

TITLE PAGE

**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON THE USE OF BLOGS AND CITIZEN
JOURNALISM MATERIALS AS NEWS SOURCES BY KADUNA BASED
TELEVISION STATIONS**

BY

**Aliyu SULEIMAN, BA Mass Comm. & Hausa (BUK) 1992
M.Sc SOC-SCE/19883/2007-2008
P13SSMM8039**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES,
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD
OF A
MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN MASS COMMUNICATION,**

JUNE, 2015

DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this Thesis entitled “An Exploratory Study on the Use of Blogs and Citizen Journalism Materials as News Sources by Kaduna Based Television Stations” has been carried out by me in the Department of Mass Communication. The information derived from the literature has been duly acknowledged in the text and a list of references provided. No part of this project thesis was previously presented for another degree or diploma at this or any other institution.

Aliyu Suleiman

Signature

Date

CERTIFICATION

This project report/thesis/dissertation entitled “An Exploratory Study on the Use of Blogs and Citizen Journalism Materials as News Sources by Kaduna Based Television Stations” by Aliyu Suleiman has met the regulations governing the award of the Degree of Master of Science in Mass Communication of the Ahmadu Bello University, and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

Suleiman Salau, PhD
Chairman, Supervisory Committee

(Signature) _____
(Date) _____

Cosmos Eze
Member, Supervisory Committee

(Signature) _____
(Date) _____

Dr. Mahmud M. Umar
Head of Department

(Signature) _____
(Date) _____

Professor A. H. Zoaka
Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

(Signature) _____
(Date) _____

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to the memory of my late mother Khadijah Alhassan who showed love and care for her children and instilled in them discipline and the fear of Allah. May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amin!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise be to Allah the Almighty for His bounties and may His blessing be to Muhammad (PBUH) the seal of all prophets.

I must express my profound gratitude to my able supervisor Dr. Suleiman Salau first for the encouragement given to me to undertake post-graduate degree programme, as well as for securing the admission for the programme, and then secondly for the patience, understanding and accommodation he exhibited whenever I came calling during the course of the project. It is worthy to state that I have never given him notice whenever I was come to Zaria to submit a chapter of my work for correction. Yet he created time out of his very tight schedules to give me audience and appraise the work critically not ignoring the slightest discernible mistake. Indeed your humility and dedication to duty will ever remain a source of inspiration to us. Sir, you are really on academic par excellence and a very accommodating father. That is what you really are to me; nay, to most students of the Mass Communication Department. May Allah reward you abundantly and grant you 'Aljannatul Firdausi'. Amin!.

My co-supervisor Mr. Cosmos Eze has played a very significant and constructive role in shaping the direction of this project and has given it the necessary intellectual flavour. Sir, may Almighty Allah reward you abundantly.

My first major supervisor Dr. Onyero Mgbejume of blessed memory had shown zeal and determination to work in handling the thesis but the cold hands of death snatched him away from us. I will continue to miss him.

Dr. Mahmud M. Umar, the head of department deserves a special place in my heart for rendering assistance in the hours of need and for being open and accessible at all time. He has motivated us to remain determined to succeed. Sir, may the Almighty Allah grant all your wishes. Amen!

The former Deputy Post-Graduate programme coordinator, Dr. Ladi Sandra Adamu had stimulated my interest in the new media which informed the choice of my project topic. She also subjected us to intellectual rigours which significantly impacted on us. I say thank you Madam!

I am equally indebted to the present Post-Graduate Programme Coordinator of the department Dr. Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman and the Assistant Post-Graduate Programme Coordinator Malam Shamsudeen Muhammad May Almighty Allah help you all.

All the academic staff of the Mass Communication Department have contributed one way or the other to the success of this programme. These include professor Ben Uchegbu, Dr. Shola Adeyanju, Malam ARA Shittu, Dr. John Okpoko, Malam Usman Jimada, Malam Muhammed Haruna, Dr. Yakubu, Malam Ibrahim Jimoh and Mallam Baba Jimoh Yusuf to mention just a few.

Professor Umaru Pate of the University of Maiduguri now of Bayero University Kano gave me the first inspiration to do a master degree programme then as an External Examiner for the Department of Mass Communication, Kaduna Polytechnic where I work. He said if we are to pursue the career as academic staff we must have minimum qualification of masters degree. The idea served as a source of motivation to me. May Almighty Allah continue to reward him. Amen!

Members of M.Sc 2007/2008 class I enjoyed your company and camaraderie. These are Abdullahi Muhammad Doki, Maryam Suleiman Jamo, Fatima Shuaibu, Ndenyang Andeyaba, Abdullahi Garba Birnin Kudu, Ibrahim Muhammed, Rabiu Kera, Adeiza, Adeyanju Opejoye, Favour, Agnes Ahmadu, Uche Ogbu and John Kolawole.

My colleagues in the Department of Mass Communication Kaduna polytechnic gave useful advice on how to go about conducting the project. These are Malam Bashir Hadi Ashara, Malam Abdullahi Muhammad Doki, Malam Sanusi Rufa'i Buhari and Malam Gambo Ibrahim Ahmed. I appreciate your immense contributions. The present and past heads of Mass Communication Department, Kaduna Polytechnic Alhaji Yusuf Buhari, Malam Kamar Jimoh, Malam Ganiyu Ibrahim Saleeman, Mr. Samson Aiyenigba Fagbemi, as well as, Mr. Ocheja John Salifu, I remain highly indebted to you all.

My father Alhaji Sule Ali, I thank you for your prayers and support at all times.

I am highly indebted to Suleiman Yuguda and his wife Maryam and their children (mummy), Usman, Aliyu, Nasir and Habibu for their warmth and hospitality throughout the duration of

five years that I stayed as their guest when I shuttled between Kaduna, Zaria and Giwa. Words alone cannot express my profound gratitude to them. May the Almighty Allah reward them with Aljannatul Firdausi. Amin!

Malam Muhammadu Usman (chairman) has rendered invaluable assistance through the period of the programme. May Almighty Allah reward him abundantly.

My sisters and brother Maryam (Asabe) Fatima (Talatu), Rabi (Ladidi), Amina (Mummy) Ramatu, Hadiza, Aisha and Salisu, as well as, my step mother Hauwa Suleiman have all been very supportive. My uncle Malam Lawal. I must also thank my in-laws Malam Ali Ibrahim, Alhaji Muhammad Baba Mubi and Alhaji Baba Ali, I appreciate your kind support and prayers.

I remain highly indebted to my wife Fatima Aliyu, my children: Muhammad, Nabeel, Fatima (Muhibba), Khadijah (Ihsan) Al-Ameen and Rabi'atu for their support, understanding and prayers.

My friends; Abubakar DalhaBakori, Aminu Shuaibu, Aminu Adamu Ikara, Ibrahim Muhammad Gora and Jibrin Danwawu thank you very much for your prayers.

The following students of mine who volunteered to serve as research assistants have played very crucial roles in the execution of the project. They are Ms. Maryam Talatu Umar of NTA Kaduna, Musa of Capital Television Kaduna, and Shafi'u Suleiman of AIT Kaduna and now Head of News AIT Bauchi as well as my friend Aminu Dahiru of DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna. Your efforts will not go in vain.

Lastly, I thank the following people for typing the manuscript of the project Abu Sufyan, Abideen Ola and Mustapha Okhikhiola at Rasmo's shop.

ABSTRACT

Information technology is making a very significant impact on peoples' lives and has revolutionised the television industry and specifically news production and dissemination processes. Availability of the internet broadband services on a wider scale and accessibility to those services by a large number of people using state of the art digital communication facilities such as internet enabled mobile phones, Iphone and Ipadetc, has turned the world into the phenomenal global village and brought information to users at the click of a button. Users now not only access information but they source for and disseminate it instantly through digital platforms such as blogs and user-generated contents provided by major broadcast stations that encourage audience to upload pictures and videos of latest breaking news into their websites by people that are privileged to be at the right place where news unfolds. This has not only tremendously enhanced television news coverage but at the same time raised ethical and legal issues of concern. This study attempted to examine this problem using Kaduna based television stations as case study. Survey and in-depth interview were used to generate the data. Census sampling technique was used to capture the population of the study. Tabulation and simple percentage are used to analyse the data gathered. Findings of the study revealed that Kaduna based television journalists consider blogs and citizen journalists as biased due to lack of objectivity, fairness and accuracy in their news reportage, and that blogs and citizen journalists constitute important sources of breaking news and refusal by Nigerian television stations to use blogs and citizens journalism materials is not based on management or National Broadcasting Commission restrictions. The study concludes that blogs and citizens journalism are popular as information sources, their perceived inadequacy notwithstanding. The study recommends that television stations should identify blogs sites with track record of credibility and begin to patronize news worthy materials from them deemed beneficial to their target audiences. It also recommends that television stations should open user generated content hubs to explore materials being provided by citizen journalists for use in their news telecast. It also challenges trained journalists not to leave blogging exclusively to amateurs.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	i
Declaration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ii
Certification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iii
Dedication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iv
Acknowledgements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	v
Abstract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	viii
Table of Contents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ix

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background to the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1.2	Statement of the Problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1.3	Significance of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
1.4	Scope of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1.5	Delimitation of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1.6	Research Objectives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1.7	Research Questions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1.8	History of the Case Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1.9	Definition of Terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
2.2	Conceptual Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

2.3	Weblogs as News Outlets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
2.4	Functions of Blogs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
2.5	Criticisms of Weblogs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
2.6	Citizen Journalism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
2.7	Liability of Online Services before the Law and Privacy Issues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
2.8	Power of the New Media	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
2.9	Online News Writing Styles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
2.10	Empirical Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
2.11	Theoretical Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
3.1	Research Design	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
3.2	Population of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
3.3	Area of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
3.4	Sample Size	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
3.5	Instrument for Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
3.6	Validity of the Instrument	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
3.7	Sampling Technique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
3.8	Method of Data Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
-----	--------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

4.2	Data Presentation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
4.3	Intensive Interview with News Managers of Kaduna Based Television Stations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82
4.4	Discussion of Major Findings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
5.2	Summary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
5.3	Conclusions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
5.4	Contribution to Knowledge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
5.5	Recommendations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101
5.6	Suggestion for Further Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102
	References	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103
	Appendix I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	appendix II	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Blogging is the art of scouting for and disseminating information on the internet which targets specific audiences. Hence, millions of blog pages exist on the internet covering a wide range of issues and providing up-to-the-minute reports on different subject matters (Rodman, 2006 and Dominick, 2009).

Blogging is generating a lot of interest from journalists and the general public alike owing to a number of factors: one, people who are non-media practitioners, who are devoid of the relevant skills required to gather, process and disseminate news, have been turned into instant mass communicators; courtesy of the internet. The technology has given people equipped with internet enabled mobile phones the opportunity to witness and report news first hand as it unfolds devoid of all forms of gate-keeping that characterizes conventional news reportage. This, therefore, poses a new challenge to democratic societies because the freedom of expression which is so much cherished carries with it concomitant responsibilities as enshrined in the Nigerian constitution and the constitution of many countries and sanctioned by relevant legislations.

Blogging has both positive and negative sides. On the positive side, it breaks the barriers of time and space as events unfolding anywhere in the world could be seen within minutes after the incident has happened. Even the conventional media such as radio television and newspapers have joined the bandwagon in this new effort as they use blog materials to augment short-falls in video footages of the latest news events. However, while broadcast majors of the world such as BBC World, Aljazeera, and CNN, continue to patronize blogged

materials for their information needs; Nigerian television stations appear to be sceptical to use those materials.

The internet technology, digital compression and media convergence have given room for the emergence of a new phenomenon called 'citizen journalism.' It is a situation where people, lacking the training or skills in journalism practice, cover and report news worthy events and post their reports on the net. With this development, the monopoly of the mainstream media as information sources is being challenged.

In essence, technology now affords non-professionals the opportunity to serve as information merchants. This information merchandising poses threat to the society because as Mgbejume (2008) observes, a mass communicator must undergo fundamental training to be able to communicate effectively". He warns that "the mass media of communication in the hands of an untrained mind is just the same as allowing a madman access to the trigger of a double barrelled gun". And without control of his thoughts, mind and fingers he pulls the trigger and off go the bullets hitting indiscriminate targets! The result? A great disaster".

It is gratifying to note that the trend in using blog materials in news content is viewed with caution by most television stations in Nigeria. However, despite the caution, the ubiquity of the internet in a globalized world means that stations that refuse to join the trend will be relegated to the background as other competitors struggling to outdo them in the quest for the latest breaking news will continue to take the lead.

In spite of the perceived inadequacies of blogs, they still provide news outlets through which dissident voices could be heard. For example, Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta Region (MEND) used to post information on blogs regarding the groups stand on knotty

issues that affect the Niger Delta area. Such stories were credited to the MEND spokesperson GbomoJomo. Al-Qaeda too posts stories regarding issues that affect it or its members on blogs. Sometime ago, it announced that a close confidant of Osama Bin Ladin, the founder of the group was dead (CCTV News 11/9/12), and after Bin Ladin was killed there were speculations as to who would succeed him. It was information posted on the blogs which clarified that Egyptian born second in command to Bin Ladin, AymanAlzawahiri, was nominated to lead the group pending the appointment of a substantive head. Moreover, shortly after the bombing of ThisDay Newspaper offices in Kaduna and Abuja in 2012, the group posted story on blog listing names of media houses it identified as its potential targets if they did not rescind from what it described as hostile dispositions toward the group in their news reportage.

Blogs as media of communication encourage cross-fertilization of ideas and exchange of information much in the same way it is approved by the constitutional provisions of civilized societies. With this in mind, blogs are increasingly becoming veritable means of mass communication that could not be dismissed with the wave of the hand.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The widespread use of blogs and citizen journalism materials has generated mix reactions. Some see it as positive development while others express strong reservation and fear. The fear is justified because technology has liberalised news gathering and dissemination business and has turn every user of mobile phone with internet access into a potential mass communicator. As a result, individuals these days give breaking news through social media which spreads like wild fire. If the report is a negative one capable of causing break down of law and order,

as soon as it is released, it goes viral. And it would take time to do the damage control which is usually handled by professional newsmen working for the mainstream media.

However, in order not to be left out completely in this new scheme of things, the mainstream media, especially television, decides to be proactive by integrating aspect of social media into this fold through the use of blog and citizen journalism. This, they believe, would keep them abreast of the latest events in the news and ensure greater interactivity with their target audiences.

The challenge faced by television stations willing to use blog or citizen journalism materials in their news content are many and diverse. For example what can be done to ensure the authenticity and credibility of the material? Similarly, what happens when a television station uses blog or citizenjournalism material that turns out to be fake, malicious and which is authored by a third person using the station's user generated content hub? These are some of the challenges that would confront television stations that may want to adopt the use of social media in their news reportage.

Many television stations decide to adopt cautious approach by keeping the social media at arm's length in a world that has become globalised. Taking this stance is not devoid of negative effects as the stations have continued to lose viewership and the patronage needed for their continuing survival in the market. It is a case of "between-the-devil-and-the-deep-sea". Here lies the problem for the study.

1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is on the use of blogs as sources of news by Kaduna-based television stations. It is significant because it will bridge the existing knowledge gap in blog and citizen journalism

related material usage in news content of television stations. Because the area is relatively new there is inadequate amount of literature materials on the subject especially from Nigerian perspective. The research is therefore significant because it provides a basis for further research in related fields.

