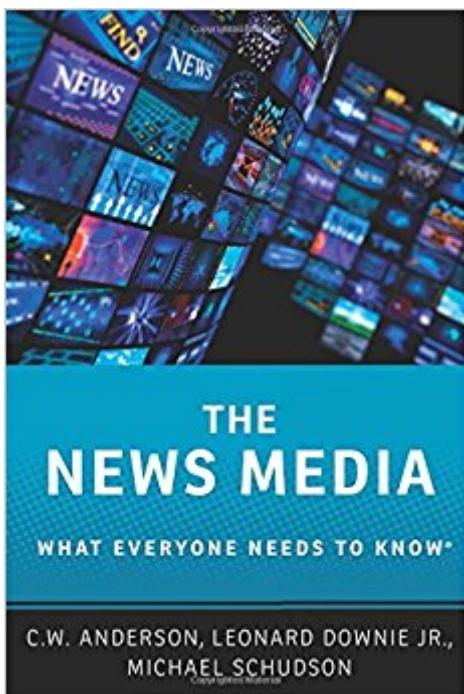


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# The News Media: What Everyone Needs To Know®



## Synopsis

The business of journalism has an extensive, storied, and often romanticized history. Newspaper reporting has long shaped the way that we see the world, played key roles in exposing scandals, and has even been alleged to influence international policy. The past several years have seen the newspaper industry in a state of crisis, with Twitter and Facebook ushering in the rise of citizen journalism and a deprofessionalization of the industry, plummeting readership and revenue, and municipal and regional papers shuttering or being absorbed into corporate behemoths. Now billionaires, most with no journalism experience but lots of power and strong views, are stepping in to purchase newspapers, both large and small. This addition to the *What Everyone Needs to Know*® series looks at the past, present and future of journalism, considering how the development of the industry has shaped the present and how we can expect the future to roll out. It addresses a wide range of questions, from whether objectivity was only a conceit of late twentieth century reporting, largely behind us now; how digital technology has disrupted journalism; whether newspapers are already dead to the role of non-profit journalism; the meaning of "transparency" in reporting; the way that private interests and governments have created their own advocacy journalism; whether social media is changing journalism; the new social rules of old media outlets; how franchised media is addressing the problem of disappearing local papers; and the rise of citizen journalism and hacker journalism. It will even look at the ways in which new technologies potentially threaten to replace journalists.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This lively and almost up-to-the-minute account of journalism past, present, and future shows the messy, complex interaction of society, law, politics, and technology in producing journalism and making it a barometer of and a participant in the general process of social change." -danah boyd, founder of Data & Society, and author of It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens "In this clear, concise, informative, and essential primer on journalism, the authors make good on the presumptuous promise of their subtitle: to answer most every question anyone could ask about the confounding, worrisome, and exciting state and fate of the news media." -Jeff Jarvis, Professor, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, and author of Geeks Bearing Gifts: Imagining New Futures for News "What a great idea for a book: Two eminent journalism scholars and a legendary journalist ask and then answer-insightfully, in meticulous detail-every conceivable question about the news media. It's a quick and enjoyable way to get up to speed on this complex topic, plus a handy reference for years to come." - Rodney Benson, author of Shaping Immigration News, and Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University

C. W. Anderson is an Associate Professor at the College of Staten Island (CUNY). Leonard Downie Jr. is Professor of Journalism at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. He is the former executive editor of The Washington Post from 1991 to 2008, during which time the newspaper won 25 Pulitzer Prizes. In his 44 years at the newspaper, he also was an investigative reporter, London correspondent, and editor at several levels. As deputy metro editor from 1972 to 1974, he helped supervise the newspaper's Watergate investigation. He is the author of five previous books, including a novel. Michael Schudson is Professor of Journalism at Columbia University. A sociologist and historian, he is the author of 8 books and co-editor of 3 books. His work has appeared in academic journals in media and communication studies, sociology, history, and political science, as well as in general audience publications.

Journalism continues to be in a state of flux, with the whole industry shaken up in the past decade or so by the growth of the Internet and digital transformation. As a business sector it faces a number of challenges and threats and the boundaries between professional journalism and social media/citizen journalism are being often blurred. Who knows what the future may bring, yet this book attempts to track the changes thus far and also look a bit into the future to see what might

happen. You don't have to be a media nerd to enjoy this book. Are we looking back at the past of journalism with rose-tinted spectacles on, harking for a past that might not have been as perfect as we may seek to imply. With transformation gripping the industry are we seeing greater transparency, competition and openness or are many of the older problems just being revised and transformed for our digital future. It was an enjoyable and informative read from cover-to-cover, even finding nuggets of new information to knock into this experienced journalist's mind that one had either forgotten or never learned in the first place, such as the first English language newspaper was not published in an English-speaking country! The design of the book, posing many questions within the chapter's introductory text, was a great feature, allowing for intelligent jumping between chapters for those who tend not to read sequentially. Clearly nobody knows what the future may bring and making forecasts can be a risky business; yet the authors managed to produce an interesting, possibly credible guess at what we may see in the future. It dove-tailed perfectly into the rest of this book that was a pleasure to read through. A highly recommended book for both industry-participant and curious generalist reader alike.

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