

Thanks to the internet, everyone now enjoys media freedom: Discuss challenges and opportunities for journalism.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 1 of 15

Despite these challenges that the media freedom of the internet has posed journalism, this media freedom has also manifested a lot of opportunities for journalists.

Firstly, the internet has led to globalization in news. Thanks to the internet we have what Knight (2003) calls “globalized journalism”. It no longer matters where in the world you are because location is now irrelevant. Information and news stories are now available to everyone at one’s fingertips. Sometimes it even happens that an individual may be posting or talking about a news item that has happened in a different part of the world and feel that, because today we live in a globalized world, that all world events do have an impact and an effect on us, at home.

The internet has also reduced the gatekeepers of information. Traditionally the gatekeepers were newspaper editors, publishers of books and magazines and the government. This meant that a small group of people controlled what everybody could know, see or hear (Another War on Terror Blog, 2009) but the internet has broken down this barrier. Anyone can post anything on the internet. And, because of the nature of the internet, the traditional gatekeepers cannot even control the access to information even. Mack (2011) gives the example of China, who has attempted to censor the internet, but have not been fully successful in doing so as people have figured out how to go around the censors that are in place.

The internet even gives freedom of speech and this freedom of speech increases opportunities for journalism because this way we can really figure out what is going on or what really happened. Thomas (2009) gives the example of the Chechnya war. Sometimes the Chechen’s would say a Russian convoy was destroyed, something the Russians would deny. Then the Chechens would put a video of the destruction, which would make the Russians accept that their convoy, was in fact, destroyed.

The internet has also allowed for the live discussion of news. On various news websites, such as Yahoo, you can post your views about the news stories and have a live discussion on them with your fellow readers. News channels like CNN allow users to email in comments out of which some are then read out live. The BBC has a forum called Have Your Say in which people all over the world express their views on a selected news story and some of the comments are then aired on the television.

Websites such as Facebook and Twitter also open up more opportunities for journalists because as soon as an event happens, they can simply upload it to their Facebook or Twitter account (which they have readers to become a fan of, or follow, respectively). Not only do the readers get to know about the event as soon as it happened, the readers can discuss it amongst themselves and even discuss it with the journalist who broke the story. Sonderman (2011) says that some news organizations actually encourage this, both asking the journalists to post their Twitter and