1.4 SCOPE AND DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study is primarily concerned with coverage of news events using the tools of blogs and citizen journalism. It is also restricted to exploring the possibility of using materials from blog and citizen journalisms by Kaduna based television stations. The research nonetheless is constrained by unavailability of materials in the field because it is a relatively new area. As a result foreign magazines that covered the unfolding developments were substantially used in the literature review.

1.5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the research are:

1. To ascertain the level of credibility Kaduna based television journalists ascribe to blog and citizen journalism related materials as news content.
2. To ascertain the usefulness of blogs and citizen journalism related materials to news content of Kaduna based television stations.
3. To ascertain whether the managements of Kaduna based television stations sanction the use of blogs and citizen journalism related materials in their news content.

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions are formulated to facilitate the study.

1. Do Kaduna based television journalists consider blog and citizen journalism related materials credible enough to be used in news bulletin stations?

2. What potentials do blogs and citizen journalism have as usable materials in television news bulletin of Kaduna based television stations?
3. Do the managements of Kaduna based television stations allow the use of blogs and citizen journalism materials as news sources?

1.7 HISTORY OF THE CASE STUDY

The first television station in Nigeria, nay in tropical Africa, was established in 1959 at Mapo Hall in Ibadan by the government of the Western Region under the leadership of Chief ObafemiAwolowo, then the Premier of Western Nigeria. The first television station was a child of political discord. The Central government had condemned the opposition, Action Group, for walking out on parliament during the constitutional debate for independence. The Action Group felt aggrieved that the Central Government denied it an opportunity to tell its own side of the story on the national radio. In response, the Western Region Government went on to establish the Western Nigeria Television. Though critics condemned the move as wasteful and prestigious, it was nonetheless an important landmark in the history of mass communication in Nigeria.

In October 1960, the Eastern Region Government of the NCNC followed the example of the West by setting up its Eastern Nigeria Television station. And in 1962, the Northern Region Government established the Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria, BCNN which went with the trade name Radio Television Kaduna (RTK).

The federal government of Nigeria was not left out in the race either, as it established its own (national) television station in 1962, called the Nigerian Television Service based in Lagos, under a management agreement with an American network. In 1973, the Midwest Television

was established while in 1974, the Benue Plateau Television became the first television station to transmit in colours (Nwanze, 2003).

The creation of new states witnessed the continuation of what had become a tradition, as each new state sought to establish its own television station to advance its own political interests, that is, the interest of the party in power in those states. The result was that sectional consciousness was reinforced thus postponing indefinitely the realization of a truly United Nigeria (Nwanze, *ibid*).

The federal government enacted Decree No. 24 of 1977 which retrospectively took effect from April 1976 which established the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA). Under the Decree, all the television stations in the country were to come together under one central body, the NTA. At the inception of NTA, there were ten television stations in Nigeria located in Ibadan, Enugu, Kaduna, Lagos, Benin, Jos, Port Harcourt, Kano, Sokoto and Owerri (Aba). The Decree therefore gave the NTA exclusive right of television broadcasting in Nigeria. Thus, NTA took over the then ten existing television stations in the country. It soon embarked on a policy of adequate geographical spread of stations throughout Nigeria. To this end, it set up additional stations in the state capitals where there were no television stations in existence. Television stations were established in Maiduguri, Bauchi, Minna, Yola, Ilorin, Calabar, Makurdi, Akure, and Abeokuta. In 1980, an additional station was established in Lagos NTA 2 Channel 5. Other stations were also established later in Abuja, Ikeja and Katsina.

Following the creation of more states, demand for more television stations increased. In 1997, NTA Lafia and NTA Dutse were established. The NTA plans to establish more stations across the country.

The exclusive monopoly of television broadcasting by the federal government through the NTA was however broken by the 1979 Constitution. Section 36 subsection 2 of the Constitution provides inter alia;

every person shall be entitled to own, establish and operate any medium for the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions provided that no person other than the government of the federation or of a state or any other person or body authorized by the president shall own, establish, or operate a television or wireless broadcasting station for any purpose whatsoever.

Thus, the 1979 Constitution amended Decree No. 24 of 1977. While the Constitution allowed the NTA to remain, it however allowed state governments to own television and radio stations. It should be noted however that the constitutional provision does not prevent the president from allowing private ownership of the electronic media in Nigeria. It is either that the president in the person of AlhajiShehuShagari throughout his tenure was never approached by private individuals or group for license to established and operate private broadcasting station in the country, or that the president was not favourably disposed to it (Nwanze, *ibid*).

However, several state governments took advantage of this section of the Constitution to establish their own television (and radio) stations. Thus, by the end of 1983, the following states owned their own television stations; Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Ondo and defunct Bendel States. Others were Anambra, Imo, Plateau, and Kano States. A common feature among all these states is that the parties in control of the governments of these states were different from the party in control of government at the centre. Since the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) was in control at the centre, it also meant that it was in control of NTA, which was a federal government owned television network. The states mentioned being under the control of parties different from the party at the centre, felt the need to establish their own stations to counteract the propaganda of the federal government controlled NTA. The result was media

war which at one point became so degenerative and protracted as to undermine the ethics of journalism. As someone observed, government owned media failed to distinguish between the ruling party and the government, and therefore became party organs financed by the public. This unbecoming situation which at its peak threatened national security prompted the Guild of Editors, meeting in Calabar, in May 1980, to observe that; “the use of the media as exclusive propaganda organ of incumbent governors and their parties is a serious misuse of power and abuse of office.” (Daily Times, May 23, 1980).

However, the Guild of Editors failed to tell the nation whether they found the federal government’s use of the media under its control to be so innocent and justified as not to merit equal criticism and condemnation (Nwanze, *ibid*).

Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) was an offshoot of the defunct Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) Kaduna established in the 1950s. Kaduna NBC station was one of those stations handed over to state governments following the reorganization of broadcast in the country in 1978. It was renamed Kaduna State Broadcasting Corporation through Edict No. 8 of 1978.

In 1991, Kaduna State government awarded contract for the establishment of its own television station and at the same time transferred the publication of the weekly news – monitor newspaper from the Ministry of Information to KSBC. This necessitated the change of name from Broadcasting Corporation to a media conglomerate saddled with the responsibilities of AM Radio, FM stereo, Television and Newspaper publication services. Accordingly, the present Kaduna State Media Corporation came into being under Edict No. 7 of 28th May, 1991.

However, Kaduna State Television (KSTV) commenced transmission on December 31, 1995 from Kufena house studios near Sheik Abubakar Mahmud Gumi Market. Seven years later, KSTV, Kachia started transmission from the southern part of the state. On the 5th of October, 2006 yet another channel, Capital TV, hit the airwaves of Kaduna metropolis with fast paced programming and great entertainments.

The clamour for deregulation of the broadcast industry became realizable in 1993 when government issued the first batch of licenses to private organizations to establish and operate broadcast stations in Nigeria. A year earlier, the federal military government had enacted a Decree (No. 38 of 1992) establishing the National Broadcasting Commission which was given the responsibility of receiving, processing and considering applications for the ownership of radio and television stations including cable television stations (both broadcasting and direct satellite broadcasting), and any other medium of broadcasting. Although, the NBC grants provisional approvals to applicants for private broadcast licenses, final approval of a license to establish and operate private radio and television station rest with the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Two companies which are the owners of television stations of primary concern to the study were given license to start operations. Desmims Broadcast Nigeria Ltd. owners of Desmims Independent Television (DITV) was among the beneficiaries of the first batch of licenses granted in June, 1993 (Nwanze, *ibid*). However, prior to this, the company was incorporated in 1986 and eventually started production operations in Kaduna in the third quarter of 1990. But four years later, on June 2, 1990 at exactly 22 minutes past 5pm the station went on air, thus becoming the first private television station to utilize its license (3rd & 4th Quarter Programme Schedule).

DAAR Communications Limited, owners of Africa Independent Television (AIT) was issued a license to operate a private radio station in August, 1994. However, the license to operate direct satellite television was issued to the company in June, 1995 (Nwanze, *ibid*). The company ventured into commercial television broadcasting on 6th December, 1996 with the establishment of Africa Independent Television (AIT). The company pioneered full-time 24-hour broadcasting on radio and television in Nigeria. And on October 7, 2008, DAAR Communications launched Nigeria's first ever indigenously owned Direct-to-Home pay Television platform on High Definition (HD) with the launch of DAARSAT.

1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Attribution: Designation of the person being quoted. Also, the source of information in a story. Sometimes, information is given in a not-for-attribution basis.

Background: Material in a story that gives the circumstances surrounding or proceeding the event.

Beat: Area assigned to a reporter for regular coverage example police or government house.

Blog: Electronic journal where people write about everything they want – news, politics, sports, music, movies, etc. It also contains links to other sites.

Cell Phone: Wireless mobile telephone that provides wide range of services including calls, short messages, GPRS, internet connections, etc.

Citizen Journalists: Ordinary citizens who become amateur reporters with the aid of easy to use cell phone equipped with digital video cameras and high speed internet access.

Common Law: Law that has evolved over the years as accepted practice. Originating in England, common law is the application of the decisions of judges over time.

Common law is often called ‘discovered law’ because judges look to the past to discover a solution to a problem.

Copy: Written form in which a news story or other material is prepared.

Defamation: A process of exposing someone to a ridicule, disrepute, or shun by the right thinking members of the public through comment broadcast in electronic media or publication in newspaper or magazine.

Facebook: A social networking site that allows users to make friendship, get information about one another, as well as, their viewpoints on wide range of issues.

Feedback: The response receives to a given communication.

Flash Mobs (Sometimes called Smart Mobs): Large geographically dispersed groups connected only by communication technology, quickly drawn together to perform a collective action.

Folders: Are directories in a computer hard drive used to save documents.

Global Village: A concept coined by Herbert Marshall McLuhan which states that new communication technologies permit people to become increasingly involved in one another’s lives.

Hard News: News stories that help readers to make intelligent decisions and keep up with important issues. It is also referred to as spot news or live and current news in contrast to feature.

Information Super Highway: A phrase coined during the 1992 US presidential campaign by Vice Presidential candidate Al Gore. It generally refers to the convergence of television, telephone and computer technologies providing consumers with interactive data, entertainment and personal communication services.

Internet: A global network of interconnected computers that communicate freely and share and exchange information. It is also shortened as Net.

Internet Café: A place where internet services are provided at chargeable rates.

Internet Service Provider (ISP): A company that offers internet connections at monthly rates depending on the kind of service and amount of access needed.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Attempt is made to give an overview of the history of the evolution of citizen journalism by amateur reporters using blogs, Smartphone and high speed internet connection. Media depends largely on feedback from the audience to function effectively, but blogs and citizen journalism have taken feedback to a new level. This is achievable by promoting interactivity through a technique known as user-generated content. As new technology evolved and influenced communication among and between people, new concepts also emerged to explain these phenomena. Some of these concepts relating to blog and citizen journalism are explained here.

2.2 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Evolution of Citizen Journalism

The existence of blog led to the emergence of a trend referred to as citizen journalism. It is a process whereby ordinary citizens become amateur reporters with the aid of easy-to-use digital and cell phone video cameras and high speed internet access. The potentials of citizen journalism was first demonstrated when images of Asian Tsunami and the London underground train bombings were prominently featured on television and in newspapers.

In the aftermath of the Tsunami disaster which was a devastating tidal wave that emanated from the Indian Ocean and struck at the coast of many South East Asian nations on December 26, 2004, Time Magazine special edition encapsulated the role technology had played to make people in distant places come to terms with the disaster.

If mass tourism—one of the least celebrated but most profound of all the ways in which the world has been shrunk in the past 20 years – made the disaster uniquely personal to those who live thousands of miles away from its mayhem, so did modern technology. From broadband and wi-fi enabled hotels, guests could e-mail messages, pictures and videos back home. Mobile phones allowed people to stay in touch with their loved ones. And by some miracle of technology for which many were grateful, even when mobile circuits were overloaded, text messages got through. Sam Nicols, an engineer who researches nanotechnology at a Swedish University, was on a rock climbing expedition in Tonsai, Thailand when the Tsunami hit and he promptly used his Swedish cell phone to message his father John, a professor at the University of Oregon. “Just had a big tidal wave hit” read the first message. “I am not injured but lost some climbing gear, my camera and (my Thai) mobile phone. Please tell family am safe.”

(The Special Report: Tsunami December 26, 2004/January 10, 2005).

The magazine further stated that “within hours of the quake, blogs with details of where to send aid had been launched, and terrifying pictures and videos of the Tsunami were available at the click of a mouse”. On London underground train bombings, Time Magazine noted that “the first images of the hellish scenes in the London underground came from cameras on passengers’ cell phones, the latest innovation in the grim art of terrorism documentary”.

Nicolas Thioulouse 27, a French architect who used his cell phone camera to record the panic at Edgware Road station as it unfolded said “our first reaction beside checking casualties and being in shock was looking at ourselves and trying to understand... The sound of people crying and shouting for help was just horrible. I never felt so unpowerful in my life” (Time Magazine July 18, 2005).

As events of political, social and economic significance continue to unfold, the potency of blogs is becoming effective. In September 2007 when monks staged series of protests against fuel price hike which made life difficult for ordinary people in Burma the military junta responded with brute force, the brutality would have gone unnoticed to the outside world, if not for the internet.

Again, Time Magazine reported;

Technology has revolutionized dissent. Cell phones can now be rented for \$50 a month, and a click of a button sends pictures of protests to the outside world. AungZaw, an exiled student activist who edits the 'Irrawaddy' a Thailand based publication that covers Burmese affairs, recalls how it took nearly a month for word of student protest in the early 1990s to reach Thailand. "Now we get information about protests almost instantly," he says "and it is then sent back to people in Burma so they know what is going on across the country"

(Time Magazine, October 8, 2007).

The magazine also reported that the flow of information has even spawned a group of Burmese bloggers, some of who operate out of Rangoon's 200 – plus internet cafes. (Just four years ago, there were fewer than 20 such web cafes). On September 1, 2007 as protest against the fuel hikes were gathering momentum, 600 people showed up at the inaugural meeting of the Myanmar (Burma) Bloggers Society in Rangoon. One member, a computer instructor who later witnessed Suu Kyi's Saturday meeting with the monks, uploaded a grainy digital photo she took of the momentous event. A few hours later, the picture had travelled across the globe.

Impressed by the use of information and communication technology by people of different countries on a wider scale, Time International news magazine did a special report in its December 25, 2006/January 1, 2007 edition titled "Time Person of the Year: You. Yes You. You control the information age. Welcome to your world." The cover had a portrait of computer screen.

The magazine observed that a critical look at the year 2006 revealed a story about

Community and collaboration on a scale never seen before... the tool that makes this possible is the World Wide Web (www). Not the web that Tim Berners-Lee hacked together... The new web is a very different thing. It is a tool for bringing together the small contribution of millions of people and making them matter. Silicon Valley consultants called it web 2.0 as if it were a new version of some old software. But it is actually a revolution. (Emphasis is by the researcher).

The magazine rhetorically asked, who are these people? It also provided the answer as anyone would. It provided the following as its reasons for choosing 'you' as the Person of the Year 2006: "for seizing the reins of the global media, for founding and framing the new digital democracy, for working for nothing and beating the pros at their own games."

