

“The Role of Training on New Media Technology in Boosting Arab Investigative Journalists’ professionalism”

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<https://doi.org/10.36571/ajsp662>

ABSTRACT:

The rapid development in the field of digital world has affected many disciplines. Media industry is one of the most affected fields. Hence, journalists need to cope with the ongoing technological evolution and its latest updates. Investigative journalists need to pay attention to this even more than their colleagues in the field. Investigative journalism has in general been remarkably growing in recent years; yet, it still faces significant challenges in the Arab world in terms of the right to access information and the use of open sources. This study focuses on Arab investigative journalism and particularly studies the importance of training on using digital technology and its effects on professionalism and high-quality investigative journalistic production. From this standpoint, this study aims to explore the impact of training on new media techniques on Arab journalists' professionalism. To achieve this goal, this study followed a qualitative methodology through in-depth interviews with twelve Arab journalists who are practitioners and interested in investigative journalism. This study concluded important results about the positive effects of training on new media technology: Gaining more theoretical knowledge and practical skills to apply the acquired knowledge. This would enhance the efficiency of journalists and improve the quality of their work and their competitiveness in the journalistic work sector.

Keywords: New media technology, Investigative journalism, Media training, Journalists' skills, Information digitization.

INTRODUCTION:

Arab journalism is still facing the challenges of digitization and the need of adaptation to the rapid information development and communication technology (Abdulrahman, 2020). This challenge is mainly embodied in the poor qualification of the Arab journalist to deal with the communication technology provided by the new media in terms of access to open information sources, data collection and processing applications, and other modern tools (Alshawabkah, 2020). New media technology makes it easier for journalists to work in the field of investigative journalism, which is described as a risky venture that requires serious preparation and in-depth knowledge of the subject under investigation. For this reason, continuous training for journalists is an ideal way to improve their professional performance (Dyikuk, 2017).

Thus, if the need for qualifying journalists to deal with new media technology is urgent in all fields of journalism, it will even be more urgent in the case of investigative journalists whose work is based on investigating the impact of information and creating accurate links between observations (Alshawabkah, 2020). Achieving this mission requires a special effort in preparing journalists to practice the investigative work in the Arab press environment (Sakkur, 2020).

The development of new media technology has stimulated Arab society to practice expression of ideas, desires, and attitudes (Pepe, 2018). However, the digital technologies brought by new media technology have increased the need for journalists to continue developing their skills through training to keep pace with the rapid and ever-renewing development in the field of communication technology. This training is particularly important when it comes to online journalism, which is defined as a sector subject to constant technological change and geared towards developing content in a variety of formats (Ureta & Peña Fernandez, 2018).

In the Arab world particularly, investigative journalism has recently arisen in an environment that discourages this type of media practice. Bebawi (2016) lists six major challenges facing investigative journalism in the Arab world: access to information, state control, social pressures, journalism culture, journalism education, and instability of the region. The dilemma of the lack of competence that would allow Arab journalists to practice investigative journalism lies in the fact that most of journalism graduates in the Arab world come from universities that do not enhance critical thinking (Bebawi, 2016). Thus, educating journalists becomes one of the challenges that face Arab institutions of investigative journalism. This is because Arab universities still provide education based on theoretical frameworks dating back to the middle of the last century as Rana Sabbagh, the executive director of Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism, suggested as an interviewee in Bebawi (2016). Sabbagh elaborated that the problem could be a result of the fact that teachers themselves might lack the competence to teach investigative report production, and the fact that most universities in the Arab world are state universities which definitely would not prefer this kind of journalistic practice due to the risks that may arise from investigative work and even training, affecting either professors or students who are not protected as officially employed journalists. Accordingly, Bebawi (2016) recommends a continuous focus on training novice journalists to improve the environment in which they practice investigative journalism in order to remain updated with the skills and methods of reporting.

