

**TECHNOLOGY AND THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF NEWS PROCESSING  
IN NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

*Before the introduction of technology, news processing procedures were difficult, time-consuming, and stressful. Now, journalists can source news using a variety of methods, like the internet and drone technology, to name a few. The data for this study was gathered from journals, articles, books, and websites using the secondary research method. This study was based on the technology determinism idea. The discovery demonstrates that the advancement of technology has resulted in significant changes in novel processing in general. According to the findings, news organizations should incorporate the usage of technology for news processing in order to convey news in a timely and efficient manner.*

**Keywords:** Technology, news processing, media industry, internet, drone technology.

**Introduction**

Digital technology has evolved over a long period of time and in many different fields. Since the beginning of news broadcasting and the introduction of media technologies, decades have passed. Every step forwards every achievement has had a tremendous impact on journalism since the days when print newspapers were the only source of news. Whether it's gathering, creating, or distributing information, each of these technical breakthroughs has had a progressive impact on the landscape. Technology has ushered in significant developments that have spawned a new breed of journalistic practices, notably multi-skills, multi-media, and multitasking inside the newsroom network. The news practitioner now has more opportunity to have a deeper understanding of their practices, interactions, and behaviours as a result of technological advancements.

As a result of technology developments and industry application, news packaging has improved. Increased production and efficiency at a cheaper cost have emerged from the

extensive use of internet materials and services. The broadcast business had access to cutting-edge equipment such as high-resolution news recording, editing databases, photo imaging, and mixing software. Telefax, websites, online databases, web-based information sites, and online readers and newsmakers made the difficult task of gathering and reporting information easier than ever before. It is not unreasonable to believe that technology has altered the entire character of the editing profession. The way news is created, transmitted, and consumed around the world has changed dramatically as a result of technological advancements. From business model upheaval to changes in readership and access to news on digital platforms, there's a lot going on. Journalism has become both more vibrant and more vulnerable as a result of this. It's unusual to discover an industry that has managed to rapidly expand its market and develop dynamic new ways to communicate with customers while also suffering an existential crisis. This study discusses the changes that technology has brought to the news media, beginning with the historical impact of various technologies on news processing (such as the teleprompter, drone technology, internet, information communication technology, and so on).

### **Statement of problem**

Prior to the development of technology, news processing faced numerous obstacles, including sourcing and handwriting of news. Using manual news production and dissemination, the early forms of print media found were hand compiled to the board and carried around to keep citizens informed. This procedure takes time and also prevents the availability of news. The printing process has been enhanced, and the editorial desk's operational time has been decreased, thanks to technological advancements and absorption in the newspaper sector. The goal of this research is to determine the impact that technology has had on news processing.

### **Objective of the Study**

- 1 To examine how news processing happened before the advent of media technology
- 2 To ascertain the level of effectiveness of the applications of technology on news processing

### **Theoretical Framework**

This paper is anchored on Technology determinism theory.

This theory explains how humans come to accept and use technology in the sphere of their lives. It is a theory that assumes that a society's technology determines the development of its social structure and cultural values. Griffin (2000, pp.313-325) elaborated McLuhan's theory of 1963 that we learn, feel and think the way we do because of the message we receive through the currently available technology. The theory states that media technologies shape how we as individuals in a society think, feel act and how a society operates as we move from one technology age to another (Tribal – literate -print-electronic). This theory explains that technology has very important effects on our lives.

This theory gives a detailed explanation of how the advent of technologies such as the internet and drones have changed the practice of journalism and news processing. With the

introduction of new media, journalists have taken advantage to use it to effectively carry out their duties.

### **Methodology**

This paper examines the impact of technology on the changing landscape of news processing and how technology has increased the availability and durability of news over time. The study made use of secondary data. Data was collected from both published and unpublished journals, books, articles, newspaper articles, websites.