In essence, the magazine acknowledged the emergence of blogs as viable sources of news which provide support to the mainstream media and keeping professional journalists on their toes at all times. However, despite the immense potentials of blogs they have their shortcomings. The magazine observed that "web 2.0 harnesses the stupidity of crowds, as well as, its wisdom. Although some of the comments on YouTube make you weep for the future of humanity just for the spelling alone, never mind the obscenity and the naked hatred."

Lee Kelly, a US Army Captain who had spent twelve years without serving overseas was profiled by Time Magazine. The Magazine observed that unlike the generations of soldiers before them, Captain Kelly and his other comrades in arms in Iraq were writing for history through blogs. He was overwhelmed by the mainstream media coverage of the war. "If they are archived, blogs will give the best account of this war." Kelly said, "No one knows what is going on better than the soldiers on the frontlines."

We are living in an era where technology has empowered people to communicate using platforms that compete with the mainstream media. Spanish scholar Manuel Castells (2007) as quoted in Allan describes this phenomenon as the rise of mass self-communication which is now rapidly evolving in new media spaces.

The diffusion of internet, mobile communication, digital media and a variety of tools of social software have prompted the development of horizontal networks of interactive communication that connect local and global in chosen time. The familiar dynamics of top down, one way message distribution associated with the mass media are being effectively albeit unevenly pluralized. Ordinary citizens are appropriating new technological means (such as digital wifi and to max) and forms (sms, email, IPTV, video streaming blogs, vlogs, podcast, wikis, and so forth) in order to build their own network communities” (Castells 2000; Allan & Matheson 2004).

He argued that in so doing they are mounting an acute challenge to the institutionalised power relations across the breadth of the network society.

For Castells, the term “mass self-communication” highlights the way in which these horizontal networks are rapidly converging with the mass media. He writes;

It is mass communication because it reaches potentially a global audience through the P2P networks and internet connection. It is multi-model, as the digitisation of content and advanced social software often-based on open source that can be downloaded free allows the reformatting of almost any content in almost any form, increasingly distributed in wireless networks. *And it is self generated in content, self directed in emission, and self selected in reception by many that communicate with many.* We are indeed in a new communication realm, and ultimately in a new medium, whose backbone is made of computer networks, whose language is digital, and whose sender are globally distributed and globally interactive (Castells 2007. P 248).

This development is fast challenging the old order which is the dominance of the mainstream media as news and information outlets. In addition, journalism as a profession has come under intense criticism from members of the public who are discontent with the conduct of some practitioners of this noble professions. The reportorial scandals such as those involving Andrew Gilligan at the BBC, Jason Blair at the New York Times or Jack Kelly at the USA Today-are evidence of a deeper more disturbing malaise (Allan 2005). The hacking scandal on the families of British soldier killed in Iraq and Prince Williams involving the News of the World, a tabloid owned by media mogul Rupert Murdoch, led people to begin to cast aspersions on the credibility of some media organizations-a credibility painstakingly earned

and nurtured through several years of handwork many years ago. For example, the New York Times is described as the most powerful and best newspaper in the world (Rodman 2006), and both New York Times and News of the World have been in business for more than 120 years. However, the latter was not successful as the hacking scandal forced a shutdown by the proprietor of the newspaper and the eventual dismantling of all its structures. As such, journalists in particular and the media as an industry require some introspection to redeem the image of the profession, gradually in its low ebb. [With this in mind when the opportunity for “citizens participation” in journalism practice provided itself, people not only welcome the idea but grabbed the opportunity. Editor-in-Chief of America Online News (AOL) Lewis D’Vorkin observed (as quoted in Allan Ibid) “in a summer marked by London bombings, rising gas prices and record hurricanes, the world is turning to the fastest growing news team-citizen journalists, to get a human perspective through the eyes of those who lived or experience the news as it unfolds”].

D’Vorkin noted that peoples’ interaction with the media had existed for long through letters to the Editor, man-on-the-street interviews and call-in radio or television shows, but are now given new impetus as a result of widespread internet use. “With new technology tools in hand, individuals are blogging, sharing photos, uploading videos and podcasting to tell their first-hand account of breaking news so that others can better understand. What we did is the future of news, ... it is happening now” (cited in Web Pro News Sept., 6, 2005 p. 18).

According to Mutisvairo, Columbus & Leijendekker, in Africa, more than elsewhere, participation in citizen journalism is encouraged by scarce access to information and communication technologies (Walton, 2011) consequently, citizen journalists can be expected to be mostly better prosperous economically, more educated and living in urban areas

(Goldstein& Rotich 2008). However, over the last decade, the growing adoption of mobile phones has vastly increased access to ICTs for many Africans and they have been noted as a key technology for citizen journalists in Africa (Banda 2010;Goldstein& Rotich 2008; Oteku, de Bastion, Shutz & Bierhals 2010). Most recently, internet enabled mobile phones also increase access to ICT. As a result, citizen journalists in Africa today are experienced ICTusers, skilled in using social media (Goldsteinand Rotich ibid). Therefore Blogs, Twitter and Facebook became the commonly used outlets for citizen journalists.

Reporting the news especially during crisis situation occasioned by scant coverage from the mainstream media is the citizen journalism major preoccupation. And in some cases the citizen journalists engaged themselves to research issues ignored or suppressed by the mainstream media. (Goldstein and Rotich ibid; Moyo 2009).

Moyo ibid however noted that this parallel market of information can be fraught with falsehoods and uncertainty. Punditry has been identified as a common feature citizen media outlets (Goldstein & Rotich ibid, Zuckerman) as well as the expression of emotions for example by means of political jokes (Moyo ibid; Oteku).

An interesting aspect of citizens participation in news dissemination is that even the mainstream media are encouraging it to a certain degree. They solicit materials from people through User Generated Content (UGC). The UGC refer to “any material produced by the public via the internet, ranging from online comments and forum discussions on news websites to news related material produced and published outside of the mainstream media via websites and blogs, although the latter is often labelled citizens journalism” Moretzsohn (2006).

The BBC in particular has created a UGC hub which patronises such materials. “It is a gear change”, pointed out the BBC’s Helen Boaden, while referring to the public contribution to the corporation’s news coverage of the London attack. “people are very media savvy”, she argued, and as they “get used to creating pictures and videos on their phones in normal life, they increasingly think of sending it to us when major incidents occur”. Accentuating the positive, she added that “it shows there is a terrific level of trust between the audience and us, creating a more intimate relationship than in the past. It shows a new closeness forming between BBC news and the public”. (Cited by Day and Johnston in *The Guardian*, of London July 8, 2005).

Also giving credence to the evolution of citizens journalism, Rob O’Neil writes in *The Age*, as cited in Allan (2007) that, “one of the most amazing developments in the history of media was the way in which victims and witnesses were taking pictures, posting them, sending texts, e-mailing and phoning in eye-witness accounts to mainstream media organizations and to friends and bloggers around the world”. (*The Age* July 11, 2005).

However, some people have faulted the humanity aspect of taking pictures of victims of accident or terror attack and posting them on the net instead of rendering assistance to those in need at a more critical time. (Allan *ibid*).

Bownman and Willis (2003:9) as cited in Moretzsohn (*ibid*) say citizens journalism provides a new platform for open participation and exchange of ideas on different issues in the news agenda which is a hallmark of democracy. According to them “Eye witness reporting comes in large part from peoples’ desire to share their stories and publish the truth”.

Citizens participation in the media is given credence to the notion of market place of ideas theory because of the volume of information that can be accessed and shared. 'The order of things in broadcasting is filter then publish. The order in communities is 'publish then filter' (Shirky as quoted in Bowman & Willis 2003:12). Shaded more light, he says, "the exchange of information between those active citizens would reflect the logic of self correction: According to him writers submit their stories in advance to be edited or rejected before the public ever sees them in the broadcast. However, Participants in a community by contrast, "say what they have to say, and the good is sorted from the mediocre after the fact".

Boyd (2001) is also of the view that UGC is transforming the broadcast landscap. "The internet allows almost anyone with a phone, a PC and a story to tell to broadcast to the world from their backroom. It represents an unheard of democratisation of the media. At the same time it gives the major players like the BBC, CNN and ITN access to even master audience".

Matt Drudge, author of the 'infamous' Drudge Report which broke the President-Clinton Monica Lewinsky affair online and set the stage for the impeachment proceedings that followed against the US President says, "I see a future where there are millions and millions of reporters. You can cover the world with a modem. It scares the establishment. It doesn't scare me" (as quoted in Boyd Ibid).

The major television stations attach significant value to user-generated content, especially when it represents eye-witness account of an event. BBC's UGC Hub producer, Nicole Green observes "it is a difference between getting the picture of the explosion as it happens and getting the picture of firemen turning up afterward and hosing it down. You know we get the news as it happens".

The audience of all news channels television stations like BBC, CNN and Aljazeera seem to be keen to share their experiences with others by uploading pictures and sending mails to the UGC hub-provided for that purpose.

“The London bombing brought about 22,000 e-mails and texts messages, 300 photos, (50 within an hour) and several videos to the BBC; within 13 minutes of the Buncefield explosion, the BBC began receiving UGC-5000 images by lunch time and 10,000 by the end of the day”. (Douglas 2006 as quoted in Moretzsohn Ibid).

Another justification for using UGC by the television stations is that this ubiquity can provide perspective of events that differ from official perspectives which is carefully crafted and provided for the media. An example was the execution of former Iraq leader Saddam Hussein, where mobile phone images taken by guards and posted on the internet after the initial story aired provided a very different perspective one in which the proceedings had little dignity (Oliver, 2007).

For ABC Vice President, Bob Murphy, this example reveals “the potential of cell phone video as a powerful news source for news organizations” Bauder.

Stations that patronize materials posted on their UGC hub are equally mindful of ethical and legal implications arising from such practice. The BBC in particular says that it will not use materials that have been sourced through illegal means and does not support the use of micro cameras and micro tape recorders-regardless of their dissemination-as it insists on respecting the right to privacy. The BBC also highlights the importance of verifying the source of materials it receives.

Our starting point is that we should aim to apply the same approach to pictures, audio and video supplied by members of the public, as we do to any other

material we handle as journalists. We should not automatically assume that the material is accurate and we should take reasonable steps where necessary to seek verification. As digital manipulation tools become more accessible, we also need to be on our guard against photo manipulation and hoaxing. *Special care must be taken if we suspect that materials have been supplied by a member of a lobby group or organization with a vested interest in the story, rather than a disinterested by stander.*

(BBC 2006 as quoted in Moretzsohn 2006 the italics are in the original text)

2.3 WEBLOGS AS NEWS OUTLETS

Internet has brought about wide range of opportunities to every facet of human life. From the perspective of news, blogs have emerged to challenge the dominance of mainstream media (i.e. newspaper, magazine, radio and television) as news sources to the public. Blogs have been defined as “a web journal that comments on the news – often by criticizing the media and usually in rudely clever tones – with links to stories that back up the commentary with evidence” (Seipp, 2002, P. 43 in Baran 2010).

Branston and Stafford (2006) say, web blog (usually shortened to blog) is web based publication consisting primarily of periodic articles (normally in reverse chronological order). Easy to set up and maintain, and often functioning in very personal ways like diaries, they often rely on existing news agenda and items, but arranged with a personal campaign focus.

Referring to the digital torture images from Abu Ghraib, made by participants, one activist writes: ‘Digital and internet based technologies make participants in any event potentially irrefutable witnesses to what really happened... these “citizen reporters” now represent a significant challenge to the compromised intermediaries of corporate journalism’, argues David Edwards, editor of www.medialens.org, in an article titled ‘the rise of the people’s news’ (from News Statesman, 24 May, 2004). In essence, suppression of information through official high handedness could be difficult with this new technology.

Webster in Dominick (2009) defines blog as a website that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer. Blogs exist in a part of cyberspace called the blogosphere. Dominick (ibid) opines that most of the blogs are of interest only to their creators and (their) friends. He notes that critics call the blogs “soap boxes for the self absorbed” or an “electronic vanity press” or “a self aggrandizing fad”. Dominick (ibid) is however, optimistic that despite their faults, blogs “have significant effect on journalism and may become even more important in the future.”

The power of the blogs was demonstrated in 2003 when the then US Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott made a racially insensitive remark. The mainstream media reported the statement but most decided to let the story die down. However, bloggers kept the story alive, and eventually the mainstream media followed the bloggers lead. Consequently, the news agenda set by the bloggers made the racial prejudice attributed to the Senate Leader regain national prominence and Lott was consequently forced to step down. Blogs also played a major role in the controversy surrounding the use of apparently forged documents by CBS’s Sixty Minutes II during the 2004 election campaign.

Proponents of blog based journalism are of the opinion that, with blogs, the audience is exerting greater control over media content. Reporter and Cyber Columnist, Dan Gillmor in Dominick (ibid) compared traditional journalism to a lecture. He argued that reporters told you what they thought was important and the audience listened or tuned out. However, with blogs, journalism is more like a conversation, with the audience taking an active role. Rather than the traditional top-down model, blogging represents bottom up journalism. Anybody with access to the internet becomes a reporter and commentator. When a news event occurs, the audience is no longer limited to the news by huge media conglomerate. In essence,

Gillmor insists blogs add something to the journalistic mix that was missing – the voice of the readership.

The blogs have grown in number at a breakneck speed. Internet research company Technocrati has tracked more than 100 million blog sites existing on the Net, some constructed by the famous, most by the not-famous (Dumenco 2008).

To news hungry public, this is a welcome development as it enhances access to news and information and breaks down natural barriers. The emergence of blog as news source has both positive and negative sides. To some people it means more access to news and information, while others lament that with the emergence of blog sites quackery now pervades journalism practice since all manners of people not necessarily trained professionals can operate blog.

Other people also contend that the mainstream media has not been satisfying the yearnings and aspirations of the public news wise. Technology writer and conservative activist Andrew Sullivan argues that “blogging is changing the media world and could formant a revolution in how journalism functions in our culture”, not only because individual bloggers have earned their readers respect, but because their “personal touch is much more in tune with our current sensibilities than (are the opinionated magazines and newspapers of old. Readers increasingly doubt the authority of Washington Post or National Review (Sullivan, 2002 P. 43 as quoted in Baran, *ibid*).

Moreover, Sullivan a former editor of the New Republic, says this means the Universe of Permissible opinions will expand, unconstrained by the prejudices, tastes, or interests of the old-media elites” (quoted in Scepp 2002 P. 43 and Baran, *ibid*).

In other words, because bloggers in effect own their own presses, they have freedom of the press. The power in comedian Jon Stewart's words was much evident during the Iraq war and its eventual occupation. As a result scores of blogs went online when the invasion began in 2003. One maintained in English by a young Architecture Student living in Baghdad who called himself Salam Fax offered dramatic first-hand accounts of the battle. His blog at www.dear_raed.blogspot.com gained a world-wide readership. Similarly, Baran (ibid) contends that today, despite restriction on what they can say, countless soldiers offer their voices in blogs maintained during the occupation. Typical example is the popularly read Here in Reality (http://www.hereinreality.com/Iraq_blogs.html), offering blogs from combatants, civilians, and locals. "And it was blog-distributed digital images of soldiers' coffins taken by a civilian contractor that were able to circumvent the pentagon's ban on unofficial photos of the wars victims when the mainstream media, with their vast resources had been either unwilling or unable."