Many organizations and institutions specialized in investigative journalism exert appreciated efforts to guarantee training service provision for Arab journalists, most prominently "Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism" (ARIJ) and the International Journalists Network (IJNet), in addition to major press training centers that offer training courses in the field of investigative journalism and digital media such as Aljazeera Training Institute. Moreover, several local press

communities and organizations have also been active, within certain Arab countries, like Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and others, in sponsoring investigative journalism and training journalists on investigative reporting (Al-Shami, 2020).

The training provided by these institutions, either theoretical or applied, is one of the most important methods to enhance Arab journalists' ability to use new media techniques that would lead to the improvement of the quality of their investigative journalism. So, it is a key requirement for journalists to realize the importance of training because knowledge helps institutions and their employees to work in a smarter manner (Ahmetovic, 2021). Therefore, introducing journalists to the characteristics of new media is an important way to draw their attention and to acknowledge them about the benefits that accrue to them from training.

Important data on the use of new media in the Arab world was disclosed in the Arab Youth Center's "New Media" report that was presented in the World Media Congress. The report which was held in the United Arab Emirates in November 2022 with a wide participation from 16 Arab countries, revealed that the percentage of Arab youth who use digital media was 53 percent, compared to 47 percent of traditional media users. It also showed that 41 percent of Arab youth spent 4-5 hours a day on social media. Moreover, the percentage of internet users in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council was 98.21 percent, while the global average is 63 percent. According to the report, the percentage of mobile phone users in the countries of the Gulf States was about 137.66 percent, while the global average was approximately 55 percent.

These indications may lead to a philosophical question like why Arab investigative journalists should be trained to use new media if ordinary Arab citizens use new media so heavily? However, this presupposition does not seem logical when comparing the need of the average citizen to use the new media just to satisfy human needs such as entertainment and communication with the need of investigative journalists who use new media for professional purposes. Thus, New media: A critical introduction presents six characteristics of new media: digitality, interactivity, hypertextuality, virtuality, dispersal (networked) and cyberspace (simulated) (Lister et al., 2008). These characteristics represent an important theoretical framework for this study. Training in new media technology is a key requirement for Arab journalists in order to get aware of these characteristics and to make out the most of them in order to improve their investigative work. The emergence of new jobs in the field of journalism as a result of the development of digital media has led to the emergence of new training programs (Bakirmekik, 2022). Despite being relatively new, new media continues to gain levels of maturity in journalists' use of its features such as interactivity, multimedia, and hypertext (Fondevila-Gascón et al., 2013).

Arab investigative journalists, in particular, need training in using new media to enrich their knowledge about its characteristics and potential (Nuri, 2020) in addition to its important role in improving trainees' abilities and technical skills (Wulnye, Aikins, & Abdul-Fatawu, 2018). This leads to raising their professional competence (Al-Khalidi, 2021) and is positively reflected on the quality of the content it provides to the audience (Sandbothe, 2017). For this reason, this study is significant from an academic research point of view because it contributes to the framing of knowledge about the benefits of training Arab journalists on practicing investigative journalism which would add to the research efforts exerted in the field, which would accordingly contribute to build up a related comprehensive theory. It is also important from a practical point of view because it draws the attention of Arab investigative journalists to the importance of training on the use of new media techniques in their journalistic work, which raises the level of their interest in training and their eagerness to participate in it.

This study focuses on Arab investigative journalism and particularly studies the importance of training on using digital technology and its effects on professionalism and high-quality investigative journalistic production. From this standpoint, this study aims to explore the impact of training on new media techniques on Arab journalists' professionalism. Accordingly, this paper raises the question: What are the benefits of training Arab journalists on new media techniques for investigative journalism practice?

LITRATURE REVIEW

The development of communication technology has created new urgency for journalists to get trained for practicing skills such as communicating across borders, working in participatory groups, exchanging digital images, mapping techniques, and acquiring the knowledge on how to manage information. Other skills that journalists need to acquire through training include making recordings, analyzing bid data, extracting information from multimedia, figuring out how to collect evidence, using hidden lenses in cameras during filming, tracking the leads of cases under investigation, and verifying the accuracy of information (Weiss, 2018).