### **Literature review**

Williams Maulsby defines news as an accurate, unbiased report of relevant details of a current event that is of interest to readers. Because community interests and norms vary over time, the nature of news evolves as well. From gathering news reports, articles, opinions, advertorials, and adverts through printing and folding physical copy, news processing is a process. Pre-press, press, and post-press are the three stages. Technological change has far-reaching consequences. In the process of changes in the globe, a variety of modifications may undoubtedly be discerned. Various items are generated as a result of technological advancements that aid in the invention process. Technology-assisted efficiency helps to maximize production while lowering expenses. The deployment of technology is also assisting in the production of news. The production of news material takes place in the newsroom, with technical advancement being one of the most important factors. The introduction of an automated system has improved the organization of the television business, and it is also true that the journalists have been formed as a result of the system's implementation. The networking technology also aids with multi-media, multi-skills, and multi-task news production. This technical shift is also providing fresh opportunities for new practitioners to become acquainted with the autonomous system's new culture. With the introduction of new technology, news production and the function of the journalist evolve as well. As numerous types of varied aids are employed in the processes of creating news material, the journalism sector benefits from technology. For nearly a century, people relied on the activities of newspapers, according to Schudson (2003). However, since the introduction of new media, many people have been interested in it.

The internet has changed the role and nature of media, allowing citizens to contribute to content, share information, and directly participate in news production. This is why internet-based media is referred to as networked journalism Jarvis (2006).

Newspaper and Technological change

Since the invention of the printing press in the mid-fifteenth century, there has been a fundamental growth of printing into a distinct form of art in Western countries (Hernandez and Rue, 2015). By the end of the nineteenth century, journalism and the contemporary newspaper had progressed significantly. The employment of "affordable, massive quantities of wood pulp paper, mechanized printing presses, typewriting, and typesetting equipment" made this easier (Gaudreault et al., 2012, p.383). This resulted in a significant type of journalistic practice of accurately and objectively reporting, as well as new methods

of extensive newsgathering and delivery through the use of the telegraph (Gaudreault et al., 2012). In this regard, Randall (2007) asserts that "a newspaper's purpose is to find out fresh information on subjects of public importance and to communicate it to readers in an honest and balanced manner as soon and accurately as possible." (Randall, p.25, 2007). According to Fenton (2010), "news journalism contributes critical resources for information collection, deliberation, and action processes" (Fenton, 2010, p.3). In this historical context, researchers in this subject pointed to Alfred Harmsworth, the owner of the Daily Mail, as the forefather of the tabloid newspaper in Britain. 'Modern journalism began in 1896, on the 4th of May, to be accurate,' according to Conboy (2011). This was due to the way Alfred Harmsworth's Daily Mail, which was established on that day, managed to draw a complex variety of technical, commercial, and textual features into one publication', rather than anyone innovation in format or technique. (Page 8 of Conboy's 2011 book) In this regard, the same author has stated that in the twentieth century, Harmsworth translated and developed the old form of the daily newspaper into a new shape. Harmsworth had a critical element in rejuvenating and updating journalism and the newspaper innovation process in this way (Conboy, 2011, p.8). Modern journalism and news practice had been modified by the end of the nineteenth century, and this component had influenced the style of work and news practice in this world of media journalism (Clayman and Heritage, 2002). Furthermore, according to Eadie (2009), "pictorial journalism, which emerged in each of the Western countries beginning with Great Britain in the middle of the nineteenth century immediately following the advent of photography, has a predecessor in modern journalism." (Eadie, p.32, 2009) 'The advent of the commercial newspaper in the nineteenth century was a media revolution anticipating today's media scenario in every aspect,' according to Grotta (2015) (Grotta, 2015, p.24). According to Anderson et al. (2016), politics, economics, and technology changed during the twentieth century, journalism shifted as well" (Anderson et al., 2016, p.162). In this regard, Griffiths (2015) suggested that new technology is an essential component of contemporary newspaper production requirements and that this aspect has become an important part of the modern journalism system (Griffiths, 2015). As a result, technological advancements have had an impact on the content and format of newspapers, as well as the professional practice of journalists in their daily lives. The emergence of new technologies, notably the digital news package into a more contemporary online presentation structure, has had a direct impact on the significant changes in journalism (Hernandez and Rue, 2015). In this regard, Usher (2016) believes that skill development and have resulted from the integration of a range of aspects in modern journalism, such as photography, graphics, maps, data visualization, design, illustration style, and computation. These facets of news reporting collide in a number of ways, allowing for a new form of interactive journalism in the digital age (Usher, 2016). Technology changes in the field of journalism and newspapers are linked to the delivery of computer and software systems, according to Rudin and Ibbotson (2002), who state that "the impact of this technology and the change in working practice in the newspaper and magazine industries is evident in the use of computers and associated software packages in producing newspapers and magazines" (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002, p.78) 30 As a result, the emergence of new technologies employed in producing a new type of journalistic and professional journalism practice has been linked to contemporary journalism and the newspaper.