In other word, the Net has given voice to those typically denied expression. LA Kauffman an activist and writer for Alternative press, AlterNet, said the internet is an agitator's dream-fast, cheap, far reaching. And with the wider outreach of the world wide web, activist networks are globalizing at nearly the pace of the corporate order they oppose (in Cox, 2004 P. 14 as quoted in Baran, ibid).

The internet has through web blogs given freedom of expression added impetus. Baran (ibid) recalls that before September 11, 2001 (aircraft terrorist attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York), blogs were typically personal online diaries. But after that horrible, day possibly because millions of people felt that the mainstream press had left them

unprepared and clueless about what was really going on in the world blog radically transformed itself to become a formidable force in news gathering and dissemination.

According to Dominick (ibid), blogs represent another source of news, one that is free from economic, corporate, political or advertising considerations. He said morsels of news of interest to a small number of people that would otherwise go unreported go into blogs. There are blogs devoted to political news, technology news, entertainment news and countless other topics.

Blogs is short for 'web blog' are journals in which people write about virtually everything: news, politics, sports, music, movies, quilting and so on. Blogs are another manifestation of web 2.0. Readers can post comments and engage in virtual conversations with the blog author. Moreover, blogs often contain links to other blogs, news reports, music clips and video sharing sites.

Blogs started in the late 1990s but only became popular when free software programs made it easy for it to be used by anyone online became available. And many people responded to the opportunity by starting their own blogs. Technorati, a website that tracks blogs reports that there were 70 million blogs in 2007 and the blogosphere has been multiplying every six months or so (Dominick, ibid).

Rodman (ibid) notes that weblogs or blogs for short, are essentially online journals. Some sites such as Livejournals, Blogger and Xanga are set up to provide users with free blogs. The major ISP's also offer this service such as America OnLine's AOL Journal. He said when building a blog on AOL, the user starts by giving it a name, entering a description and picking a community, like "Family", "Dating and Relationships", or "My Thoughts."

Rodman (ibid) observes that technology is rapidly changing the way people go about blogging.

Bloggers with cell phones for example, can post news as it is happening or invite others to come and see an event in progress. When enough people respond to these invitations to form a crowd, they are called smart mobs. Camera cell phones allow bloggers to instantly post photos to the web; this practice is now called moblogging, short for mobile blogging.

And in Zimbabwe blogs and information sent from mobile phones make up some of the only news sources emanating from the country which media organizations can acquire (Moretzsohn Ibid). Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe places restrictions on the media, as a result, those who want to know what is happening within the country have to look for alternative sources of information.

Bloggers who produce alternative news have become increasingly important in areas afflicted within conflict and that only people who are narrow minded would out rightly reject the materials that might offer personal insight into political turmoil and violent conflict.

Pandey, Srivastava and Shukla (2013) say blogs are divided into three categories viz personal blog professional blog and public blog. However, David Domingo and Ari Heinonen as quoted identified four types of blogs based on the writer.

First, citizen blogs are written by common man. Second audience blogs are written by the target groups of the media on the platform provided by the media group. For example, various newspapers offer blogs on their news websites. The third type is written the journalists on the websites or portals of their own media houses. The BBC allows their journalists to write blogs and publish them on bbc.com. The last category is journalist written blogs written on the websites which have no relation to their media groups.

2.4 FUNCTIONS OF BLOGS

Blogs perform the following functions:

First, blogs offer alternative versions of events in countries where government exercise tight control over the media. In the latest uprising in the year 2011 tagged Arab revolution in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Baharain and Libya, the mainstream media got most of their stories about the unfolding events through blogs and amateur video footages. The reason is that the despotic regimes have barred the media from covering the uprising and even detained Aljazira correspondent in Cairo for allegedly instigating the crisis there. Libya also detained two reporters of BBC Arabic in rebel held city of Benghazi. (BBC Hausa News, 6:30-7:00am, 10/03/2011).

Second, blogs have an agenda setting effect. They can draw the attention of traditional media on selected events and keep those events in the news cycle. CNN has designated a special reporter who monitors blogs to see the current issues they have on their agenda. In 2005, blogs have drawn attention to a bribery scandal at the United Nations and kept it in the news for several weeks.

Third, blogs provide check on the activities of traditional media. For example, during the 2004 election campaign in the US, bloggers had questioned the authenticity of the documents CBS had publicized in a story about President George W. Bush's National Guard service. As a result of this scrutiny CBS eventually admitted that the document could not be authenticated. Dominick (ibid) notes that the established media are not used to this kind of scrutiny from particularly the people the media regard as amateurs. This,therefore generates element of friction between bloggers and traditional journalists.

Fourth, blogs provide outlets for reporters to explain why they reported a story the way they did. Why did the reporters frame a story in a certain way. Why were some sources quoted and others ignored. Why did the reporter use an anonymous source. Bill Kovach and Tim Rostential, the authors of 'The Elements of Journalism' while acknowledging this new development, said, audience deserved to be "given a chance to judge the principles by which journalists do their work." For this reason CNN's Anderson Cooper operates a blog cite which he called 'The 360 blog' where he provides background about the stories he is working on.

Five, blogs are instrumental to the emergence of a new phenomenon called 'citizen journalism'. It is a process whereby ordinary citizens become amateur reporters which in a way empowers the audience. With this development, news organisations no longer have monopoly over what is reported as news and how it is reported. For example, the official version of the execution of Saddam Hussain was contradicted by a cell phone video shot by someone on the scene of the event.

Six, bloggers sometimes carry out investigative journalism just like the mainstream media do. Two examples would suffice. When Reuters news agency published a report with a photograph of an Israeli attack on Lebanon, bloggers examined the photograph and proved that it had been doctored. Similarly, conservative blogger Michele Malkin also did an investigative report on the financing of Air America Radio (Dominick, *ibid*).

Seven, bloggers have made their influence felt on the traditional media by daring to take video footages of important news occurrences as they unfold and where professional news reporters are not at hand to cover the events. Images of Asian Tsunami disaster, the London underground train bombing scenes and Virginia Tech shooting spree scenes by a 'mentally deranged student' were captured on cell phone cameras by amateurs and posted on the Net.

The mainstream media (television, newspaper, magazine, even radio) had no option other than to use the images provided to support their news stories.

The traditional media have given this trend a boost by creating special programmes for that purpose such as CNN's 'I-Reports', MSNBC 'First Person', Reuters/Yahoo! 'You Witness News'. Moreover, many newspapers and television stations ask audience members to submit their photos and video clips. Even radio stations such as BBC have opened websites in the social networking site Facebook where they encourage listeners to post pictures of interest that could be accessed by their teeming listeners.

A new trend in news reportage is to interview eye witness on the scene of news occurrence via telephone. In the aftermath of anti Ghaddafi protest in Libya, BBC Hausa service interviewed a Niger Republic national living in Libya who was among citizens of African nations trapped in the crisis. He assessed the situation for the BBC. Similarly, following the election debacle in Cote D'Voire another citizen of Niger Republic was interviewed on the situation in the capital Abidjan. The interview was necessary for the simple reason that BBC Hausa service does not has correspondents in those crisis torn capitals and listeners ought to be given first hand information about developments taking place there.

And following a tsunami wave that hit parts of Japan on the 11th March, 2011, BBC Hausa service interviewed a Nigerian student in one of the Universities in the capital Tokyo. BilkisuSaidu, a native of Sokoto State, explained how people reacted to the devastating earthquake with calm despite the frightening shock and aftershocks, as well as, the rescue operations being carried out.

Eight, the internet and the blog have given a voice to people who otherwise would not be heard. Dan Gillmor captured the essence of this new development in his book ‘We, the Media’;

what... matters is the fact that people are having their say. This is one of the healthiest media developments in a long time. We are hearing new voices – not necessarily the voices of people who want to make a living by speaking out, but who want to say what they think.

2.5 CRITICISMS OF WEBLOGS

Advocates of freedom of expression see the emergence of internet blogs as a welcome development. Others however, see it differently. To the first category of people, it is the Net that brings to reality the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution freedom of the press clause. This freedom from control is seen as the medium’s primary source of strength. The anonymity of its users provides their expression – even the most radical, profane and vulgar – great protection, giving voice to those who would otherwise be silenced. The other category contends that controlling web content pose serious challenge to the society.

Reason is that there is no central location, no On-and-Off button for the internet, making it difficult for those who want to control it. The anonymity the Net provides its user is breeding ground for abuse. Freedom brings with it responsibilities which those who create content for other media understand. However, online, those responsibilities are abused or completely ignored.

More troubling to people opposed to blog is that bloggers are responsible to no one. Media critic Eric Alterman (2005a) says that for political blogs “the very act of weighing evidence, or even presenting any, is suspect. The modus operandi is accuse, accuse, and see what sticks.”

Moreover, critics argue that corporate bloggers are often little more than fronts set up to attack competitors. “Bloggers are more of a threat than people realized, and they are only going to get more toxic. This is new reality”, explains Peter Blackshaw, Chief Marketing Officer of a Company that polices blogs for commercial clients such as Procter & Gamble and Ford. He estimates that 50% to 60% of the online attacks his clients endure come from competitors, Lyons (2005 P. 130) as quoted in Baran (ibid).

The most disturbing aspect of the criticisms against the Net according to Baran (ibid) is that it turns every user into a potential Mass Communicator. “Equally important on the internet every “Publisher” is equal. The websites of the biggest government agency, the most powerful broadcast network, the newspaper with the highest circulation, the richest advertising agencies and public relations firms, the most far flung religion, and the lone user with idea or cause sit figuratively side by side. Each is only as powerful as its ideas”.

Professional journalists look down on bloggers with contempt since most of them lack relevant journalistic training. They contend that legitimate journalism requires balance, fairness and a sense of ethics which are the hallmark of the profession. Amateur reporters lack these traits. To the professional journalists, bloggers are not more than merely witness who are lucky to be at the right place when news breaks out.

Dominick (ibid) opines that public scepticisms toward blog news is justified because the information they give is mostly “unfiltered, unedited, and not checked for accuracy.” He also states that bloggers self-interest manifest in how they spin’ or colour the facts. This raises moral issue. Are bloggers bound by the same ethical rules as journalists? Dominick (ibid) further reveals that, at a certain conference, a speaker requested that his remark was off the record and must remain so. Reporters that attended the conference had obliged the request, but

several bloggers did not. This is a serious breach of journalism ethics that is capable of eroding public confidence on the practitioners.

Another issue of concern is the knotty legal problem associated with the liability of internet on defamatory charges. Dominick (2009) notes that most legal experts are of the view that newspapers should treat material published in a blog the same as if it were a published material in the paper. This means that newspaper which operates a blog must assign an editor to screen the material contain before it is posted. This however, removes immediacy and spontaneity associated with the blogs.

Ownership of the blog site also raises issue of concern. Suppose a newspaper reporter operates a blog from home on a topic totally different from his or her job as a newspaper reporter. The newspaper is not likely to be held accountable for problems caused by the blogger. However, the liability of the newspaper before the law can be upheld if the blogger has achieved notoriety because of his work for the newspaper.

Another criticism of the blog is that mainstream media prefer to patronize blog because it is free. Using citizens to generate news is cost saving device by an industry face with declining audiences and shrinking revenue.

2.6 CITIZEN JOURNALISM

The concept of citizen journalism (also known as public, participatory, democratic, guerrilla or street journalism) is based upon the notion public or citizens of playing an active role in the process of collecting minges, reporting, analysing and disseminating news and information (Wikipedia, 2012).

However, citizen journalism should not be confused with community journalism or civic journalism, both of which are practiced by professional journalists. Collaborative journalism is also a separate concept and is a practice whereby professional and non-professional journalists work together. Citizen journalism is a specific form of both citizen media and user generated content.

According to Dare and Michaelmas (2010) citizens journalism is the kind of journalism in which the users or audience create content online rather than wait to be fed by the traditional media outlets.

Similarly, Serene Carpenter as quoted by Dare and Michaelmas (ibid) describe citizen journalism as an individual who intends to publish information meant to benefit a community.

Citizen journalism has further been described as the individual “playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analysing and disseminating news and information”.

According to Joyce Nip citizen journalism sometimes called online citizen journalism can be defined as a process in which people were entirely responsible for gathering content along with envisioning, producing and publishing the news products.

Nick Couldry argues that alternative media projects result in the ‘de-naturalisation’ of media spaces, encouraging amateur media producers to rebalance the differential power of the media and to consider how the media themselves as a social process organised in space. (Couldry, 2000 p. 25).

Dare and Michaelmas (ibid) explained that roles hitherto played exclusively by the traditional media are now being performed by citizen journalists through the virtual community. Citizen

journalism therefore embraces all the social media platform such as Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, My Space and the Blogosphere. All the content generated from these social media platform alongside comments from the audience and message board postings, pictures and video uploads constitute what is now known as the User Generated Content (UGC), which is a feature closely associated with the citizen journalism concept.

While the mainstream media use new media largely to place on the internet the online version of their print edition, the emergent citizen journalism sites use the new tools for different purposes. They see themselves more as social crusaders rather filling an accountability gap. They were largely platform for a plurality of opinions and a portal for accessing Nigerian news and information. In a way the introduction of citizen journalism was more empowering for millions of Nigerian in the diaspora who needed to have a say in the way the affairs of their country was being run. They were sounding boards for Nigerians and discussion forums on all kinds of topics from female genital mutilation to elections and the struggle for power or areas of professional opportunities. The global reach of these sites gave Nigerians access to Nigerian news, and this began to have an effect on the people in power. Because of the viral nature of these sites spreading bad news quickly, they began to take note. (Dare and Michaelmas 2010).

New media technology such as social networking and media sharing websites in addition to the increasing prevalence of cellular phones has made citizen journalism more accessible to people worldwide. Due to the availability of technology, citizens can often report breaking news more quickly than traditional media reporters. Notable examples of citizen journalism reporting from major world events are the Arab Spring and the Occupy World Street movement.

Mark Glaser a freelance journalist who frequently writes on new media issues offered the following explanations in 2006;

The idea behind citizen journalism is that people without professional training can use the tools of modern technology and the global distribution of the internet to create augment or fact check media on their own or in collaboration with others. For example, you might write about a city council meeting on your blog or in an online forum. Or you could fact-check a newspaper article from the mainstream media and point out factual errors or bias on your blog. Or you might videotape similar event and post it on a site such as YouTube.

New media theorist Terry Flew states that three elements critical to the rise of citizen journalism. These are open publishing, collaborative editing and distributed content. Lasica on the other hand classifies media for citizen journalism into the following types;

1. Audience participation (such as user comments attached to news stories, personal blogs, photos or video footage captured from personal mobile cameras, or local news written by residents of a community).
2. Independent news and information websites (Consumer Reports, the Drudge Report).
3. Full-fledged participatory news sites (NonPublic, Ohmy News, Digital Journal.com, Ground Report, Fairobserver).
4. Collaborative and contributory media sites (Slashdot, kuro5hin, Newsvine).
5. Other kinds of 'thin media' (mailing lists, email newsletters).
6. Personal broadcasting sites (video broadcast sites such as KanRadio).

Legal Implications of Citizen Journalism

The constitutions of many democratic countries recognise freedom of expression as a cardinal principle of popular participation in governance. Equally important, journalists are recognised as members of the fourth estate of the realm that disseminate news and information enjoy certain privileges and protection accorded them by the law.

