

Original Research Article

Artificial Intelligence of the News Industry: Rebirth after Destruction

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Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the news industry, promoting journalists with genuine insight. This shift enhances professional and ethical standards, despite causing initial unemployment. Historically, journalism attracted individuals seeking job security or career advancement, leading to skill disparities and diminished quality. AI addresses these issues by automating repetitive tasks, allowing journalists to focus on substantive reporting.

Companies like News Republic and RADAR exemplify AI's role in news curation and generation, with human editors ensuring content credibility. This collaboration improves the efficiency and depth of news reporting. AI has also created new specialized roles in journalism, further professionalizing the field. Globally, AI democratizes access to timely and accurate news, benefiting underdeveloped regions by bridging language barriers and standardizing writing. This shift enhances the social status and remuneration of journalists and promotes fairness and objectivity in news reporting. This essay expounded AI's integration into journalism leads to higher efficiency, professionalism, and inclusivity, marking a significant step forward in the news industry's evolution.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI); Journalists; News industry

1. Introduction

The emergence of artificial intelligence is impacting the news industry as it can collect information, analyze data, and generate articles without human intervention. This is bound to lead to a wave of unemployment, but this transformation also comes with new opportunities and improvements.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a pivotal role in the transformation of the news industry. While AI disrupts traditional news practices, it also nurtures the seeds of a rebirth, as discussed by Anderson ^[1] in 2012. AI acts as a ruthless filter, distinguishing journalists with profound insights and professionalism, while sidelining those who fail to contribute meaningful content to the field. Though this filtration process may induce waves of unemployment, it compels some journalists to reevaluate their career paths, ultimately identifying and promoting genuinely valuable news professionals. These talented individuals will form the bedrock of the news industry. Because they possess unique insights and inherent depth that AI cannot replicate, adding a distinctive value to news reporting.

Over time, this evolutionary process will reshape the industry, shedding past stigmas of unprofessionalism, and ensuring higher ethical and professional standards in news reporting. This, in turn, will provide the public with more reliable and valuable information. Since the advent of the Industrial Revolution, the news industry has witnessed rapid expansion, driven by the insatiable public appetite for news. This dynamic relationship between supply and demand has infused the news industry with vitality, elevating the societal status of influential journalists ^[2]. In this evolving landscape, journalism became a coveted major for college students, recognized as a prestigious and glamorous profession.

However, a significant number of young individuals pursued journalism majors primarily for the job opportunities it offered post-graduation, often without a genuine passion for journalism. For some, journalism served as a stepping stone towards politics or high society ^[3]. This mindset profoundly influenced the college majors and career choices of many young people in the years to come. The consequence of this is that many young individuals complete their journalism coursework in college without a clear sense of direction ^[4], and then enter news organizations, assuming ordinary roles and engaging in mechanical, repetitive tasks. This includes tasks such as information gathering, data organization, and even writing daily news following rigid templates. This career trajectory sharply contrasts with that of genuine journalists. Although they may work in newsrooms, they struggle to convince others of their true journalistic qualities due to their lack of deep cultural background, keen analytical perspectives, and objective reporting of facts.

Over time, this evolving trend has given rise to a significant challenge. Individuals grappling with career uncertainty often choose the path of journalism, resulting in a marked disparity in the skill levels of reporters within newsrooms. This, in turn, erodes the overall reputation of the journalism profession. It seems that everyone can claim to be a journalist, yet it also seems that almost no one is a journalist. However, the advent of artificial intelligence holds the potential to profoundly reshape this scenario.

The increasing prevalence of news production and dissemination automation has reached a point where certain newsrooms have embraced technologies such as robots to perform tasks like information gathering, text processing, and news distribution, all without human intervention ^[5]. This replaces the repetitive, mechanized work conducted by those lacking direction and enables more accurate and expedient integration of global information. These pieces of information will be passed on to reporters who have something meaningful to say.