The Future of Investigative Journalism Report (2012 P. 65) stated that “due to the technological changes that are taking place, investigative journalists will increasingly need to be digitally adept, especially social networking and analytical tools”. The report cited that a number of leading British journalism organizations included clauses in their employment contracts with new hired persons providing for paid work and mentoring as part of their investigative journalism training program. The participants that were interviewed during the preparation of the report also noted the BBC's investment in training journalists through its academy. The report recorded a decrease in the number of training opportunities available to aspiring journalists in local newspapers due to the decline in financial resources and the decrease in the number of employees. According to the report, those wishing to enter the journalistic job market often have to be willing to work for free at local news organizations in order to develop work experience. The report also highlighted the increasing use of internships as a way to give potential journalists work experience where media organizations get their efforts cheap. The report raises concerns that projects in which student journalists work on unpaid stories have increased competition among them in a truly competitive market that risks increasing job pressures for those looking to produce investigative reports. The report recommends that the media should invest continuously in training journalists, especially in digital technology skills, but urges them to provide paid and voluntary opportunities for aspiring journalists to gain practical experience in local news organizations. The report suggests as well that internships should not be seen as a substitute for paid work for journalists.

In the Arab media training context, there are many areas of training that Arab investigative journalists need in light of the growing digital business environment including specialized technical training, using modern technological tools in the areas of access to information sources, processing data and mastering data dissemination (Al-Shami, 2020). In addition to training on the ethics of investigative journalism and how to deal with laws and legislation that frame the journalists' search for hidden information (Farwaneh, 2018). It also includes training on protecting the security of information and sources (Hasan, 2020), and of course, training on information verification and news examination (Silverman, 2016).

The various pathways of knowledge acquisition have made training on investigative reporting a decisive factor in the development of Arab investigative journalism. It has also exposed the lack or weakness of training as a challenging obstacle facing Arab investigative journalism (Hamam, 2019). Recent studies attribute the poor training on investigative journalism received by Arab journalists to a number of reasons including the situation where no training courses are held in the media institutions they work in and when journalists do not show any interest in this kind of journalistic practice. Actually, all of these drawbacks are probably resulted from the lack of institutional planning to address societal issues (Hamam, 2019).

Moreover, among the problems is the poor awareness of journalists of their need for continuous training in the field of investigative journalism to overcome the problems they face in dealing with modern media technology (Zhang & Wang, 2022). Within this framework, journalists are convinced of the poor feasibility of training provided by some institutions that, however, have become reputed to provide financial profit over real training. This raises questions about the returns that would accrue to journalists from paying money and spending much time on training that might not improve his professional level. In addition to the difference in the journalistic training environment from one Arab country to another according to the interest of the press in each country in terms of sustainability, modernization of the media process, and the practice of self-censorship (Bebawi, 2016).

As previously mentioned, there are many Arab journalistic institutions and associations which are active in the field of investigative journalism, including journalistic training centers, such as the Aljazeera Training Institute. From its founding in 2004 until the end of 2022, Aljazeera Training Institute organized about 6,000 training courses, benefiting more than 68,000 trainees, including 20,000 trainees working for Aljazeera Media Network (Al Amri, 2023). At the end of 2005, a group of Arab journalists established Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ), which aims to train journalists on investigative journalism and to produce investigations through these trainings. According to Maharat (2020), ARIJ trained 2,800 journalists and produced 600 investigative reports in 20 Arab countries between 2005 and 2015. ARIJ has contributed to the establishment of investigative units in several Arab media outlets. The network also oversaw the broadcasting and publication of a large number of investigative reports on local, Arab and international channels such as the BBC and Deutsche

process to improve the individual's knowledge and to build his awareness (Mahmud, Wahid, & Arif, 2019). Providing theoretical training through remote courses increases the ability of journalist trainees to collect as much knowledge as possible and to realize the capabilities of new media without the need to spend a lot of travel expenses and transportation to attend knowledge training activities, and this is completely consistent with the virtuality feature as one of the Lister et al. (2008)'s six characteristics of new media.

c. Raising professional competence

Training in media technology contributes to improving professional performance skills of journalists in general (Al-Khalidi, 2021). The concept of professional competence links, among other elements, the theoretical knowledge to applied skills as stated in Epstein & Hundert's (2002 p. 226) definition of professional competence: "the habitual and judicious use of communication, knowledge, technical skills, clinical reasoning, emotions, values, and re-reflection in daily practice for the benefit of the individual and community being served". This study found out that training on new media technology increases the speed of journalists in producing investigative reports, facilitates their work, enhances their ability to plan investigative production, and improves their efficiency in presenting information. Thus, 7 out of 12 informants mentioned the role of new media training in raising professional competence of investigative journalists.