Edward Greenberg, a New York City litigator notes higher vulnerability of unprofessional journalists in court compared to the professional ones:

So-called shield laws, which protect reporters from revealing sources, vary from state to state. On occasion, the protection is dependent on whether the person asserted the claim is in fact journalist. There are many cases at both the state and federal levels where judges determine just who is or is not a journalist. Cases involving label often hinge on whether the actor was or was not a member of the “press”.

(Wikipedia, 2012).

2.7 LIABILITY OF ONLINE SERVICES BEFORE THE LAW AND PRIVACY ISSUES

The emergence of internet as mass medium has generated considerable interest from the government and the general public. In the United States the Congress and state legislatures are considering the enactment of scores of bills aimed at reducing public concern about privacy by users of internet as they surf the World Wide Web (www).

A study conducted by the Market Foundation in 2001 revealed that nearly two third of all Americans and 83 percent of regular online users have a positive view of the internet. However, more than half of those surveyed said they still have worry about the new technology (Pember, 2003/2004).

The major concern harboured by those surveyed stems from privacy issues i.e. a situation where third parties can collect data about users and what the data collectors would do with the material gathered is not known.

Defamatory statement posted on the Net could raise question of liability. Some of the cases entertained initially provided some conflicting interpretation but nonetheless tend to favour

limiting the liability of the online service providers on condition that the service providers do not exercise editorial control over the material posted by the users.

For example, one of the early online cases was *Cubby V CompuServe*. In it a federal court for the Southern District of New York held that CompuServe was not “a publisher” because it exercise no editorial control (over the content posted on its bulletin boards). As a result the internet service would not be held liable for defamatory content posted on its service by a third party.

However, four years later a New York court rejected the plea of another online service – Prodigy that it was not a publisher. This was on account of the fact that Prodigy monitored and edited some of its content. As a result, the court held that Prodigy functioned as an editor. (See *Stratton Oakmont Inc. V Prodigy Services Co.* 1995).

Statutory law also addressed the issue of liability. The communication Decency Act of 1996 in the United States specifically absolved interactive computer services of direct liability. (See 47 US CA SS 230 [c] [1]).

The relevant portion of the section read in part “No provider or user of an interactive computer services shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of an information provided by another information content provider.”

Creech (ibid) explains that by its plain language SS 230 creates a federal immunity to any cause of action that would make service providers liable for information originating with third party user of the service. Specifically SS 230 precludes courts from entertaining claim that would place a computer service provider in a publisher’s role. Thus, lawsuits seeking to hold

a service provider liable for its exercise of a publisher's traditional editorial function – such as deciding whether to publish, withdraw, postpone or alter content – are barred.

The US Congress recognizes the threat that tort based lawsuits pose to freedom of speech in the new and burgeoning internet medium. The imposition of tort liability on service providers for the communication of others represented for the Congress simply another form of government regulation of speech. Section 230 was enacted in part to maintain the robust nature of internet communication and accordingly to keep government interference in the medium to the minimum.

2.8 POWER OF THE NEW MEDIA

The power of the new media is evident when the Governor of Punjab Province of Pakistan Salman Taseer was assassinated on January 4, 2011. Described as a self made millionaire, Taseer had used his post as a platform for a campaign to amend Pakistan's blasphemy laws which proscribe death penalty for those found to have committed the sin of blasphemy.

Technology can be used for good or for bad. "Within hours of Taseer's death, telephone text messages celebrating his assassination made the rounds." "Justice has been done" read one, "if you love the prophet, pass this on." A facebook fan page that was opened in support of Taseer's assassin Malik Mumtaz Hussain Qadri garnered more than 2000 members before site administrators shut it down (Time Magazine March 21, 2011).

Time Magazine edition of March 21, 2011 made an analogy between 1848 revolution which erupted in Paris and deposed King Louis Philippe and the ones that erupted in Tunisia and Egypt between December 2010 and February, 2011 and swept away kinglike presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

The Magazine noted that the Paris revolt of 1848 spread like wild fire to other cities like Munich, Berlin, Vienna, Buda and Pest, Venice and Milan controlled by monarchs. On the other hand, the Tunisian uprising which began on December 17, 2010 is enveloping countries like Algeria, Jordan, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Lebanon, West Bank, Iraq, Kuwait, Baharain, Iran, Libya and Morocco.

It said “the revolutionary news in 1848 was transmitted as never before by telegraph, steam power printed newspapers and rail roads. In 2011 revolutionary news is transmitted as never before by cell phones, the internet and cable television.”

MouniraChaleb, a BBC Arabic journalist writing in BBC Focus on Africa Magazine said; even so it seemed miraculous to Tunisians how quickly President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali in charge for 23 years was toppled. She argues that;

Here the internet played a vital role, subverting the state-controlled communications channels and allowing ordinary citizens to organize themselves. Blogs expressed aspirations for social and economic justice, the end of corruption, freedom of expression and political participation. Ironically, it was Ben Ali himself who had been behind the spread of the internet in the country’s major cities...

(BBC Focus on Africa Magazine, April – June, 2011).

Also in an article titled “Virtual Meets Reality” in BBC Focus on Africa magazine (April to June, 2011), RanyahSabry reports on the role the internet played in mobilizing opposition to Mubarak.

He said decades old opposition challenge to Mubarak leadership was limited and civil society groups were heavily controlled and individuals dared not speak out against the autocracy.

However, with the emergence of Egypt’s political blogger’s in 2005 things began to change. They expressed their views and tackled politics using a daring tone. Blogs such as manalaa.net, baheyya.blogspot.com and arabawy.org were a magnet for young politicized Egyptians who could not find

a forum in the real world with likeminded people. The idea that the internet could be used to discuss potentially subversive issues began to take hold.

By last year the role of blogs was superseded by facebook groups where thousands of members were able to instantly interact and discuss ideas. Then early this year (2011) there was a call for Egyptians to take to the street in protest on January 25 and this rapidly gathered momentum on the social networking site. The event turn out to be the spearhead for a revolution that was led in part by internet activists.

One of the activists, 25-year old Amr Salah said, the main facebook pages established to mobilize people were “Movement of the Youth of 6 April”, “My Name is Khaled Said”, “Mohammed Al Baradei”, and the most influential of all “We are all Khaled Said”.

Khaled Said, a 28-year old from the coastal city of Alexandria, had uploaded a video clip on the internet showing police officers sharing illegal drugs that they had confiscated from dealers. In May 2010, he was arrested by security forces and a day later pronounced dead. A friend who went to the morgue to identify him took a photo of his body which had been brutally beaten. This image alongside the photo of a young and handsome Said appeared on the front page of every opposition website and independent newspaper the following day.

And in Syria Time Magazine of June 13, 2011 reported that when the Arab spring came, long and quite voices of dissent gained strength and momentum. Young activists took advantage of the tools Assad (the Syrian President) had made available to campaign against him: video-enabled mobile phones to record abuses by his security forces, and internet connections to beam news around the world.

Nakhla, who has help convey such video footages to an international audience states that “you can’t quash an uprising if millions of people are acting like their own independent news stations.” Like in Egypt, the brutality of Syrian security operatives know no bounds. Hamza al Khatib, a 13-year old boy was arrested and tortured. His battered and castrated corpse was

returned to his family a month after he was picked up at a protest rally by security forces.

The magazine stated that the assassination of Hamza by the agents of Syrian regime would serve as a catalyst to impel the silent majority of the citizens to the streets. Already, a poster of the slain child had been featured prominently at recent protest rallies and Hamza! Hamza! has become a new rallying cry. A facebook page created in his name on May 28, 2011 has logged more than 67,000 supporters. “There is no place left here for the regime after what they did to Hamza,” reads one comment.

In an article titled “the crazy kids have grown up: Morocco’s revolutionaries are standing up to Islamists as much as to the monarchy”, Ahmed Benchemsi a Moroccan journalist and visiting scholar at Stanford University USA observes thus: “for several years, groups of Moroccan have been using the power of social media – as well as the ability to attract the conventional media – to clamour for the freedom of belief, sexual liberty (notably for gays) and other individual problems that had until then been unthinkable” (Time International News Magazine, June 12, 2011).

And in Turkey, protest was staged on May 28, 2013 by environmentalists over government plan to redevelop Gezipark, a rare green area near Taksin Square in Istanbul. What started as a peaceful protest soon mushroomed into a violent one engulfing several cities because of police high handedness in handling the crises through the use of water cannon and smoke grenade (tear gas).

The protest received wide coverage from foreign media and internet. However, the state owned television station, NTV gave scant attention given to the initial stage of the protests, drew wide condemnation from Turkish citizens.

NTV Chief Executive, CemAydin said the criticism of the channel over the issue was “fair to a large extent” and he apologized for their action. “Our audience feel like they were betrayed”, he said, after a meeting with staff, some of whom resigned in protest for lack of coverage.

As a result, the protesters turned to social media to spread their message and coordinate the demonstrations, reports the BBC’s Sophie Hutchinson from Istanbul. This is despite the belief by many that government had blocked internet access in order to prevent news of the protest from spreading.

Prime Minister RecepTayyipErdogan said the Twitter was a “menace” being used to spread “lies” www.bbc.co.uk/mobile access 4th June, 2013.

The United States has fuelled the uprising in the Arab world because it “wants to free the citizen of those countries from the hard grip of dictators”.

Abroad, Clinton has worked to broker the marriage of diplomacy and technology. She boosted state’s (US Department of Foreign Affairs) budget to pay for computer training and surveillance – evading software, from \$15 million to \$45 million. State claims the Syrian revolution has continued in part because of a sanctions waiver for surveillance – evading software Clinton sought and won despite resistance from other agencies in 2009. In Libya last July, the rebels had salvaged telecommunications equipment from retreating Gaddafi forces in the eastern part of the country but could make only local calls and had no internet access. State quietly helped restore full services beyond Gaddafi’s control and got access to fiber-optic-cable networks that didn’t run through Tripoli, allowing the rebels to gin up cash from abroad.

Time Magazine November 7, 2011; Vol. 178, No. 18.

In line with the changing trend of technology US Ambassadors have also modernized the way they work. “Whereas, US envoys once filed secret cables to Washington late at night, Clinton has pushed her ambassadors to expand the use of Twitter and Facebook – State now has 192 Twitter feeds and 288 Facebook accounts”.

Then, what role does the internet play to bring about revolution in the business of news gathering and dissemination? The answer is not an easy one because with the advent of television scholars had brainstormed over which one takes precedence over the other in terms of significance: the content of communication which is the message or the medium i.e. a ‘vehicle’ through which we get to know about the message?

Marshal McLuhan who coined the popular phrase the medium is the message observes that “society has always been shaped more by the nature of the medium by which men have communicated than by the content of communication”.

On the other hand, Rivers and Schramm (1969:28) in Moemeka disagree arguing that “undoubtedly, the most important effect of the mass media is to feed the ground – to deposit layers of information, day by day, hour by hour so that a base is laid for the knowledge on which we walk. Compared with the medium (as technology) this slow, continuing, never-ending effect is immensely powerful and significant.”

Moemeka sees it differently. He contends that the messages which we send through the media – the content of communication – are extremely important for the life of society. Whether or not they are more important is debatable: but whether they are distinctly different is not... He notes that the mass media as social institutions ‘manipulate’ these messages to their functional

advantage, that is, put them in the form that the audience would like to hear or read them.

In essence, web has created a new platform for mass communication that is flexible and all embracing called the blog. It has turn every user a potential mass communicator with the capacity to reach a global audience. The internet is therefore playing a very significant role as a medium of mass communication in a globalized world. Whether or not the content being dished out to the mass audience conforms to public taste is an entirely different thing.

The Online News Association maintains a web site, Cyberjournalist.net, a name suggesting that it does indeed consider its members journalists. It has used that site to create debate, and discuss a Bloggers' Code of Ethics, modeled on the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics.

The Bloggers Code Preamble reads

“Responsible bloggers should recognize that they are publishing words publicly, and therefore have certain ethical obligations to their readers, the people they write about, and society in general... Integrity is the cornerstone of credibility. Bloggers who adopt this code of principles and these standards of practice not only practice ethical publishing, but convey to their readers that they can be trusted (“Bloggers” 2003 as quoted in Baran, *ibid*)”.

The following are the Bloggers Code of Ethics of Online News association.

Be Honest and Fair

Bloggers should be honest and fair in gathering, reporting and interpreting information

Bloggers should;

- Never plagiarize
- Identify and link to sources whenever feasible. The public is entitled to as much information as possible on sources' reliability.

- Make certain that weblog entries, quotations, headlines, photos and all other content do not misrepresent. They should not over simplify or highlight incidents out of context.
- Never distort the content of photos without disclosing what has been changed. Image enhancement is only acceptable for technical clarity. Label montages and photo illustrations.
- Never publish information they know is inaccurate – and if publishing questionable information, make it clear it's in doubt.
- Distinguish between advocacy, commentary and any factual information. Even advocacy writing and commentary should not misrepresent facts or context.
- Distinguish factual information and commentary from advertising and shun hybrids that blur the lines between the two.

Minimize Harm

Ethical bloggers treat sources and subjects as human beings deserving of respect. Bloggers should;

- Show compassion for those who may be affected adversely by weblog content. Use special sensitivity when dealing with children and inexperienced sources or subjects.
- Be sensitive when seeking or using interviews or photographs of those affected by tragedy or grief.
- Recognize that gathering and reporting information may cause harm or discomfort. Pursuit of information is not a license for arrogance.
- Recognize that private people have a greater right to control information about themselves than do public officials and others who seek power, influence or attention. Only an overriding public need can justify intrusion into anyone's privacy.

- Show good taste. Avoid pandering to lurid curiosity. Be cautious about identifying juvenile suspects, victims of sex crimes, and criminal suspects before the formal filing of charges.

Be Accountable

Bloggers should;

- Admit mistakes and correct them promptly.
- Explain each weblog's mission and invite dialogue with the public over its content and the bloggers' conduct.
- Disclose conflicts of interest, affiliations, activities and personal agendas.
- Deny favoured treatment to advertisers and special interests and resist their pressure to influence content. When exceptions are made, disclose them fully to readers.
- Be wary of sources offering information for favours. When accepting such information, disclose the favours.
- Expose unethical practices of other bloggers.
- Abide by the same high standards to which they hold others.

2.9 EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Empirical studies of some scholars on Media interactivity with the audience through user generated content are reviewed. This has availed the researcher the opportunity to understand what has been achieved in the area of media-audience relationship research and the knowledge gap that exist with a view to bridge such gap.

The use of digital technology not only enhance the process of news gathering and dissemination but influence the pattern of relationship between the media and its audience.

Interactivity in the media

Loosen and Schmidt (2012) say a new conception is emerging which sees audience as empowered networks not dispersed mass of people engaging in appropriation of media content or being appropriated by the media industry, but rather actively and collaboratively producing and disseminating information with the help of networked digital media. Audience participation in media activities take different forms which depends on group membership and the kind of media that is involved. (Chung 2008).

Thurson 2008, Messner and Distabo 2008, Purcell 2008 say audience interactivity with the media is fostered through the following venues personal publishing tools such as blogs and twitter, video platforms, wikis, social news aggregators and social networks. They say these are open spaces where users can interact with and comment upon journalistic information. A related study by Singer (2006) shows that some news websites have embraced the interactivity of internet creating a forum for engagement with readers.