### **Impact of Technology on News Processing**

Internet and news processing

The Internet has been a great tool for technological advancement in news processing, The days of note pads and blue pens, according to Uche Nworah, are no longer relevant tools of the trade. Journalists used to have to go out into the field to source news before the internet, but now, with the help of the Internet, they can conduct research on a variety of topics via chatting and message exchange. According to Talabi (2011), the Internet is a revolutionary force that is generating a significant change in the face of communication, as journalists are learning a new way of packaging and conveying news to the general audience. This involves sending emails to headquarters and getting directions from them, which has opened up new chances for journalists to sell stories not only locally but globally, making the world a smaller place for them to explore. Citizens now have access to unfiltered news, but gatekeepers may edit certain information to fit their house rules, eliminate libel, or make it fit a certain space, the audience now has other channels of accessing information thanks to the advent of Internet technology.

Before the development of technology, journalists relied on retaining their material in journals or note pads, which is insecure because journals can be misplaced, but with the help of the Internet, information from the past can be quickly accessed. The Internet has allowed the public to directly contribute to media material and counter-news. With the introduction of the internet, the public can now actively participate in the journalist's content. Since the internet is a speedy communication medium, the audience can communicate with the journalist in real-time. Unlike in the past, when journalism was entrusted to a few educated experts, the internet age has given rise to armature journalists. Today, armature camera operators can capture a live event and send it to the newsroom via the internet; instead of calling a reporter to record an event, they can just record it and send it via the internet.

The introduction of internet technology has altered the face of journalism around the world, resulting in significant changes such as a shift from information transmission to processing, a shift in information sourcing and retrieval, and the ability for audiences to choose which media information they want to consume.

Some academics have claimed that while technology has had a positive impact on news processing, it has also had a negative impact. Some of these drawbacks include:

#### **Fake news is promoted.**

Because everyone has easy access to news via the internet, everyone has suddenly become a news reporter, resulting in a surge in fake news. People no longer double-check the veracity of news before broadcasting it.

#### **Ethical and Regulatory Issues**

Traditional media operations are already governed by established regulatory bodies. The broadcast industry's actions are governed by a set of regulatory bodies the Nigeria broadcasting council (NBC). The Nigeria Print Council (NPC) governs the activities of the

print media. Because the internet has no regulating agencies, anyone can broadcast anything without fear of being sanctioned, resulting in a high level of unprofessionalism.

### **Drone Technology and News Processing**

Every sector currently uses media technologies to improve and speed up their job; robotics is one of the components of technology that generates inventions to make work easier and more efficient. The drone is a highly advanced piece of robotic technology. Drone was officially registered as a non-profit organization in South Africa in 2018. African DRONE is a group of drone pilots, journalists, enthusiasts, and activists who want to promote the use of drones in journalism and media. It has an ethics and operations manual (derived from the University of Nebraska Drone Journalism Lab) and a database of drone regulations in several African countries. African DRONE has collaborated with major international news organizations in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), known as drones, are aircraft that do not have a human pilot on board. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are a part of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS). Drones have varying degrees of autonomy, depending on whether they are controlled remotely by a human operator or autonomously by onboard computers. UAVs were originally utilized for operations that were too boring, unclean, or dangerous for humans, as opposed to manned aircraft. UAV development began in the early 1900s, with the goal of providing practice targets for military troops. While drones were first used for military purposes, they are now being used for a wide range of commercial, scientific, recreational, and agricultural applications, including policing, peacekeeping, surveillance, cargo deliveries, aerial photography, agriculture, smuggling, filmmaking, oil and gas exploration, and drone racing. Despite the fact that it was unverified, it was interesting. Drones are used by reporters for data collection, reporting, and broadcasting. Drones are extremely handy for capturing and sharing breaking news. "Wait," he said, adding that he expects local and national broadcast media houses to be the early leaders in drone journalism, but that daily newspapers and data journalism will eventually be able to use drones effectively. In the media industry, a drone is a common instrument; journalists utilize drones to film events. Drone technology allows journalists to take footage of natural disasters in Africa such as drought, earthquakes, epidemics, extreme temperatures, floods, insect infestation, volcano, storms, and wildfires, among others. When such disasters occur, there is a need for reporters to effectively observe, document, and report on them.