News Republic, a digital news provider based in France, has been at the forefront of digital journalism. Founded by Gilles Raymond, the company has achieved significant milestones in the period from 2008 to 2021. During this time, News Republic processed an impressive volume of content, including over 1 million topics, more than 50,000 articles, and a wealth of photos and videos. What sets News Republic apart is its unique approach to news curation. Unlike traditional news outlets, they don't rely on direct intervention by news professionals at every stage of the process. However, they emphasize the critical role of professional journalists in the final step of information processing and publication. This emphasis stems from the understanding that, while technology and AI play a significant role in content generation and curation, they cannot fully replace the work of skilled editors.

Editors are irreplaceable when it comes to fact-checking and ensuring the overall quality of news content^[6]. Their professional insights and judgment are essential in delivering news that is not only accurate and credible but also provides in-depth analysis. In a time when the news landscape is evolving rapidly, the role of professional journalists in maintaining the integrity of news remains vital. Technology can assist in many aspects of news production, but it's the human touch and expertise of editors and journalists that guarantee trustworthy and insightful news reporting.

Artificial intelligence has not only streamlined the news production process but has also elevated the quality of news output. It has become a valuable tool for journalists, enabling them to carry out investigations, interviews, and analysis more effectively. This transformative process identifies and empowers exceptionally skilled professional journalists. By harnessing the power of AI, journalists gain more time and resources. Newsrooms utilize automation to liberate journalists from tedious tasks such as database searches, allowing them to concentrate on generating higher-value content, like delving more deeply into stories and providing additional

background information and analysis. This evolution is making a profoundly positive impact on the news industry, enhancing both the efficiency and professionalism of journalists.

The widespread application of artificial intelligence has the potential to significantly enhance the social status of journalists and increase their average salary levels. This is because AI is likely to replace certain basic job positions, reducing the number of young people who enter the field of journalism primarily for job stability. This trend will gradually reduce the number of professionals in the news industry. However, society's demand for news remains, allowing the remaining journalists to share in the industry's profits and redistribute their influence, leading to a significant improvement in the social status of journalists, as demonstrated by Turner and Hamilton ^[7], “In recent years, ubiquitous computation has transformed the landscape of journalism. It has undermined business models, rebalanced the relative power of reporters and audiences, and accelerated the delivery of information worldwide.” This change will make journalists increasingly authoritative and professional key figures in the news industry.

The influence of artificial intelligence within the realm of journalism is provoking a profound and far-reaching transformation. With the relentless progression of technology, the field is witnessing the sprouting of new and innovative job roles, reminiscent of a burgeoning spring shower. This dynamic evolution necessitates that journalists and related professionals acquire increasingly specialized and distinctive skills to keep pace with these revolutionary changes.

In this new world of journalism, a host of fresh jobs has emerged, with titles like “impact editors” and “platform editors” gaining prominence, as elucidated by Sixto-García, Rodríguez-Vázquez, and López-García in their groundbreaking work from 2021^[8]. These novel positions demand that journalists possess not only cutting-edge technical acumen but also a profound comprehension of the media landscape and an unwavering commitment to critical thinking. Moreover, as artificial intelligence technologies permeate the news industry, a unique role, that of the “AI news supervisor,” has come into existence. These individuals are entrusted with the task of vigilant oversight, continually monitoring and evaluating AI's performance in news production. Their mission is to ensure that AI remains unwaveringly ethical and unbiased in its dissemination of information. As thoughtfully explored by Ufarte-Ruiz and their colleagues in their research published in 2023, the introduction of AI into the news realm has inevitably given rise to a host of ethical and moral dilemmas, and the AI news supervisors are on the front lines, guarding the integrity of news reporting. Furthermore, the newsrooms of today require a diverse array of professionals, including database analysts, to help in the integration and analysis of the colossal volumes of data generated in the modern news landscape. These individuals play a crucial role in distilling vast datasets into meaningful insights that empower journalists to craft compelling and informed narratives. Intriguingly, the advent of AI technology has not culled jobs in the news industry, but rather, it has spurred the creation of new roles and opportunities ^[9].

Unlike other professions such as medicine, architecture, and law, where expertise is founded on highly specialized skills that are inherently difficult to replace, journalism has historically grappled with a higher degree of interchangeability. However, the tide is changing as AI compels the news industry to elevate its professionalism. In this paradigm shift, journalists are becoming increasingly indispensable, wielding their unique ability to provide context, human insight, and creativity in the gathering, interpretation, and delivery of news. Consequently, this transformation is not only enhancing the social status of journalists but also paving the way for increased average salaries as their skills and expertise gain recognition and value in an AI-augmented landscape.