Empirical Studies on Media and User Generated Content

Study on user generated content and the media is relatively new. Thuvinan (2008) did an analysis of user generated content features on British news website which he combined with in-depth interview with editors from leading online news media in the U.K. The finding of the study give detailed and illuminating report of the conflict between the editor's professional gatekeepers roles and their perception of user participation in shaping the content of the media especially news.

The study shows how legal, commercial, human and technological consideration influences the adoption of user generated content on online newsrooms. The initial studies of online news vary in their conclusions-some researchers are trumpeting the collapse of organizational

influence on gatekeeping in the new media environment. (William and Carpim, 2004), other researchers find little differences in gatekeeping functions between older and new media (Cassidy 2006). On the other hand Singer (1997, 2005) explores how traditional print based news organizations have adapted to functioning in a world of online news and suggests that print based news routines remain powerful in the new setting (see also Arant and Anderson 2001).

Singer (1998) therefore concludes that even though gatekeeping function is changing in the online news “it seems to lose its relevance anytime soon”. Editorial decision through gatekeeping process more or less shapes the content of news in the print and electronic media Berhawitz (1990; Abbot and Brassfield 1989). The two categories of media have similarity in editorial decision making and much has been studied in that respect (shoemaker, Vos and Reese 2009).

Despite the jubilation that trails the breakdown of monopoly of journalism by professional practitioners owing to technological changes, the institutional media is reluctant to adopt user generated content (Hermida and Thurman 2007).

Domingo (2007) too succinctly put it that the mainstream media is “cautions to open up most of the news production process to the active involvement of citizens”. Similarly Ornebring 2007, in Paulussen (2004) also states that direct user involvement in newsgathering, news selection and news production is minimal. He explains that when it is done, it is not displayed in the same way as articles produced by the regular journalists of the paper, the only reader material that is given similar status to material produced by the news organization is reader photos of breaking news event.

Paulussen (ibid) and Damingo (2008) therefore observe that the general finding of these studies are consistent with other previous studies on interactivity in online journalism that revealed different contextual factors that constrain interactivity. They suggest that to better understand these factors, further research should explore how professional, social and market context shape and influence audience participation in newsroom activities.

An empirical study on journalist blogs with special reference to driving forces for blog writing was conducted in India. The study was based on the following key areas: news stories: analysis; media related content and personal.

Explaining further the researcher said the choice of news stories as variables was informed by the belief that media houses (print and electronic) are not democratic enough. This is because there is little opportunity for common journalists to publish or broadcast news which does not match the interests of his or her job providers. These variables are for news which did not get any space in mainstream media.

Analysis as a variable used in the study covered issues hitting the headlines of mainstream media. Media related content variable on the other hand include posts on issues and problems in media houses, innovation in media, ethics, changing scenario of media etc.

The last variable used was 'personal' which relates to the emotional aspect of journalism which reflected in poetries and other forms of creative writing. Finding of the study revealed that contrary to the expectations that blogs provide a democratic space especially to journalists that would result in more breaking news which could not get any space in mainstream media due to lack of space and time, only 13.1 percent of the posts were news

stories. It indicates that most of the journalists are not using their blogs for publishing news stories which could not get space in the mainstream media.

The finding further reveals that instead of concentrating on breaking news in blogs, journalists were more eager to express their personal views on lead news of mainstream media. The lion's share of the posts is analysis 52 percent of the total. The major chunk of it is devoted to political coverage, and the rest is distributed to social, sports, crime etc.

The study indicates that in the information age, almost all sorts of news is getting space in mainstream media. Journalists are satisfied with that but they want to communicate their own views, which according to them was outside the scope of mainstream media. Another significant finding from the study is that the present format of mainstream media in India is somehow democratic in news rather than views. The mindset of the management controls the news in the media houses, which forces the journalists to express their views separately in blogs. The management and organizational policy of media houses plays a negative role against the news which is not market friendly.

A research by Sahara Reporters surveyed 120 Nigerians respondents at home and in diaspora between December 2010 and January 2011 regarding their perception of its online news publication. About 70% of those who participated were journalists and the rest came from the professional ranks; teachers, lawyers, bankers and civil servants. There were 90 male and 30 female respondents with age range between 29 and 56 years old. The findings show that Sahara Reporters is trusted and relied upon as a source of news when compared to other sources of news, and especially the traditional media in Nigeria.

In Table 1 of the data gathered only 33 respondents of the 120 surveyed said they trust the website, while 55 respondents do not. The site however, scores high as a source of breaking news; 86 respondents cited it as a source for breaking news, while only 27 cited the mainstream media. Sahara Reporters' edge over other media was largely from the exclusiveness and immediacy of its news reports and investigative pieces. A major component of the survey was an attempt to find out if Sahara Reporters has empowered its audience by giving them a voice in the way things were run. Interestingly, 58% respondents said that it has given them a voice, while 43 said they have not gained any democratic value from it.

Mutsvairo, Columbus & Leijtendekker conducted a survey on social media the finding revealed that majority of the respondents contended that citizen journalists ought to work according to the same ethics that count for traditional journalists. Some however contend that the ethics for citizens journalists were "undefined" or less strict leaving more freedom to them.

Finding show African online journalists and bloggers are critical of government regulation and authoritarian tendencies. some of the respondents seemed particularly motivated to bring out truth, highlight different perspectives to a story and bring about justice which shows they are not afraid to bring up issues outside the boundaries of the dominant discourse.

In a study on the Egyptian revolt of 2012, Groshek (2012) finds significant causal relationship between internet and mobile diffusion as well as democratic growth and economic growth. BBC MA & LSE 2013. Similarly, internet and mobile diffusion is found to cause socio-political instability. This goes to show the potential effect of social media (used via the internet and mobile platforms) in destabilising existing regimes through exposure to greater diversity of viewpoints.

Mackinnon (2007) said a study conducted on foreign journalists use of blog within China was necessary because China presents a special set of circumstances due to information control policies. Findings revealed that the journalist find extra value in blogs as informants but the respondents “tended to reject the idea that one can judge the reliability” of blogs in general- and instead emphasised the need to evaluate the usefulness of each blog individually depending on the author’s track record and reputation”.

In an article published in Sunday Trust newspaper dated 9th November, 2012 on How Nigerian Journalists Use Social Media to Source Stories, Ismail Adebayo opined that except for few who have their reservations on social media, journalists in Nigeria are excited with the opportunities the social networks offer them. For one it has aided them in carrying out their tasks of news monitoring and gathering. Like their counterparts in other countries, they explore various sites on regular basis daily to monitor what citizen journalists and newsmakers post on their Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, Blogs, etc.

He also observed that today the modern journalists will need to utilize many of these new tools in order to gather information, produce materials and engage their audiences in new ways. Adebayo noted that this new trend has completely revolutionised the way journalists deliver their stories. Social media are transforming the way journalists break news. The columnist interviewed a number of journalists regarding how the social media aid the way they practice.

Alkasim Abdulkadir of CCTV News Africa believes the social media has been of tremendous benefit to him professionally and socially. He said as a journalist, he often use the social networks for sourcing of his stories through crowd sampling. “I use the twitters to get my

stories without any difficulties. I often use crowd sourcing to establish the authenticity of the stories – many people at a particular place reporting the same thing. It is now left for you to go and get more of it.”

Comfort Osegbahe who reports for The Punch newspaper in Lagos says she deals more with the facebook than any other sites to source for her news. “I don’t use twitter because most times I forget my passwords and for the YouTube, i don’t go there at all. I use facebook and blog for my news sources. You know Nigerians are now internet crazy. Whatever happens around them, they quickly put it on the internet. When you do follow up and as well verify them you might find the stories to be useful.

However, some reporters have reservations on using social media networks to source for news. Malam Adamu Ismail of Freedom Radio said the social media is a trash. According to him, for you to have a story you can rely on, you need to have a source and it must be trustworthy. But not in the case of these social networks. For instance, if I get news from News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), I can just go and file it, but anybody can write anything and post it on the internet without verifying the authenticity of the story. So for me, I don’t so much believe or rely on these social networks to source for or gather my news stories,” he said.

Miss Ruth Tene Natsa, a reporter with the Leadership newspaper in Abuja conceded that she uses the social networks alot but she rarely source news stories from them. “My beat is solid minerals and you can hardly get anything newsworthy from the social network sites. I don’t bother myself with sourcing for news on my beat from the social media. Personally, I visit social network sites but not for professional purposes,” she said.

Adebayo observes that the debate on the importance of the social media to the practice of journalism had raged on for a few years now, but from early 2011 it appeared social media tools have finally achieved the status of “essential” for journalists. “The web has changed everything, anyone with a blog can be a reporter, anyone with a cell phone can be a videographer, and anyone on facebook, twitter or a thousand other platforms can be a news editor.” He stressed that more than ever, people are using twitter, facebook and other social media sources to learn about what is happening in the world, as traditional media news outlets become increasingly less relevant to the digital generation.

Reflecting the view of a Lagos based media consultant, Mr. Tony Chidozie in the article, he argued that with social media, journalist often aren’t breaking news, but rather responding to it. But that doesn’t mean journalists can just sit back and wait for twitter to feed them inspirations. Rather, they need to be thinking about how social media can affect their reporting before, during and after the story goes live.

He said “the news cycle has changed, we have moved from a passive news cycle – in which the journalist finds news, reports it and the audience consumes it – to interactive applications of news. It used to be that then the story went live, that was the end. Now it is the beginning. The audience can comment, share, add or even change information. The era of I write, you read, you’re welcome is over.”

Mr. Chidozie also posited that moving stories to a more open space like twitter means interesting stories will be read more often than they would have been if they were buried deep in the middle of a newspaper. “One of the most important revolutions in the world occurred during the Arab Spring uprising via social networking. It is difficult to say how much social networking actually contributed to the organisation of citizens, but one thing is for sure.

Twitter, facebook and YouTube drew global attention to the struggle of individuals in autocratic regimes. The opportunity to provide users with information on breaking news when it happens is an unbelievable feat for journalism. Internet users have the ability to engage the public at the moment of importance rather than waiting till the newspaper is printed, T.V. or radio broadcast,” he said.

Gap in Knowledge

Scholars have studied the usefulness of user generated content in promoting interactivity in the print and online media as shown in the empirical review of related literature materials. There is no similar study on the usefulness and challenges of user generated content in Nigerian Television News content, hence the gap in knowledge which exists in this area. The study is therefore an attempt to bridge the existing knowledge gap.

2.10 THEORETICAL REVIEW

A theoretical framework is defined as collection of theories and models from the literature which underpins a positive research study. (Hursey & Hussey 1997).

Kripanont (2007) says theoretical framework is a conceptual model of how the researcher theorises or makes logical sense of the relationships among the several factors that have been identified as important to the problem. He says developing such a conceptual framework helps one to postulate or hypothesise and test certain relationships and thus to improve our understanding of the dynamics of the situation. Theoretical framework therefore discusses the interrelationships among the variables that are considered important to the study. Theoretical framework may be referred as a conceptual framework or as the research model. The three terms can be used interchangeably (Kripanont *ibid*).

The relevant theoretical propositions on the subject of the research are reviewed to establish their relationship with the work and to provide the needed framework.

Theory has been defined differently; Forcese and Richer (1973) in Aina (2003) say that is “a model that has been tested” meaning that its concepts have been operationalized and the relationship among the variables verified. They add that a theory “consist of a set of propositions that are interrelated, a proposition taken to mean a verified statement of relationship between variables.

Babbie (1986) defines theory as “a systematic explanation for observed facts and laws that relate to a particular aspect of life”. He adds that a theory must contain “the elements of concepts, variables, and statement”.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for the study is media convergence theory. The theory of media convergence therefore, posits that new technologies bring together different media environment. According to the theory, changes is communication and change everyday life, altering patterns of creation, consumption, learning and interpersonal interaction. Therefore new technology redefines media content and alters human interaction with social institutions such as government, education and commerce.

Henry Jenkins popularised the concept of convergence culture in his book published in 2006 with the same name. In convergence culture Jenkins analyses many aspects of media convergence currently redefining the technological, economic, aesthetic, organic and global media environment.

According to Jenkins convergence is both a 'top down' and 'bottom up' phenomenon. When a new technology is created both the manufacturers and the users of the product influence the way it is used. Thus, no matter how much thought and planning a manufacturer puts into a product consumers will ultimately decide its fate in the cultural market place.

The theory of media convergence is relevant to the study because technology like mobile phone equipped with internet facility allows users to access media content that hitherto operated on different platform traditionally (i.e newspaper, magazine, radio and television) on mobile phone device. In other words, smart phone can serve the purpose of radio and television sets as well as newspaper and magazine to the user beside its basic function of making calls and other complex tasks it can perform. Therefore all the four media have converged in one form.

Similarly, the traditional media publish or transmit online to retain old audience and attract new ones. Internet technology also allow media content to be accessed 'on real time' with news update to keep with latest breaking news. As a result, this new technology has redefined media environment and change life pattern.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The chapter explains the methodology used for the research, population of the study, area of the study, sample size and research instrument.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

The methodology employed for the study is triangulation. Triangulation has been described as the application and combination of several research methodologies in the study of the same phenomenon. It mixes theories, methods, and multiple data sources to strengthen the credibility of findings. (Asemah, Gujbawu, Ekhareafor and Okpanachi 2012).

Cohen and Manion (1986) in Asemah et al (Ibid) define triangulation as an attempt to map out or explain more fully, the richness and complexity of human behaviours by studying it from more than one stand point.

Similarly, O' Donoghue and Punch (2003) say triangulation is a method of cross checking data from multiple sources to search for regularities in the research data.

According to Asemah et al (Ibid) the purpose of triangulation is to increase the credibility and validity of the result because a single method can never adequately shed light on a phenomenon. Therefore, using multiple methods can help facilitate deeper understanding.

They therefore identified six categories of triangulations among which are method triangulation which is relevant to this study. The authors said methodology triangulation also known as method or mixed method or multi method triangulation involved the use of multiple qualitative and quantitative methods to study a problem. If the conclusions from each of the

methods are the same, then validity is established. The method triangulation is further classified into two types viz within method triangulation and between or cross-method triangulation. Between or cross-method triangulation which is relevant to the study involved qualitative and quantitative data collection in the same study in this case combining intensive interview with survey.

In-depth interview was conducted exclusively with news managers of the four television stations while questionnaire was administered on all the newsroom staff irrespective of rank or designation. The peculiarity of the problem which is “an exploratory study of the use of blogs and citizens journalism materials as sources of news by Kaduna based Television Stations” informed this decision. In-depth interview is desirable to have an insight into managerial policy and editorial decision guiding the conduct of news production processes in the four television stations. The survey was to elicit response from all the respondents on what they feel generally about blogs and citizen journalism and specifically the use of such materials in the news content of television stations.

Another type of triangulation relevant to the study is theory triangulation. It involves the use of multiple professional perspectives to interpret a single set of data or information. It entails using multiple theoretical perspectives to examine and interpret the data. Consequently, mediamorphosis theory is used as the theoretical frame work for the study supported by Technology adoption theory. The intention was to conduct the study with multiple lenses and questions in mind to lend support or refute findings (Asemah et al 2012).

3.2 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The population of the study is the entire staff of news and Current Affairs Department of the four television stations based in Kaduna. These are Africa Independent Television (AIT)

Kaduna centre; Capital Television Kaduna; DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna, and Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) Kaduna Network Centre.

