

Editing

Despite having the capacity for unlimited text, online newspapers use the same editing procedures as their printed counterpart. Those that are constrained by size.

Is the function of editing now changing? Originally words were constrained by size restrictions, now that those restrictions are no longer there words are being edited in the name of readability. Bartlett suggests that when unlimited bandwidth is available there will be live pictures from around the world ect.. But will there, we have already discussed the glut of information and the desire for readable chunks. There are also economic considerations to be taken into account, at the moment online newspapers take their content from their print counterparts. Considering that online content is free, who will pay for the “extra bandwidth content” to be produced just for the net? Its not as if the content is back compatible.

The Sun and virtual face

The Sun uses large graphics as part of its sensational delivery style, the physical look of the front page gives an indication as to the seriousness of the content. This is why virtual face is the desired form for The Sun, to remove the image of the front page and replace it with plain text would destroy the newspapers identity, that which it uses so effectively to lever sales. Interestingly the Financial times allows users to download PDF files, images of the front pages.

Convergence between TV, print and online

Television news has always been believed by the public (Gibbons and Reimer) and it transports its independent integrity onto the Internet as part of the fourth estate. With TV and newspaper websites looking almost identical they are both now screen based entities (Screen – Reality?) So where politically motivated newspapers stand with reference to unbiased reporting within a medium shared with TV news?

TV news, like news websites, now have ticker tape displaying the most up to date information available. Also newspapers have to be physically read so the information is taken in and is more believable. Whilst TV news has to cater for viewers of varying intellectual standards, newspapers can tune their language to suit readers.

Parallel Alliance and economics

Broadsheet newspapers are shaped less by a need for identity and more by news reporting. Sun readers are more interested in the idea of The Sun, it’s humour and identity ect. With insightful reporting being less of an issue the choice of website is going to be obvious. Online Sun is aimed at Sun readers. Broadsheets like the guardian are competing with each other as well as TV news to deliver cutting edge journalism, so usability and download speed are of the essence.

Especially when online news is free and so immediate. This study has shown evidence for the need for speedy downloads within parallel alliance news sites and its economic consequences. In the Maguire paper Issacs berates online newspapers for not using full page colour graphics and video. Speed of download, especially over a slow modem, is of more importance to consumers than cutting edge technology.

Outspoken

If online culture is more outspoken (Katz) we have evidence of the changing use of terminology between mediums. Is it possible that newspapers will start using the Internet to vent more

extreme views, or become less concerned with the details / truth of the story? bearing in mind the more informal nature of the internet.

Politics and technology

As the technology of the newspaper industry in the 1980s changed thousands of the heavily unionised workforce were made redundant, link between Murdoch and thatcherism possible here? If media channels are being controlled by a economic rationale then surley ther must be political implications too?