

Project Report Comic on Journalism

From: Theo

What's the main theme?

The main topic of my project was the selection criteria of the news for newspapers, but also the ethical standards of the journalists and financial problems that arise today, which are a problem for the quality of the articles.

Why is this issue important?/How is it connected to the Digital Resistance project?

Because the problems mentioned make the media more susceptible to the unintentional distribution of false information and people call quality journalism fake news, so journalists have to be prepared.

How did I proceed?

I started by selecting images that I thought would be useful for the comic. Then the actual content research began, where I gathered the information for the text. The next step was again the selection of suitable pictures, which were still missing for my comic. After I had found all the pictures, I used an online filter generator that placed a comic filter over all the pictures. Finally, I created the individual comic panels by putting the written text over them and merging the images to create the final comic.

What sources did I use?

For the images, I used several online platforms that offered images that did not require a license. For the text, I read several texts on the subject, some from government agencies, which took up the themes of fake news, topic selection and blending of opinion and factual news. I also used the website of the Austrian Press Council for the ethical principles of journalism and a text from the Springer-Professional specialist library on journalistic transparency.

Why did I choose to do a comic?

Because I felt that the effort involved in creating the comic was less than producing a video or an audio file. I also knew about the possibility of using this medium, as I had seen in some non-fiction books or magazines similar applications of the comic to disseminate information.

What could I do better next time?

I could use other programs that are better suited for creating comic-like picture series.

What did I find out?

I found out how news is selected for newspapers/online newspapers, what ethical standards journalists should ideally adhere to, and what financial problems newspapers are facing these days.

What did I not know before the project started?

I didn't know that there are more or less official guidelines for journalists, that the number of clicks is so important and the fact that the resulting loss of level has become such a big problem for the old-established newspapers as well.

How could my results be interesting for other people?

They could be interesting in the sense that in many cases fake news have more economic value than political value, or at least this is more important when it comes to spreading it.

What are strategies against Fake News?

The most important strategy, in my opinion, is to compare different sources and to check where the report originally came from and what it actually contains on a factual level.

What were the problems I encountered?

The online filter program always added an ugly watermark in the lower right corner, which I had to cut out with MS Paint and if possible also cover the resulting white hole with paint. I had to repeat this procedure with all pictures, which was time-consuming.

How was the work alone?

It was fine and I used the time I was given at school.

How did I like the open format?

It worked well for me, because the danger that certain deadlines would overlap with school work or test deadlines as it often happens with a non-open format was averted.

What could you do differently next time?

I could use other image editing programs to create the filtered images and the comic, especially because this semester I am attending a course on using Gimp, which would probably help me with a hypothetical next time.

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