



Association Migration
Solidarité & Echanges
pour le Développement



Erasmus+

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Citizen journalism

What is citizen journalism?

- “The collection, dissemination, and analysis of news and information by the general public, especially by means of the Internet.” (source: Wikipedia)
- “When the people formerly known as the audience employ the press tools they have in their possession to inform one another, *that’s* citizen journalism.” (source: Jay Rosen, http://archive.pressthink.org/2008/07/14/a_most_useful_d.html)

Different terms ...

- Public journalism
- Participatory journalism
- Democratic journalism
- Guerrilla journalism
- Street journalism
- ...

What's the purpose of citizen journalism?

- Reporting about stories and issues that aren't covered by regular journalists
- Provides the community with a view that is different from the one they are usually presented with
- Helps to get people more involved in the issues affecting their lives
- Activism - allowing people to express themselves on issues that are of concern to them
- Spreading breaking news and important information faster than regular media
- → enhancing democracy & freedom of expression!

Different types of citizen journalism

- Accidental/opportunistic citizen journalism
 - E.g. someone who happens to be at the scene of 9/11
- Advocacy journalism
 - Reporting on an event or a topic with the objective of conveying a specific viewpoint
- Intentional citizen journalism
 - E.g. attending a major event in order to be able to report on it

Some examples

- http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/List_of_citizen_journalism_websites
- <https://www.bellingcat.com/>
- <https://twitter.com/journoforchange>
- <http://www.bondyblog.fr/>

Risks

- Factual inaccuracies and bias - how trustworthy is citizen journalism?
- Ethics
- Safety issues

Citizen journalism tools

- Videos (Youtube, [Vine](#))
- Blogs (Wordpress, Blogspot ...)
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Audio (podcasts)
- Bambuser (www.bambuser.com)
- E-newsletters
- Storify (www.storify.com)
- Participatory news sites (ex: [iReport](#))

Further reading ...

- http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/List_of_citizen_journalism_websites
- <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-03-28/syria-citizen-journalism-and-the-capital-t-truth>
- http://www.ted.com/talks/paul_lewis_crowdsourcing_the_news