These tiny planes allow a reporter to record news in ways that have never been possible before. They're small, inexpensive, and even simple to use. Drones offer a lot of potential in media, from catastrophe coverage to protest coverage, traffic coverage, and even sports coverage. Drone journalism is viewed as extremely significant by all media outlets. The #EndSARS, #endpolicebrutality# movement in Lekki Lagos provided a practical demonstration of drone technology's role. The scale, length, and scope of the 2020 #EndSARS demonstrations were noteworthy. Demonstrations began in early October and intensified as celebrities from around the world joined in. world showed their support for the demonstrators and a government crackdown on marchers in mid-October sparked new protests. Many activists saw SARS's disbandment on October 11 as insufficient, comparing

it to previous reforms that mostly failed to curtail SARS misbehavior; others have also asked for wider governance improvements. As the violence has raged on, governors in various states have imposed curfews or prohibited protests. On October 20, the army and police allegedly used live fire to disperse protesters in Lagos's Lekki and Alausa neighborhoods, Nigeria's commercial hub, killing many and injuring many more. During this period there was a restriction on the press, media practitioners were not allowed to record the event taking press and since the place wasn't so safe because of military harassment some media house housesmade use of drones to report the event, media houses like arise tv made use of the drone technology to record the happenings.

Drone technology is a very important tool in journalism, it has helped make news sourcing easy and more effective. It has given reporters the power to record the dangerous event without being there. Some of the disadvantages of drone technology are:

### **Endangering public safety**

Since drone technology are programmed to report live any situation, there is no way for gatekeeping. Images or videos that can be harmful or endanger the public can not be cut out

### **Privacy violation**

A drone machine can be easily manipulated, it can be used to invade the privacy of a specific target group or individual, it's also a technology that can be readily exploited. Many personal liberties could be compromised in the name of providing personal or public protection with a drone, given the many causes pushing for its use.

### **Ict and news processing**

Information and communication technology (ICT) refers to technologies that are used to transmit, save, create, share, or exchange data, according to Wikipedia. Radio, television, video, DVD, telephone (both fixed-line and mobile phones), satellite systems, computer and network hardware and software, as well as equipment and services associated with these technologies, such as videoconferencing and electronic mail, are all included in this broad definition of ICT.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is considered as a force to be reckoned with in our century since it has caused and continues to bring enormous changes in the way we live. ICT has caused and provoked revolutionary and drastic changes in the media; the media sector has been altered and changed, notably in terms of information immediacy and timeliness. ICT not only makes life easier and more fun, but it also helps to enhance it. Information is created, processed, shared, and distributed in the media industry, but the importance of news timelessness and immediacy cannot be overstated.

ICT has such a significant impact on news gathering that it not only improves the quality of news delivery but also makes it easier to develop and transmit information through electronic means. News processing and reporting have gotten faster and more precise as a result of technological advancements. News processing, news packaging, and news

reporting have all been transformed as a result of the usage of ICT. Its goal is to improve and enhance news distribution as rapidly as feasible.

## **CONCLUSION**

Technology is a force to be reckoned with it has brought a drastic change in the news industry, technology has transformed the way news is produced, delivered, and consumed around the world. Before the invention of technology, news processing was difficult for journalists and reporters but with technology, news sourcing became easy and has allowed the journalist to perform their duty diligently. Technology has assisted journalist reporters and the consumer gets easy access to important information. Scholars have argued that as much as technology has its good side it also has its bad side like promoting false news, copyright but it is also established that the good side of technology overthrew the bad side.

## **Recommendation**

Media houses should provide internet facilities for their journalist to make news sourcing easier and faster

The use of Drone technology should be encouraged to help with news coverage.

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