although digital media is used more frequently, its credibility is still questionable, especially when it comes to the rapid but less verified spread of news. This data reveals that despite the major shift in news consumption, the challenges related to information reliability have not been fully resolved.

This difference shows that while digital journalism has many advantages in terms of speed and accessibility, there are important aspects of traditional journalism that are still relevant. Credibility, information validation, and a strong editorial structure remain important factors for most news consumers. The main challenge for digital media is finding ways to combine speed with information reliability.

This research is in line with the findings of previous studies that show that the younger generation is more likely to consume news through digital platforms. Other studies have also shown that digital media offers faster access, but is often associated with disinformation issues and a lack of validation. These results are consistent with research on media literacy, where younger generations are more accustomed to verifying information from various sources.

This research is different from several studies that show that trust in digital media continues to increase along with the improvement of platform quality. In this study, although the use of digital media is increasing, trust in the information conveyed by the platform is still relatively low. This shows that the increase in the number of digital media users is not always followed by an increase in trust in the media.

Several previous studies have highlighted how traditional media has experienced a significant decline in terms of circulation and its influence on public opinion. However, the study shows that despite the declining number of users, trust in traditional media remains high, especially among older generations. This difference indicates that the credibility aspect and rigorous editorial process of traditional media are still valued by certain segments of society.

Other studies also reveal that digital media is more flexible in responding to trends and rapid requests for information. However, the study highlights the importance of maintaining a balance between speed and accuracy. Although digital media is able to provide information in real-time, credibility is still a major challenge, which sets it apart from traditional media.

The results of this study show that there is a tension between speed and trust in the consumption of modern information. People want quick access to news, but at the same time, they also need reliable information. This phenomenon shows that the speed of information cannot completely replace the credibility value offered by traditional media. Digital media, although used more frequently, has not been fully able to win public trust.

The shift to digital journalism can be seen as a sign of a fundamental shift in the way people interact with the news. Technology has opened up wider and faster access to information, but it also poses challenges related to validity and reliability. This challenge reflects the need for better media literacy among digital media users. The public needs to be more critical in filtering the information they receive from various platforms.

The difference between the younger generation and the older generation in media preferences shows that there is a difference in value in news consumption. The younger generation values speed and accessibility more, while the older generation values the credibility and validity of information more. This difference signifies that the media needs to adjust its approach to reach different audiences in a more effective and relevant way.

The results of this study are also a sign that the media industry must find ways to bridge the gap between speed and reliability. Technology and algorithms must be used to improve the accuracy of information, not just to speed up its distribution (Peng 2022). This shows that there is an urgent need for digital media to strengthen their verification processes to maintain public trust.

The implication of the results of this study is that digital media need to increase their efforts in maintaining the credibility and accuracy of information. While speed of distribution is one of the main strengths of digital media, without the trust of the audience, this speed will not result in a positive long-term impact. Digital media needs to find a balance between providing information quickly and ensuring that it is reliable.

This result also indicates the importance of media literacy among the public, especially in an era where disinformation is easily spread through digital platforms. The public needs to be equipped with the ability to verify information from various sources so as not to get caught up in the flow of inaccurate news. Traditional media, with a strict verification process, still has an important role to play in providing reliable information amid the digital information explosion.

Traditional media can also leverage these findings to adapt to digital technology without sacrificing their editorial standards. Better integration between a rigorous verification process with digital speed can help traditional media stay relevant. This shows that there is an opportunity for traditional media to modernize their approach, while maintaining the trust they have built over decades.

Changes in news consumption preferences also have implications for media business models. Digital media that succeeds in building public trust through information accuracy and transparency

are more likely to survive in the long run (Osmundsen 2021). This implication suggests that credibility will be one of the keys to future success for the journalism industry.

The results of this study reflect generational differences in how to consume and trust information. The younger generation growing up in the digital era is more accustomed to the fast and dynamic access offered by online platforms. They value the speed of information, but at the same time, are skeptical of the accuracy of the sources they use. The older generation, on the other hand, has developed a deep trust in traditional media due to its rigorous verification process and reputation it has built over the years.

The rise of social media platforms and news aggregators has also contributed to this change. The algorithms used by these platforms to curate content often prioritize popularity and user engagement over accuracy (Liu 2021). This has led to more less verified or even misleading news spreading rapidly, adding to doubts about trust in digital media. People who are more aware of the risk of disinformation tend to be more skeptical of the news they get from digital platforms.

The speed of information distribution in digital media often comes at the expense of the verification process. In an effort to be the first to report news, many digital platforms ignore the importance of information validation. This phenomenon contributes to the public's skepticism towards digital media, although they often rely on the platform for daily news consumption. The difference between the editorial process of traditional media and digital media is one of the main factors why the level of trust in these two types of media is so different.

The difference in the level of trust in the media is also related to the public's perception of information authority. Traditional media is considered a more structured and organized institution, while digital media is seen as a more open and error-prone platform. The older public tends to trust institutions that have a long history of providing accurate and trustworthy information.

The next step for digital media is to strengthen the verification process and transparency in the presentation of information. Credibility must be a top priority to maintain public trust, especially in an era where disinformation is so easily spread. Digital media need to innovate in terms of how they can provide information quickly without sacrificing accuracy. This can be achieved by adopting some journalistic practices that have proven effective in traditional media, such as stricter fact-checking and the use of reliable sources.

Traditional media need to continue to adapt to technological changes to remain relevant for the younger generation (Zang 2021). While trust in traditional media remains high, they must modernize their news distribution to better suit the preferences of audiences who want quick and flexible access. By leveraging digital platforms, traditional media can reach a wider audience without sacrificing the rigorous editorial process that is their advantage.

Media literacy education also needs to be improved in the community. The ability to verify information and recognize fake news should be part of the basic skills taught in schools as well as through public programs. People who are more educated in media literacy will be better able to navigate the complex digital information landscape and choose more reliable news sources.

The journalism industry must continue to look for business models that can support the provision of accurate and credible news. The use of subscriptions, donations, or other monetization models should be based on transparency and journalistic ethics. Media that is able to combine speed with credibility will be better able to survive and thrive in the future, providing information that is not only fast but also trustworthy.

CONCLUSION

The study found key differences in how media is consumed and trusted between the younger and older generations. The younger generation is more likely to use digital journalism because of its accessibility and speed, while the older generation still relies on traditional media because of the credibility and validity of information. Although the use of digital media is higher, trust in it is relatively lower compared to traditional media. These findings reveal that although digital journalism dominates in terms of the number of users, credibility-related issues are still a significant challenge to be addressed.

The more valuable of this study lies in the in-depth comparative analysis between user preferences and trust in both types of media, providing new insights into the dynamics of information consumption in the digital age. The research also contributes to survey methods and interview analysis to understand public perception. The limitation of this study is the limited use of samples in a specific geographical area, which can affect the generalization of the findings. Further research is expected to expand geographic scope and deepen the analysis of how digital algorithms affect media trust and preferences.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Look this example below:

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

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