In this regard, Adel Abdulmughni, stated that training in new media technology increases the ease of publishing and the intensity of dissemination and interaction, as well as the mechanisms that new media provides to make it easier for an investigative journalist to verify and scrutinize the data he receives". Developing the skills of an investigative journalist are not confined to the technical dimension related to the use of new media as tools to search for sources, access and verify information. Rather, training in the skills of administrative arrangement of investigative work and creating the narrative product is also important. Aseel Saraih discussed the importance of new media training and its effects on investigative journalism by reviewing the role of training in leading the journalists to plan for investigative works. He said: "today, when journalists present their proposals for investigative works, they make it clear that they will rely on new media. So, Saraih claimed that "training in this type of journalism, as an advanced narrative and style that are based on the development of new media, contributed a lot to enhancing the capabilities of journalists and helped them work on, narrate, write and present the material to the public very well".

Training on the use of new media techniques can provide a journalist with a high professional competence that combines the two elements: knowledge and skills. This is positively reflected on the quality of the investigative work produced by the journalist who has received the appropriate training. However, the informants in this research added a third important factor to the knowledge and skills, which is the quality level of the institution for which the investigative journalist works. According to Suhaib Al-Falahi, poor investigative report could be produced when the journalists does not get sufficient knowledge and practical qualifications about using the essential equipments for investigative journalism. He added "Here, we find the difference between a journalist associated with a press organization that is concerned with investigative journalism professionally and gives it its budget, time and media tools, whether television or new media, and the independent journalist publishing on social media and new media only". Al-Falahi concluded that "training forms a distinguishable factor in the efficiency levels among practitioners of investigative journalism".

The speed of work can be one of the measures of professional competence, according to Hudhaifa Jarrar, who stressed that training the investigative journalist on new media technology increases his speed in developing ideas, forming hypotheses, conducting the necessary treatments, and presenting the report. He said: "Speed, accuracy and clarity are all among the standards of professional competence that can be improved for the benefit of the investigative journalist through training on new media technology".

Mastering the investigative work is an important part of the elements of professional competence that can be achieved for a journalist by training on media technology. Sanae Elkouiti considered appropriate training for investigative journalists on media technology gives them a "prior vision" of the form of the journalistic material they are working on. She added: "This increases the ability of the journalist to extrapolate, read between the lines and behind the words, and move between the details smoothly". For his part, Wasef Al-Qadah highlighted the importance of mixing knowledge with skills in order to reach professional competence, considering that "it is one of the determinants of the work the journalist wants to do". He said that among those determinants is also "understanding and knowing all technical parts and details of work related to work tools, then specialization in specific parts of these tools and having control with main role in that part as a complete specialization of the work". Al-Qadah explained his argument by saying, "for example, I may be specialized in writing content, but if I want to excel in this field, I have to understand the mechanics of photography, the arts of directing, and the audience's demands in order to write high-quality content".

In addition to knowledge, skills, and quality of the organization, the journalist's experience in the practice of investigative work completes the square of professional competence the informants suggested in this study. However, Yousuf Al-Junaidy warned the investigative journalist of the risk of falling in "the trap of relying on his experience". He elaborated that some journalists neglect training because of their long experience. He said: "This is a big mistake, because experience does not compensate senior journalists for training. Sometimes what you can get in years from experience, could be achieved simply in weeks by training".