The population therefore excludes staff working for other departments or units. The peculiarity of the problem and the speciality of the response elicited required that only professional newsmen are qualified to partake in the study. Therefore, the number of newsroom staff was obtained from the administration and personnel department.

3.3 AREA OF THE STUDY

The area of the study is Kaduna metropolis where the four television stations are based. Kaduna is located in the North West geo political zone and was the headquarter of the defunct northern region of Nigeria. However, presently it is the headquarter of Kaduna state and occupy an important position in the politics of the country. It is expected that there would be vibrant media establishment especially television in the city. For example Capital television owned by the state government and DITV/Alheri Radio privately owned have their head offices in Kaduna. NTA Kaduna network centre located in Kaduna coordinates the activities of other NTA stations in the zone which comprised of four states namely, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa and Kaduna. AIT, Kaduna is also established to cover activities happening in Kaduna state.

3.4 SAMPLE SIZE

Because the population of the study is small, census approach was used to administer questionnaire to the entire population of the study since they are not more than seventy people. Asemah et al (2012) observe that census approach eliminates sampling error and provides data on all individuals in the population. Similarly, when the entire population is sampled in small population, a desirable level of precision is achieved.

Four research assistants were used for the study and who work for the television stations. This ensured a high return rate of the questionnaire that was administered.

3.5 INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION

Two types of data gathering instruments were used for the study. These are questionnaire and audio tapes. The questionnaire was a mixture of closed and open ended questions which was administered to all the respondents. The questionnaire consist of 35 items altogether both structured and unstructured questions. It is also divided into four sections namely, computer appreciation level of respondent, internet use by respondent, view on blog and citizen journalism materials, online post as well as respondents' personal data. Mini tape recorder was used to record the interview with the four television news managers and transcribed for use.

3.6 VALIDITY OF THE INSTRUMENT

The face validity and content validity of the instrument was ascertain using two senior academic staff from the department of Mass Communication and two psychologists from the department of Social Development, Kaduna polytechnic who vetted the instrument.

3.7 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

The small number of staff in the four television stations' newsrooms which, combined together is not more than seventy people renders the need for sampling irrelevant. Consequently, all the staff were administered questionnaire for the study.

Newsroom Staff of Kaduna based Television Stations

Station	AIT	Capital TV Kaduna	DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna	NTA Kaduna Network Centre
Designation				
Reporter	6	15	10	12
News producer	2	8	-	3
News Editor	1	5	1	-
News Controller	1	1	1	2
News manager	-	1	-	-
No of staff	10	30	12	17
Grand total	69			

Source: (Staff disposition list 2012, administration and personnel department of AIT Kaduna, Capital TV Kaduna, DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna and NTA Kaduna).

3.8 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The data for the study were analyzed using simple percentage and tabulation method.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The quantitative data gathered through questionnaire administration are analyzed below. The questions used are a mixture of closed and open ended items.

4.2 DATA PRESENTATION

Demographic Data

Table 1: Respondents sex

Variables	F	X	FX	%
Male	47	1	47	68
Female	22	2	22	32
Total	69	-	Efx = 385	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data on table 1 show that 68% of the respondents are male and 32% are female.

Table 2: Age distribution of respondents

Variables	F	X	FX	%
18-25 years	3	1	3	4
26-30 years	17	2	34	25
31-35 years	20	3	60	29
36-40 years	17	4	68	25
Above 40 years	12	5	60	17
Total	69	-	Efx = 225	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 2 reveal that 29% of the respondents are between the age of 31-35 years; 25% other respondents are between the age bracket of 26-30 years respectively. Those above 40 years old constitute 17% while the remaining 4% of the respondents are younger adults between 18-25 years old.

Table 3: Educational qualifications of respondents

Variable	F	X	FX	%
National diploma/NCE	13	1	13	19
HND/Degree	37	2	74	54
Post graduate diploma/MSc	19	3	57	27
Total	69	-	Efx = 144	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 3 show that 54% of the respondents have HND/Degree; those with Post Graduate Diploma/MSc constitute 27% while 19% are holders of National Diploma/NCE equivalent. This shows that the educational level is relatively high among Kaduna based television journalists.

Table 4: Television stations the respondents serve/work with

Variables	F	X	FX	%
AIT Kaduna	10	1	10	15
Capital TV Kaduna	30	2	60	43
DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna	12	3	36	17
NTA Kaduna	17	4	68	25
Total	69	-	Efx = 174	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 4 indicate that 43% of the respondents work with Capital TV Kaduna; 25% other respondents work with NTA Kaduna Network Centre. DITV Alheri/Radio Kaduna has 17% while AIT Kaduna Centre has 15% of respondents respectively.

Table 5: Distribution by respondents of the number of years spent in the service of their stations

Variable	F	X	FX	%
5-10 years	44	1	44	64
11-15 years	14	2	28	20
16-25 years	7	3	21	10
Above 26 years	4	4	16	6
Total	69	-	Efx = 385	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 5 reveal the number of years of service respondents put in their various television stations. 64% of the respondents have spent five to ten tears; 20% others spent eleven to fifteen years. 10% respondents have sixteen to twenty five years in service, while the remaining 6% spent more than twenty six years.

Table 6: Distribution of respondents by designation in the newsroom.

Variables	F	X	FX	%
Reporter	41	1	41	59
News producer	17	2	34	25
News editor	6	3	18	9
News controller	2	4	8	3
News manager	3	5	15	4
Total	69	-	Efx = 385	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 6 reveal the designation of different categories of staff that work in the News and Current Affairs Departments of Kaduna based television stations to which the respondents for the study belong. 59% of the respondents are reporters; 25% are News Producers. 9% are News Editors. 4% News Managers and 3 are News Controllers. This shows that all personnel who have stake in the production process of television news excluding cameramen and film editors have been captured in the study. The cameramen and film editors are technically non newsroom staff because they belong to either production department or engineering department.

The demographic data of respondents used in the study are provided to help understand the nature of the respondents and then characteristics.

Table 7: Respondents views on the tasks they could perform on the computer

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Open a file and folder	13	1	13	19
Use worksheet (Ms Word, Excel, Access, Power Point)	-	2	0	-
Send and receive an email	7	3	21	10
All of the above task	45	4	180	65
None of the above task	4	5	20	6
Total	69	-	Efx = 234	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 7 above revealed that 65% of the respondents can use the computer well and can perform all the listed tasks: open file and folder; use worksheet such as Microsoft word, Excel, Access and power point; send and receive e-mail. 19% said they can only open a file and folder. 10% said they can send and receive e-mail only. The remaining 6% admitted that they cannot operate the computer.

Section A: Computer appreciation level of respondents

Table 7.1: Task respondents can perform on their computer based on gender

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
a.	-	1	0	-	-	1	0	-	2	1	2	9.5	1	1	1	11	2	1	2	20	1	1	1	50	1	1	1	11	1	1	1	12
b.	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-	2	2	4	9.5	1	2	2	11	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-	2	2	4	25
c.	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	2	3	6	9.5	2	3	6	22	1	3	3	10	-	3	0	-	1	3	3	11	-	3	0	-
d.	5	4	20	63	1	4	4	50	14	4	56	66.6	5	4	20	56	7	4	28	70	1	4	4	50	7	4	28	78	5	4	20	63
e.	3	5	15	37	1	5	5	50	1	5	5	4.7	-	5	0	-	-	5	0	-	-	5	0	-	-	5	0	-	-	5	0	-
Total	8	-	35	100	2	-	9	100	21	-	73	100	9	-	29	100	10	-	33	100	2	-	5	100	9	-	32	100	8	-	25	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 7.1 reveal that male respondents from all the four television stations are more proficient in handling computer than their female counterparts. The breakdown of percentage of proficiency in computer skills by the respondents from the respective stations based on gender is as follows: AIT Kaduna male 63% and female 50% said they could perform all the task listed on the table which include opening file and a folder, use work sheet (MS Word, Excel, Access, Power Point)send and receive an e-mail.

Capital TV Kaduna 66.6% male and 56% female said they can perform all the task listed on the computer. DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 70% male and 50% female could also perform all the tasks on computer.

And lastly NTA Kaduna 78% male and 63% female could perform all the task listed on the computer. This shows that respondent's level of proficiency on the computer is very high which cut across all the four television stations.

However, AIT Kaduna and DITV Alheri Radio have fairly large percentage of respondents who are not computer proficient based on gender. AIT Kaduna 37% male and 50 female could not perform any of the tasks listed on the computer. Similarly, DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna has 50% female and 20% female who could only perform elementary task on the computer such as open file and folder. NTA Kaduna also has 11% male and 12% female respondents that could only open file and folder.

Table 8: Respondents views on the sources through which they access the internet.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Internet café	9	1	9	13
Free access to internet broad service	1	2	2	2
Computer equipped with internet modem	7	3	21	10
Internet enabled mobile phone	22	4	88	32
All of the above	30	5	150	43
Total	69	-	Efx = 270	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 8 indicate that 43% of the respondents access the internet through a number of sources ranging from free access to internet broad band services; computer equipped with internet modem as well as internet enabled mobile phone. 32% of the respondents said they access the net exclusively through internet enabled mobile phone; 13% said through internet café. 10% access the net through computer equipped with internet modem, and only 2% of the respondents access the net through free access to internet broad band service.

Table 9: Respondents views on the hours they spend surfing the internet a day.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Less than one hour	11	1	11	16
One or two hours	24	2	48	35
Three hours	13	3	39	19
Above three hours	21	4	84	30
Total	69	-	Efx = 182	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Table 9 shows that 35% of the respondents spend one to two hours a day surfing the internet, 30% said they spend over three hours on the net daily, while the remaining 16% said they spend less than one hour on the net daily.

Table 9.1:Hours respondents spend on the internet based on gender

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
Less than 1	3	1	3	38	-	1	0	-	3	1	3	14	2	1	2	22	1	1	1	10	1	1	1	50	1	1	1	11	-	1	0	-
One to two hrs	4	2	8	50	1	2	2	50	5	2	10	24	3	2	6	33.3	5	2	10	50	1	2	2	50	1	2	2	11	1	2	2	13
Three hours	1	3	3	12	-	3	0	-	7	3	21	33	2	3	9	22	1	3	3	10	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	2	3	6	25
Above three hrs	-	4	0	-	1	4	4	50	6	4	24	29	2	4	8	22	3	4	12	30	-	4	0	-	7	4	28	78	5	4	20	62
Total	8	-	14	100	2	-	6	100	21	-	58	100	9	-	25	100	10	-	26	100	2	-	3	100	9	-	31	100	8	-	28	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 9.1 specified the hours respondents spend surfing the internet. Respondents that spend above three hours based on gender from the different television stations are AIT Kaduna. 0% male and 50% female; Capital TV Kaduna 29% male and 22% female; DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 30% male and 0% female. NTA Kaduna 78% male and 62% female. This shows that respondents from NTA Kaduna irrespective of gender spend more time on the internet than their counterparts from the other three television stations.

Respondents that spend three hours surfing the internet are AIT Kaduna 12% male and 0% female; Capital TV Kaduna 33% male and 22% female; DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 10% male and 0% female; NTA Kaduna 0% male and 25% female.

Therefore, capital TV leads the category of respondents that spend up to three hours surfing the internet based on gender 33% male and 22% female. NTA Kaduna followed with 25% female and 0% male. Others are AIT Kaduna 11% male and 0% female. DITV Alheri Radio 10% male and 0% female.

Respondents that spend one to two hours on the internet are AIT Kaduna 50% male and 50% female; Capital TV Kaduna 24% male and 33.3% female. DITV Alheri Kaduna 50% male and 50% female. NTA Kaduna 13% male and 0% female.

Respondents that spend less than one hour on the internet based on gender are AIT Kaduna 38% male and 0% female; Capital TV Kaduna 14% male and 22% female; DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 10% male and 50% female. NTA Kaduna 11% male and 0% female.

This shows that DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna has the highest number of female respondents that spend less than one hour on the internet followed by AIT Kaduna with 38% male and Capital TV 22% female.

Table 10: Respondents views on whether they feel addicted toward the internet.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Agree	45	1	45	65
Disagree	24	2	48	35
Total	69	-	Efx = 93	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 10 revealed that 65% of the respondents felt a sense of addiction toward the internet because of the frequency of usage, 35% others said they do not feel addicted to the net.

Table 11: Respondents views on what they used the internet for

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Seek knowledge/data through search engines	4	1	4	6
Seek information through online version of newspaper/magazines	8	2	16	12
Seek information through blogs	7	3	21	10
To follow what citizen journalists post online as news materials	2	4	8	32
Make contact and friendship through social networking sites	4	5	20	6
All of the above	44	6	264	63
Total	69	-	Efx = 335	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 11 revealed that 63% of the respondents said they use the internet for different purposes ranging from seeking knowledge/data through search engines, seeking information from online version of newspapers and magazines, seeking information through blog, to know

what citizens journalists post online as news material, as well as making contact and friendship through social networking sites, 12% respondents only read online version of newspapers or magazines, 10% of respondents seek information through blogs; 6% respondents used search engines to improve their knowledge/data. Again 6% others used the net to make contact and cultivate friendship through social networking sites, while the remaining 3% of the respondents search the net to know what citizen journalists post online as news materials.

Table 11.1: Respondents view on what they use the internet for based on gender

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
a.	-	1	0	-	-	1	0	-	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	11	-	1	0	-	-	1	0	-	1	1	1	11	1	1	1	13
b.	1	2	2	12	1	2	2	50	5	2	10	24	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-	1	2	2	50	1	2	2	11	-	2	0	-
c.	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	3	3	9	14	2	3	6	22.5	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-
d.	1	4	4	12	-	4	0	-	-	4	0	-	1	4	4	11	-	4	0	-	-	4	0	-	-	4	0	-	-	4	0	-
e.	1	5	5	12.5	-	5	0	-	1	5	5	5	1	5	5	11	-	5	0	-	-	5	0	-	1	5	5	11	-	5	0	-
f.	5	6	30	63	1	6	6	50	11	6	66	52	4	6	24	44	10	6	60	100	1	6	6	50	6	6	36	67	7	6	42	87
Total	8	-	41	100	2	-	8	100	21	-	91	100	9	-	40	100	10	-	60	100	2	-	8	100	9	-	44	100	8	-	42	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 11.1 show what the respondents used the internet for based on gender. Most of the male respondents from the four television stations-DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 100%, NTA Kaduna 67%; Capital TV Kaduna 66% and AIT Kaduna 63% used the internet for wide range of purposes listed on table 11.

Similarly, the female respondents just like their male counterparts also used the internet wide range of purposes. NTA Kaduna 87%; AIT Kaduna 50%, DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 50% and Capital TV Kaduna 44%.

Table 12: Respondents views on the news area they patronize from blog sites

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Political news	9	1	9	13
Economic news	2	2	4	3
Social news	4	3	12	6
General news	14	4	56	20
All of the above	37	5	185	54
None of the above	3	6	18	4
Total	69	-	Efx = 284	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 12 show that 54% of the respondents look for all types of news from blog sites, be it political, economic, social and general; 20% respondents patronize general news. 13% patronize political news; 6% social news, 4% do not patronize blogs at all while 3% patronize economic news.

