

Book Review

Surbhi Dahiya

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Title | : <i>Fundamentals of Digital Journalism</i> |
| Authors | : Kiran Thakur, Makarand Pandit & Yogesh Joshi |
| Publisher | : Vishwakarma Publications, Pune |
| Year | : 2022 |
| Pages | : 246 |
| Price | : Rs. 325.00 |

Digital journalism is speeding up and changing the definitions of Journalism. Social media enables radical new ways in which data can be gathered. More and more readers are now online. We now have innovative storytelling formats, combining platforms and channels that can add up interactivity to the news experience. Prof Ang Peng Hwa mentions in his foreword that “News is also being tailored to follow the readers. And with the experience that universities can turn out employees who can walk into the job, there is a demand for those who can write in the online space.”

With this backdrop, Dr Kiran Thakur, Dr Makarand (Mak) Pandit and Dr Yogesh Joshi wrote: “Fundamentals of Digital Journalism” published by Vishwakarma Publications, Pune, which is a 247-page book including topics on emerging technologies in digital media such as Integrated Newsroom, Power of Digital Media, News Websites, Data Journalism, Digital Storytelling, Data Science, Podcast, and Twitter. The three authors of this book, have roots in the Department of Communication and Journalism, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. Dr Kiran Thakur is the oldest. He started as a student in 1969 and retired as its professor and department head in 2007, after serving as a professional journalist for over three decades. Dr Makarand (Mak) Pandit, taught Technical Writing and Instructional Design in the department. The trio also taught at FLAME University, Pune. Dr Yogesh Joshi was a student in the same department during the year 2003–2004 and a visiting faculty later. Currently, he is the bureau chief of *Hindustan Times*, Pune Edition.

Currently, there is no comprehensive handbook in India on Fundamen-

tals of Digital Journalism for communication and media students and faculty. The book is comprehensive, beginning with the basics of what is news to what to look out for when writing on specific platforms to the ever-tricky subject of ethics. The book will be useful to students and teachers of print, broadcast, web, and digital journalism and related areas such as Public Relations, Advertising, and Management Sciences, particularly in Asia.

In chapter one, authors talk about the history and beginning of journalism in India, the 'Firsts', the role of journalists in India's freedom struggle, Newspapers and social reforms, Internal Emergency and journalism, Post-liberalisation and the newspaper industry and Modern Indian Journalism. The second chapter introduces the Digital Journalism and its advantages and, how is it changing the field of journalism? It further explains how digital is different from print and television. It also talks about news aggregators. Chapter three discusses the concept of News, news values and elements and the fourth chapter discusses the Code of ethics and laws for news media. It details how any individual can file a complaint about any violation of the code of ethics by the media; how an individual can complain against the central or state governments or any organisation or a person for interference with the free functioning of the press? How the code of ethics and broadcasting standards was formulated by the News Broadcasting Authority?

Chapter five throws light on the Integrated newsroom and the changed role of journalists in an integrated newsroom. Chapter six elaborates on the power of Digital Media, revolutions That Resulted from Digital Media, how Occupy Wall Street Was Different From the Arab Spring and how Journalists Use Social Media to Cover Operations of Terrorist groups. Chapter seven is all about news websites, their importance and what can they deliver? The next chapter details an emerging concept named Data Journalism, It tells the readers why should journalists embrace data while pursuing journalism? It touches upon important aspects like 'Can Data Also Be Half-Truth, Data for Government Agencies and People, Technology Pushing Data Journalism and How to Pursue Data Journalism'. Chapter nine discusses the difference between conventional and digital storytelling. It also elaborates the non-linear storytelling, Characteristics of Digital Media and the Role of Visuals in Digital Storytelling. Further, the next chapter explains data science, its advantages and limitations, and the tools available for data science.

Chapter eleven introduces blogs and blog writing and tools for building blog sites. It tells the budding reporters how journalists are using blogs and how citizens are using blogs. Chapter twelve is all about Podcast, its structure, process and the software used. And then the next chapter talks about Twitter as a microblog and how to use twitter in journalism. Last but not the least, the book emphasizes on How Newsrooms Dealt with COVID-19, Leveraging Technology to Produce News, Restructuring the Desk and technology in newsrooms, statistics of Press in India, List of websites, list of free tools and the latest updates on the field.

Overall, the book is very informative and I am sure it is a must-read book and an essential reckoner for students and scholars of media.