In an era marked by technological evolution, artificial intelligence is orchestrating a gradual transformation of the traditional news industry, heralding a new epoch of news reporting that is not only more efficient and of a superior quality but also more equitable, benefitting the global community. This transformation is especially meaningful for underdeveloped regions in the field of journalism because it holds the potential to completely revolutionize how these areas access news information. The core of journalism lies in its ability to provide timely and effective reporting, and in this aspect, the unmatched processing speed of big data reigns supreme. The American automated news agency “Reporters and Data and Robots (RADAR)” is a prime example. Since its inception in 2018, RADAR has relied exclusively on public and government databases to autonomously generate an impressive 30,000 local news articles each month. Similarly, “The Associated Press,” another American news giant, harnessed the Word Smith software in the 2014 era to independently produce an astonishing 1.5 billion articles ^[10].

This paradigm shift towards automated news production not only accelerates the pace of reporting, rendering it more immediate, but it also significantly reduces costs, leading to substantial savings in time and valuable human resources for news organizations. Furthermore, as the relentless march of big data and technology continues, AI is endowed with the ability to rapidly and comprehensively collect information on emerging events from across the globe. It stands as an autonomous wordsmith, capable of crafting meticulously detailed news reports, assiduously verifying the authenticity of news, and deftly delivering these narratives to news agencies with impeccable speed.

What makes AI all the more indispensable is its adaptability, as it can tailor the angle and style of reporting to cater to the specific needs and preferences of diverse audiences, a concept astutely highlighted by Ufarte-Ruiz and their colleagues in their research conducted in 2023. The “Reuters News Tracer,” a cutting-edge automated news project based in the United Kingdom, attests to the impressive efficiency of their software. It surpasses other media outlets 8 to 60 minute in detecting and processing news ^[11]. This efficient information processing undeniably minimizes the time gap in news reporting, thereby rectifying the age-old issue of delayed access to breaking news in underserved regions.

Artificial intelligence has brought unprecedented revolutionary changes to the news industry. It has not only ushered in a new era of more equitable, efficient, and higher-quality news reporting but has also heralded a significant boon for regions that have traditionally grappled with the challenge of accessing timely news. This transformative wave has given birth to an era where information knows no boundaries and where the voice of journalism resounds more universally and powerfully than ever before.

Artificial intelligence's multilingual and multi-version capabilities play a crucial role in improving global information dissemination. This technology offers a range of significant advantages, one of which is actively contributing to standardizing writing in underprivileged areas. In these regions, many people may face challenges in conveying information due to a lack of standardized writing conventions, limiting the spread of their voices and perspectives. Artificial intelligence can bridge this gap by aiding residents in these areas to better express their ideas and viewpoints through providing multilingual translations and different versions of content.

With multilingual support, artificial intelligence can translate information into various languages, making it more accessible to people with diverse cultural and language backgrounds. This linguistic flexibility helps eliminate language barriers, enabling information to reach a broader audience, resulting in more effective dissemination. In conclusion, artificial intelligence's multilingual and multi-version capabilities provide robust support for standardized writing and information dissemination, particularly for communities in underprivileged

areas. This support may be a critical step towards broader influence and sustainable development for these regions.

In conclusion, artificial intelligence will improve the journalism industry. Firstly, artificial intelligence can efficiently analyze vast datasets, extract crucial information, and accelerate the speed of news reporting. Secondly, journalists have the opportunity to reposition themselves, focusing on in-depth reporting, analysis, and creative writing, elevating their level of specialization. This is also expected to enhance the social status and salary levels of journalists as they take on higher-level tasks. Thirdly, artificial intelligence can help improve the fairness of the journalism industry. By analyzing data from multiple sources and automating content generation, it can enhance the diversity of news reporting, reduce bias, and subjectivity. This contributes to promoting fairness and objectivity in global news, ensuring that more voices are conveyed. While the emergence of artificial intelligence may pose some challenges, it also brings opportunities and improvements to the journalism sector, making it more adaptable to the needs of modern society.

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