

Trump's turbulent media relations

Many critical media outlets have been labeled "fake news"

by Helen Fagan

Donald Trump, for many reasons, has been a President that will be remembered for the ages for how he has transformed the duty of the Presidency.

His relationship with the media speaks to this. Not only is Trump one of the most critical presidents of the media the U.S. has ever seen, his presence in the media shows that his relationship with the institution is very love-hate.

Trump, unlike other presidents, has declared an unofficial "war on media."

Tweets such as ones calling some of the nation's most prestigious news sources as "FAKE NEWS" is an act that some find troubling.

One could argue that Trump's hating on the media is discouraging journalists from seeking out, learning all sides of, and publishing stories.

It has also encourage journalists to publish biased stories, as it is likely that Trump will not call stories that portray him in a positive light "fake news."

Though Trump's relationship



The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!

3:48 PM - 17 Feb 2017

51,207 162,190



Why doesn't Fake News talk about Podesta ties to Russia as covered by @FoxNews or money from Russia to Clinton - sale of Uranium?

3:41 PM - 28 Mar 2017

25,704 87,695



The two fake news polls released yesterday, ABC & NBC, while containing some very positive info, were totally wrong in General E. Watch!

5:15 AM - 21 Apr 2017

6,848 32,647



It is the same Fake News Media that said there is "no path to victory for Trump" that is now pushing the phony Russia story. A total scam!

6:02 AM - 1 Apr 2017

22,584 87,164

Tweets from President Trump's personal Twitter all posted after his Inaugural all with the same disapproving attitude towards the media | Twitter

with the media has been turbulent, his actions toward the media are not all bad.

The President is not attempting to discourage news entirely, or commit dictator-like actions that ban free speech. President Trump is not at war against all media, only the outlets he prefers such as Fox News (as seen by

the tweet below).

See, Donald Trump is not motivating the American people to stop reading the news, he simply is looking to steer the public to certain news sites, as seen by the tweet that implies that Fox News wrote a more complete story as opposed to "Fake News."

Thus, Donald Trump, though his

relationship with the media is noteworthy, is not one-sided. Some say that Trump is "declaring war on the media" by his attacks against certain media sites.

But "declaring war" implies annihilation of the opponent, and Trump is not looking to completely overtake the media.

Through Twitter, Trump is steering the American public to look at certain news sites and not others—whether or not this is "declaring war" on the media is up to you to decide.

New technology allows anyone to be a civilian reporter

With the rise of technology based reporting, it seems like anyone can be a reporter

by Beth Wall

Gone are the days when journalism required a newspaper. Or even an education in journalism.

Smartphone video recordings, live Twitter updates, and public blog posts all fit under the umbrella of "citizen journalism".

Essentially, citizen journalism is news that is collected, organized, and analyzed, by citizens, for citizens.

It is a concept that has risen in popularity as digital media and online communications become more integrated into modern life.

However, the validity of citizen journalism is a topic of much contention.

Its critics most prominently consist of "professional" journalists—those who write news for a living.

At a 2009 hearing on "The Future of Journalism" David Simon, Baltimore Sun reporter and creator of The Wire, said,

"I am offended to think that anyone, anywhere believes American institutions as insulated, self-preserving and self-justifying as police departments, school systems, legislatures and, chief executives can be held to gathered facts by amateurs pursuing the task without compensation, training or for that matter, sufficient standing to make public officials even care to whom it is they are lying to."

Many accomplished journalists see the problems with citizen reporting.

Not only does it leave the possibility for loopholes in a story, but it also strengthens the "fake news" argument that has been deligitimizing many prominent news organizations for the past year.

New York Magazine writer Jesse Singal, in an article titled "Citizen



New apps are being designed that allow average civilians to film or photograph events and send them directly to different media outlets | Phoenix New Times

Journalism is A Catastrophe Right Now," enumerated several problems with modern citizen journalism.

"Things are so much faster than they have ever been. Misinformation spreads within seconds of being posted and can't be stuffed back whence it came," said Singal.

On the other hand, many believe that amateur journalism embodies what the industry is meant to do—provide truthful insight into the lives of citizens. Who better to do so than citizens themselves?

With the political turmoil increasing throughout the world, the idea of citizens reporting first hand what they see seems like the only way to get the fastest up-to-date news.

One such citizen reporter was Irina Bokova, a citizen reporter from Raqqa, Syria, who, before being captured and subsequently murdered by ISIL, blogged about the inhumane conditions the people of her city were subjected to under Islamic State command.

Not only did her work illustrate an explicit picture of a life most readers would never know otherwise, but her death sparked outrage among advocates of free speech.

"fake news" epidemic is causing major professional media outlets to create programs to assist citizen reporters

Citizen reporting offers a voice for the oppressed and a way for the rest of the world to peer into the private lives of those who would otherwise be silenced.

Irina Bokova, head of the UNESCO agency, said, "I wish to pay tribute to this journalist's courageous stand for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the most difficult of circumstances."

Her defiance of the brutal campaign that violent extremists

are waging to suppress individuals' freedom to think, speak, and act."

More and more prominent journalism establishments are starting to grasp the full potential of citizen journalism.

It's becoming obvious that there is no stopping civilians from tapping or photographing events on their own personal devices.

People no longer need the news when they can open their phone and instantly be informed about everything they want.

News outlets are aware of this, and many have started programs that deal directly with citizens in order to stay connected at all times.

The tech world, as well, have begun to take advantage of the possible market by creating apps that allow average people to take videos and pictures and have them sent directly to news outlets.

In 2015, Johnetta Elzie and DeRay McKesson, two social activists most widely known for their presence on Twitter and coverage

of the Ferguson protests, were crowned Howard Zinn Freedom to Write Award winners—a prize which is awarded to writer activists and proponents of free speech.

Though the increase in civilian reporting has its benefits, media outlets can't ensure that all reporting is factual and true.

The "fake news" epidemic is causing major professional media outlets to create programs to assist citizen reporters.

CNN's "iReport" is one such example. iReport is an online service which fact-checks, and potentially publishes, stories, photo albums, and opinions submitted by eyewitnesses.

According to the CNN website, iReport is an "invitation to share the stories that matter to you."

In 2011, the "iReport Awards", which prize excellence in citizen journalism, were introduced, furthering CNN's initiative to take citizen reporters seriously.