All in all, achieving professional competence in investigative journalism, requires journalists to have a high degree of cognitive competence and technical skills (Al-Khalidi, 2021), which can be obtained by training on the use of new media. However, in order to achieve professional competence, a set of factors must be met: Practical skills and theoretical knowledge (Epstein & Hundert, 2002), the quality of the institution for which the journalist works and the interest of the institution in learning and educating its teams of journalists (Huseynov, 2007), the sustainability of the training process (Sokolović et al., 2023), the provision of practical applications and training facilities that simulate reality (Kaplan, 2013), as simulation is one of the six characteristics of new media (Thompson, 2018), and finally, the journalist's experience history of practicing investigations (Karadimitriou, et al., 2021). According to the informants of this study, training journalists on new media techniques contributes to raising the quality of the investigative work they do by improving their skills in presenting works, building content, speed of production, accuracy of information, and clarity of data they provide to the public.

d. Improving the content of investigations

The content of the investigative material represents the real test field for the extent to which the trained journalists benefit from the theoretical knowledge and applied skills they acquired in developing their professional competence. According to what was reported by five out of twelve informants, this appears in the areas of producing new investigative templates to present the content in non-traditional ways, and the use of updated arts that attract the audience to this content in order to achieve persuasion, which is the ultimate goal of communication process (Velde, 2020).

Renewing the content of investigative journalism is about producing templates that are richer in information, more attractive to the public, and more visible to the public. Abdulmughni argued, in this regard, that the benefits of training journalists on new media techniques is directly reflected on the sort of investigative content they produce "which is now made in more accurate and easy-to-understand templates for the public such as data journalism, info graphics and other modern templates". New media techniques increased the journalist's ability to publish his investigative production on the internet websites which opened up an opportunity for him to include all documents and details in their original copies within his journalistic material. So, Aseel Saraih argued that modern websites that rely originally on the diversity of media production elements such as sound, image, text, graphics and others can be enriched with the content provided by the journalist if he got enough training to deal with them. Saraih considered investigative reporting as "a new style of in-depth journalism in the Arab world that needs a good space for clarifying issues to the public in a detailed and explanatory way supported by evidence similar to that used in cross or digital media investigations".

The process of improving the content of the investigative material begins from the moment the decision is made regarding the form of presenting these materials to the public, as Zahir Beyoglu said that it is a decision the investigative journalist makes based on the information available to him and based on the nature of the press through which the report will be published, as well as based on the journalist' vision of the appropriate template for presenting the information. He added: "If the journalist is sufficiently trained in managing new media technologies, he will have more flexible options in choosing the template through which he presents his material in a way that ensures smooth presentation, enriches the content, and maintains its attractiveness to the public". From the same aspect, Qutb Elaraby stated that "training on new media technologies updates the investigative journalist with various global models that assist him in his work". The process of updating the content of investigative journalism does not appear to be an easy process for traditional journalists, according to what Mohammed bin Salem emphasized, who considered that the process of choosing a journalistic template is very much subject to the direction, experience and habit of the traditionally produced journalist. He said, "This requires subjecting the journalist to rigorous training in dealing with new media in order to have the flexibility necessary to develop the content he produces for keeping pace with the requirements of digital development in the journalistic work environment".

The idea of developing content in investigative journalism by training journalists on new media techniques intersects with hypertextuality, which is a modern technical method to change the linear form of the text into a retinal form that makes it easier for users of new media platforms to access it by clicking only on the words, pictures or video clips included within the written texts (Sandbothe, 2017). As for the development of investigative journalistic templates based on international

models, it also intersects with the concept of media globalization, which is one of the characteristics of new media that emerged mainly after the technology revolution and its development (Thompson, 2018).

e. Enhancing competitiveness among investigative journalists.

Enhancing competitiveness among investigative journalists is one of the direct implications of training process in using new media technology where five out of twelve informants found out that training bridges the gaps that result from the difference in individual abilities among the trainees and reduces the achievement distances between advanced journalists in their experiences and their colleagues who are still at the beginning or the middle of career. Training also bridges knowledge gaps resulting from the level of development of the journalism profession between one society and another, which transfers the work of investigative journalists to a level where the rules of work converge and excellence in it transfers to the added value that each journalist can provide.

