

Some Notes on the Internet and Journalism

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<http://ibiblio.org/pjones/blog/>

We, the Media

- Grassroots Journalism By the People, For the People
- Dan Gillmor. O'Reilly Media. 2004.
- Also available online
- <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/wemedia/>
- Interview <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2004/09/14/gillmor.html>

Claims

- Grassroots journalists are dismantling Big Media's monopoly
- transforming news from a lecture to a conversation
- Not content to accept the news as reported
- readers-turned-reporters
- publishing in real time worldwide
- impact is just now being felt

Evidence

- Blogs have become agenda setters
- Rather-gate; Monica Lewinsky; Michelle Maklin's history lesson
- Dean campaign fund-raising
- Salam Pax from Baghdad
- Blogs become sources
- Blog become media critics

Counter-evidence

- BBC and Guardian use blogs
- Salam Pax published by Guardian
- Howard Dean loses big
- Journalists blog - Andrew Sullivan, etc
- Echo chamber effect
- Most blogs unread and abandoned quickly

What parts do work?

- Multiple intelligences working on a problem
 - Rathergate; evote-gate
- Multiple levels of access - Exit polls
- Widespread Networks of writers, readers, and even publishers
- Replicated stories hard to censor
- Varieties of verification

Tools for new Journalism

- Weblogs aka blogs - Movable Type; Blogger; WordPress; Manilla; etc
- RSS (Really Simple Syndication); ATOM; XML
- RSS Aggregators - Bloglines, NewsFire, Jaeger; etc
- Technorati.com -
- Google of course

Technorati Blog Facts

- Over three million weblogs, up from 100,000 two years ago.
- The Pew Internet: 11%, or about 50 million, of Internet users are regular blog readers.
- A new weblog is created every 5.8 seconds, about 15,000 new blogs a day.
- Bloggers update their weblogs regularly; about 275,000 posts daily, or about 10,800 blog updates an hour

Some Changes in Politics

- Setting the Agenda
- Fund-raising
- Organizing the Base
- Getting the Word Out
- Spinning
- News Behind the News

Blogger Triumphalism?

- “Voter turn-out was markedly higher in the states with the lowest broadband penetration.” (register http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/11/05/jesus_blog_dems/)
- “One Blogger is Worth Ten Votes” (Dave Winer)
- “IF BUSH LOSES, the press should expect a colossal backlash, as it's been very obviously in the tank for Kerry.” (Glenn Reynolds aka Instapundit)
- “The only downside I can see to [Trent] Lott relinquishing his leadership post is the revival of 'blogger triumphalism' that will follow.” (Mickey Kaus in Slate)
- “1. Will blogs displace conventional media?

No. *laughter* There's this tendency of "blogger triumphalism." But bloggers aren't as powerful as we think we are. And there are too many for each one to have effective access and range.” (Mickey Kaus speaking at Yale)