Moreover, training creates a common ground of knowledge that includes, according to Zahir Beyoglu, technological tools, universal templates, and investigative journalistic approaches, which “open the door to competition among investigative journalists to get all the new from them through training”. Moreover, mastering the use of new media technology facilitates the production of good content, as mentioned previously which becomes, as Omar Fayyad considered, “an area of competition among investigative journalists in the quality of content”. He added: “Certainly, the media is looking for a journalist who produces more quality investigative content, and therefore journalists are competing on the issue of quality to get the offers of media institutions, and they need continuous training to develop their content to be able to win such offers”.

Since training on the use of new media techniques leads to high-level investigative production, investigative journalists benefit from the branding industry for their names. Thus, Hudhayfa Jarrar concluded, “the investigative journalist's ability to use new media techniques through training makes him knowledgeable among his peers and competitors”. For the same reason, Sanae Elkouiti puts the topic of stimulating competition among trainees as one of the benefits that an investigative journalist reaps from training in new media techniques. And Qutb Elaraby said that “training provides the investigative journalist with newness for competing with peers in the field”.

In general, training in new media techniques does not only affect creating competitiveness among investigative journalists. However, based on Pointers for Policy Development (2011), the overall training opportunities contribute to enhancing competitiveness among trainees in all professional fields. Thus, Karadimitriou et al. (2022) believes that the opportunities for journalists to participate in media training provide an important benefit to investigative journalism.

f. Enriching relationships of investigative journalists.

In its general framework, training, any training, leads to the creation of friction opportunities on three levels. The first is among the trainees themselves who meet in one course; the second is between the trainees and the trainers; and the third is between the trainees and the institution that implements the training. Although only three out of twelve informants reported on this effect, it is still important to be considered as this friction creates a network of relationships for the trainee with what Hudhayfa Jarrar called the “training environment,” which, according to him, consists of those three levels. Jarrar explained that “the development of inter-relationships within this environment represents one of the direct positive repercussions of training in general, including training in new media techniques, on professionals, including journalists and investigative journalists”.

From Omar Fayyad's point of view, the scope of the role of training on building relationships extends beyond the training environment and reaches the level of influence in the general community. Fayyad explained that training journalists on using new media with its techniques and tools as a step to qualifying them to practice investigative journalism can contribute to raising the ability of journalists to address society and the public in a constructive and effective way. He added, “digital transformation can be harnessed to develop local media and to enhance the role of journalism in democratic and civil society by training journalists in many aspects, especially in the use of new media”. For the above reasons, Mohammad Bin Salem described the role of training journalists on using new media as “a serious, important and critical role because the performance of the journalist is directly reflected on society; so, he should be qualified enough to handle this issue”. Bin Salem explained that training enables investigative journalists to make their reputations and to use their accounts on social media in an effective way to communicate with and influence the audience towards promoting community values.

Finally, the role of training on new media techniques is important for building relationships of journalists and enhancing their influence on society. Coronel (2003) has found out that training on reporting techniques as well as on reading financial statements is one way to stimulate investigative journalism in an effort to deepen democracy in societies. And

Muratova, Grizzle, & Mirzakhmedova (2019) found out that this training enhances the values of freedoms in society through public dialogue and understanding between the interlocutors and the defense of pluralism and diversity without censorship.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

Such as any professional training process, training in new media techniques brings many benefits to investigative journalists. Some of these benefits can be classified as a direct reflection on the capabilities of the journalist, the most important of which is increasing knowledge and raising awareness of the importance of using new media and getting acquainted with its applications and tools, in addition to raising the technical skills of journalists and improving their abilities to deal with new media tools and platforms in their investigative work. Training dramatically helps raise the ability of journalists in order to take advantage of the six characteristics of new media identified by Lister et al. (2008): Digitality, interactivity, hypertextuality, virtuality, dispersality (networked) and cyberspace (simulated).

The combination between raising cognitive awareness and possessing applied skills, in addition to other gains, leads to improving the professional competence of investigative journalists including improving the level of planning investigative works and presenting them to the public with sufficient speed, accuracy, and clarity. The professional competence of journalists is directly reflected on the quality of investigative production content in terms of updating journalistic templates and diversifying the contents used in their preparation. Training of journalists on new media techniques is also reflected on the competitive situation among investigative journalists to provide the best and most persuasive product for media institutions and publishers. Training also contributes to creating a training environment in which the relations of the trained investigative journalists grow, and then expand to contact and influence the wider community.

This study found out that achieving the optimal benefits for investigative journalists trained on new media technology requires the fulfillment of a set of conditions that must be met in the training process including the balance between theoretical training and practical training. The first aspect achieves the cognitive rooting of knowledge about the advantages, benefits and implications of training, and gives the trainees theoretical introductions about smart tools and applications. The second aspect qualifies them skillfully by answering questions of how to use these tools and applications. This study also found out that updating knowledge and skill by keeping pace with the development of digital technology in new media is a prerequisite for achieving training effectiveness. In addition, the results showed that investigative journalists should achieve the principle of sustainability from the training process by continuing to be exposed to training courses, in addition to achieving the principle of comprehensiveness through general awareness of new media technologies with specialized depth in specific parts of them.

Accordingly, this study recommended that the Arab universities and academic institutions for involving in training process by including new media technology education courses in their curricula with the aim of creating basic knowledge awareness for media students. As well as by sending distinguished media and journalism students to advanced regional and international training programs in the field of investigative journalism. The study also recommended the Arab institutions working in the field of investigative journalism to intensify training programs of investigative journalists on the use of new media in their investigations, and by applying integrated training programs that achieve the principle of sustainability for keeping pace with technological development, and enhancing the methodology of experimentation by providing tools, technical equipment, and studios equipped with new media programs, so that trainees can deal with them in a realistic and applied manner.

Acknowledgements

The authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript. This research article has not received any funding from any institution.

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"دور التدريب على تكنولوجيا الإعلام الجديد في تعزيز احترافية الصحفيين الاستقصائيين العرب"

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الملخص:

لقد أثر التطور السريع في مجال العالم الرقمي على العديد من التخصصات. صناعة الإعلام هي واحدة من المجالات الأكثر تضرراً. ومن هنا، يحتاج الصحفيون إلى مواكبة التطور التكنولوجي المستمر وآخر تحديثاته. يحتاج الصحفيون الاستقصائيون إلى الاهتمام بهذا الأمر أكثر من زملائهم في الميدان. شهدت الصحافة الاستقصائية بشكل عام نمواً ملحوظاً في السنوات الأخيرة؛ ومع ذلك، لا تزال تواجه تحديات كبيرة في العالم العربي فيما يتعلق بالحقوق في الوصول إلى المعلومات واستخدام المصادر المفتوحة. تركز هذه الدراسة على الصحافة الاستقصائية العربية، وتدرس بشكل خاص أهمية التدريب على استخدام التكنولوجيا الرقمية وتأثيرها على المهنية والإنتاج الصحفي الاستقصائي عالي الجودة. ومن هذا المنطلق، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف أثر التدريب على تقنيات الإعلام الجديد على احترافية الصحفيين العرب. ولتحقيق هذا الهدف، اتبعت هذه الدراسة منهجية نوعية من خلال إجراء مقابلات معمقة مع اثني عشر صحفياً عربياً من الممارسين والمهتمين بالصحافة الاستقصائية. وخلصت هذه الدراسة إلى نتائج مهمة حول الآثار الإيجابية للتدريب على تكنولوجيا الإعلام الجديد: اكتساب المزيد من المعرفة النظرية والمهارات العملية لتطبيق المعرفة المكتسبة. الأمر الذي من شأنه تعزيز كفاءة الصحفيين وتحسين جودة عملهم وقدرتهم التنافسية في قطاع العمل الصحفي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تكنولوجيا الإعلام الجديد، الصحافة الاستقصائية، التدريب الإعلامي، مهارات الصحفيين، رقمنة المعلومات.