Table 12.1:Type of news respondents prefer to patronise from blogs and citizen journalism based on gender

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
Political	1	1	1	12	-	1	0	-	4	1	4	19	-	1	0	-	1	1	1	10	-	1	0	-	2	1	2	22	-	1	0	-
Economic	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-	1	2	2	5	1	2	2	11	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-
Social	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	3	3	9	14	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-	-	3	0	-
General	2	4	8	25	-	4	0	-	5	4	20	24	1	4	4	11	1	4	4	10	-	4	0	-	3	4	12	33.3	2	4	8	25
All	3	5	15	38	2	5	10	100	8	5	40	38	7	5	35	78	8	5	40	80	2	5	10	100	4	5	20	44	5	5	25	63
None	2	6	12	25	-	6	0	-	-	6	0	-	-	6	0	-	-	6	0	-	-	6	0	-	-	6	0	0	1	6	6	12
Total	8	-	36	100	2	-	10	100	21	-	75	100	9	-	41	100	10	-	45	100	2	-	10	100	9	-	34	100	8	-	39	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 12.1 shows that female respondents are favourably disposed to patronise all category of news from blogs and citizen journalism than their male counterparts. The categories of news are political, economic, social and general news. Therefore AIT female respondents that patronised all types of news are 100%; DITV Alheri Radio 100%; Capital TV Kaduna 78% and NTA Kaduna 63%.

The male respondents patronage for general news is DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 80%; NTA Kaduna 44%; AIT Kaduna 38% and Capital TV Kaduna 38% respectively. Male respondents lead in the patronage for general news with the following distribution: NTA Kaduna 33.3%; AIT Kaduna 25%; Capital TV Kaduna 24%; DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 10%.

There is little patronage for general news by female respondents. NTA Kaduna has 25%; Capital TV Kaduna 11% and no patronage from AIT Kaduna and DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna respectively.

Male respondents also dominate patronage for political news. Thus, NTA Kaduna has 22%; Capital TV Kaduna 19%; AIT Kaduna 12% and DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 10%.

Female respondents from all the four television stations do not specifically patronise political news from blog and other social media. The same applied to economic and social news. Therefore it can be inferred that all the female respondents from the four Kaduna based television stations have less interest in political, economic and social news from blogs and social media compared to their male counterparts.

Table 13: Respondents assessment of the objectivity of blogs and citizen journalism news materials.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Balanced, objective, accurate and fair	23	1	23	33
Biased	46	2	92	67
Total	69	-	Efx = 125	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data on table 13 shows that 67% of the respondents adjudged blogs and citizen journalism news materials to be biased as against 33% other respondents who said they are balanced, objective and accurate.

Table 13.1: Respondents view on news supplied by blogs and citizen journalists based on gender

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
Balanced, objective accurate and fair	-	1	0	-	1	1	1	50	11	1	11	52	5	1	5	56	2	1	2	20	1	1	1	50	-	1	0	-	4	1	4	50
Biased	8	2	16	100	1	2	2	50	10	2	20	48	4	2	8	44	8	2	16	80	1	2	2	50	9	2	18	100	4	2	8	50
Total	8	-	16	100	2	-	3	100	21	-	31	100	9	-	13	100	10	-	18	100	2	-	3	100	9	-	18	100	8	-	12	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 13.1 shows that female respondents have favourable opinion on blogs and citizen journalism. These are 56% female respondents in Capital TV Kaduna; 50% AIT Kaduna; 50% DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna and 50% NTA Kaduna that adjudged blogs and citizen journalism to be balanced, objective, accurate and fair.

The female respondents that have contrary opinion because they felt that blogs and citizen journalism are biased are AIT Kaduna 50%; DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 50%; NTA Kaduna 50% and Capital TV Kaduna 44%.

Male respondents cutting across all the four television stations have strong misgivings about blogs and citizen journalism describing them as biased. The distribution of male respondents from the four television stations are AIT Kaduna 100%; NTA Kaduna 100%; DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 80% and Capital TV Kaduna 48%.

Male respondents that are of the opinion that blogs and citizen journalism are balanced, objective, accurate and fair are Capital TV Kaduna 52%; and DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 20%.

Table 14: Respondents views on the credibility of blogs and citizen journalism news materials.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Credible	25	1	25	36
Not credible	44	2	88	64
Total	69	-	Efx = 113	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data on table 14 shows that 64% of the respondents deemed blogs and citizen journalism news materials as not credible as against 36% others that said they are credible.

Table 14.1: Respondents view based on gender about the credibility of news emanating from blog sites and citizen journalists.

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
Credible	1	1	2	13	2	1	2	100	11	1	11	52	5	1	5	56	2	1	2	20	1	1	1	50	-	1	0	-	5	1	5	63
Not credible	7	2	174	87	-	2	0	-	10	2	20	48	4	2	8	44	8	2	6	80	1	1	1	50	9	2	18	100	3	2	6	37
Total	8	-	176	100	2	-	2	100	21	-	31	100	9	-	13	100	10	-	8	100	2	-	2	100	9	-	18	100	8	-	11	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 14.1 shows that male respondents are of the view that blogs and citizen journalists are not credible sources of news and information. The distribution of male respondents from the four television stations is as follows: NTA Kaduna 100%; AIT Kaduna 87%; DITV Alheri Radio 80% and Capital TV Kaduna 44%.

Female respondents think differently. To them blogs and citizen journalists are credible sources of news. The distribution of female respondent that expressed this view from the four television stations are AIT Kaduna 100%; NTA Kaduna 63%; Capital TV Kaduna 56% and DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 50%.

Table 15: Respondents view on whether bogs and citizens journalism news materials provide alternative to the dominance of news and information supplied by the mainstream media.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Agree	58	1	58	84
Disagree	11	2	22	16
Total	69	-	Efx = 80	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 15 reveal that 84% of the respondents believed that blogs and citizen journalism news materials provide alternative to the dominance of the mainstream media, news wise.

Table 15.1: Respondents view based on gender whether blogs and citizen journalism provide alternative to the dominance of news and information by the mainstream media.

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
Agree	7	1	7	88	2	1	2	100	17	1	17	81	7	1	7	78	8	1	8	80	2	1	2	100	8	1	8	89	7	1	7	88
disagree	1	2	2	12	-	2	0	-	4	2	8	19	2	2	4	22	2	1	2	20	-	2	0	-	1	2	2	11	1	2	2	12
Total	8	-	9	100	2	-	2	100	21	-	25	100	9	-	11	100	10	-	10	100	2	-	2	100	9	-	10	100	8	-	9	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 15.1 shows that all the respondents cutting across gender are of the view that blogs and citizen journalism provide alternative to the dominance of news and information by the mainstream media. All the female respondents in AIT Kaduna (100%) and DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna (100%) as well as NTA Kaduna (88%); Capital TV Kaduna (78%) agree with the idea.

Male respondents also agree with their female counterparts that blogs and citizen journalism provide alternative to the dominance of news and information by the mainstream media. All the male respondents from the four television stations (NTA Kaduna 89%; AIT Kaduna 88%; Capital TV Kaduna 81% and DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 80%) share this belief.

Based on this data therefore, the importance of blogs and citizen journalism materials cannot be ignored as far as the dissemination of news and information is concerned. This is in view of the fact that even professional journalists have conceded that the social media is keeping them on their toes. This is however inspired by the perceived inadequacies the blogs and citizen journalists might have.

Table 16: Respondents views on whether blogs and citizen journalism news materials compliment the mainstream media in providing latest news to the public.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Agree	63	1	63	91
Disagree	6	2	12	9
Total	69	-	Efx = 335	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 16 reveal that 91% of the respondents believed that blogs and citizen journalism materials compliment the mainstream media in providing latest news to the public. However, 9% of the respondents disagree with the notion.

Table 16.1: Respondents view based on gender whether blogs and citizen journalism compliment the mainstream media in providing latest news to the public.

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
Agree	7	1	7	88	2	1	2	100	19	1	19	90	8	1	8	89	8	1	8	80	2	1	2	100	9	1	9	100	7	1	7	88
disagree	1	2	2	12	-	2	0	-	2	2	4	10	1	2	2	11	2	2	4	20	-	2	0	-	-	2	0	-	1	2	1	12
Total	8	-	9	100	2	-	2	100	21	-	23	100	9	-	10	100	10	-	12	100	2	-	2	100	9	-	9	100	8	-	8	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 16.1 show that majority of female respondents cutting across the four television stations agree that blogs and citizen journalism compliments the mainstream media in providing latest news to the public. These are AIT Kaduna 100%; DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 100%; Capital TV Kaduna 89% and NTA Kaduna 88%.

Male respondents equally share the same belief with their female counterparts that blogs and citizen journalism compliment the mainstream media in providing latest news to the public. The distributions of the respondents are NTA Kaduna 100%; Capital TV Kaduna 90%; AIT Kaduna 88% and DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 80%.

Table 17: Respondents views on whether they want their television stations to use materials from blog sites, as well as citizen journalism materials in their news content.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Agree	63	1	63	91
Disagree	6	2	12	9
Total	69	-	Efx = 335	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 17 revealed that 91% of the respondents said they want their television stations to use materials from blog sites as well as citizen journalism news materials in their news bulletins. The remaining 9% however disagree.

Table 17.1: Respondents view based on gender whether they subscribe to the idea of their TV station to use materials from blogs and citizen journalism.

Variables	AIT Kaduna Gender								Capital TV Kaduna Gender								DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna								NTA Kaduna Gender							
	M				F				M				F				M				F				M				F			
	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%	F	X	Fx	%
Agree	4	1	4	50	2	1	2	100	11	1	11	52	5	1	5	56	4	1	4	40	-	1	0	-	4	1	4	44	3	1	3	38
Disagree	1	2	2	13	-	2	0	-	7	2	14	33.3	2	2	4	22	1	2	2	10	1	2	2	50	3	2	6	33.3	3	2	6	38
Undecided	3	3	9	37	-	3	0	-	3	3	9	14	2	3	9	22	5	3	15	50	1	3	3	50	2	3	6	22	2	3	6	25
Total	8	-	15	100	2	-	2	100	21	-	34	100	9	-	18	100	10	-	21	100	2	-	5	100	9	-	16	100	8	-	15	100

Source: (Field Work 2013)

Data on table 17.1 shows that female respondents in AIT Kaduna (100%) Capital TV Kaduna (56%) and NTA Kaduna (38%) are of the opinion that their television stations should subscribe and use materials from blogs and citizen journalists.

Male respondents from the four television stations also agree with their female counterparts on the issue. Thus, Capital TV Kaduna 52%; AIT Kaduna 50%; NTA Kaduna 44% and DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 40%.

Some female respondents disagree with the idea that their television stations should use materials from blogs and citizen journalists. These are NTA Kaduna 38% disagree and 25% undecided; Capital TV Kaduna 22% disagree and 22% undecided; DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna 10% disagree and 50% undecided.

Similarly, male respondents also show resentment pertaining to their television station's use of blogs and citizen journalism materials. These are NTA Kaduna 33.3% disagree and 22% undecided; Capital TV Kaduna 33.3% disagree and 14% undecided; AIT Kaduna 13% disagree and 37% undecided; DITV Alheri Radio Kaduna 10% disagree and 50% undecided.

Table 18: Respondents' views on Nigerian Television Station's policies regarding the use of blogs and citizen journalism materials in their news content.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Existing broadcast laws do not allow the use of such materials by the stations	8	1	8	12
Refusal to use such materials is a matter of managerial policy and editorial decision	15	2	30	22
Editorial staff are not just comfortable with the use of such materials because of ethical and legal implications	21	3	63	30
All of the above	25	4	100	36
Total	69	-	Efx = 201	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 18 reveal that 36% of the respondents listed a number of reasons why they felt constrain their television stations from using blogs and citizen journalism materials in their new bulletin. These include existing broadcast laws, managerial policy and editorial decision, as well as fear of ethical and legal violations. 30% of the respondents said editorial staff are not just comfortable with the use of such materials mainly because of ethical and legal implications; 22% others said refusal to use the materials was strictly informed by managerial policy and editorial decision while remaining 12% contend that the existing broadcast laws forbid the use of such materials by television stations.

Table 19: Respondents views on the statement that best describe blogs and citizen journalism materials.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Blogs and citizens journalists' online news post are a blessing	12	1	12	17
Blogs and citizens journalists online news posts are a curse	2	2	4	3
Blogs and citizens journalists online news posts are combination of good and evil	55	3	165	80
Total	69	-	Efx = 181	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data on table 19 reveal that 80% of the respondents believe that blogs and citizens journalism materials are combination of good and evil. 17% other respondents said blogs and citizens journalism materials are a curse.

Table 20: Respondents’ views on the need to make laws to guide the operations of blogs and protect the public from abuse by it.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Agree	62	1	62	90
Disagree	3	2	6	4
Undecided	4	3	12	6
Total	69	-	Efx = 80	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 20 show that 90% of the respondents support the enactment of laws to guide the operations of blogs. 6% of the respondents are undecided regarding the promulgation of such laws, while 4% of the respondents disagree with any move to regulate the operations of blogs.

Table 21: Respondents’ views on whether they are aware of the existence of a bloggers’ forum set up to fashion out code of ethics for the practitioners.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Yes	7	1	7	10
No	53	2	106	77
Undecided	9	3	27	13
Total	69	-	Efx = 335	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 21 show that 77% of the respondents said they are not aware of the existence of bloggers’ forum saddled with such responsibility; 13% others were undecided while the remaining 10% of the respondents said they are aware of the existence of such forum.

Table 22: Respondents views on the channels/news outlets they get most of their news from.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Newspaper	8	1	8	12
Magazine	-	2	0	-
Radio	3	3	9	4
Television	9	4	36	13
Online version of traditional media	4	5	20	6
Blog/citizens journalist online news post	3	6	18	4
All of the above	42	7	294	61
Total	69	-	Efx = 385	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 22 reveal that 61% of the respondents have wide range of news sources which include newspapers, magazine radio, television, online version of traditional media, blog/citizen journalism materials; 13% said they get most of their news from other television stations, 12% get if from newspapers, 4% others get it from radio station as well as from the blogs and citizens journalism materials respectively.

Table 23: Respondents views on whether they have ever used their internet enabled mobile phone to record any news event as it unfolded.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Yes	39	1	39	57
No	30	2	60	43
Total	69	-	Efx = 99	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 23 show that 57% of the respondents said they had used their internet enabled mobile phones to record news events as they unfolded while 43% of the respondents said they had never done so.

Table 24: Respondents views on whether they have ever fed the recorded material to the website of any major broadcast station or weblog.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Yes	15	1	15	22
No	54	2	108	78
Total	69	-	Efx = 123	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 24 reveal that respondents who said they have never sent news worthy materials that they recorded on the mobile phone to the website of a broadcast station or weblog are 78%, while those who said they had sent are 22%.

Table 25: Respondents views on whether they subscribe to online news services of major broadcast stations or print publications.

Variable	F	X	FX	%
Yes	40	1	40	58
No	29	2	58	42
Total	69	-	Efx = 98	100%

Source: (Field work 2013)

Data in table 19 reveal that 58% of the respondents said they do subscribe to the online news services of major broadcast stations or print publications, while 42% others however said they do not.

4.3 INTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH NEWS MANAGERS OF KADUNA BASED TELEVISION STATIONS

As part of the exploratory study on the use of blogs and citizen journalism materials as news sources by Kaduna based television stations, interviews were conducted with news managers of the four television stations.

The news managers interviewed are as follow: the Assistant Director, News, Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Kaduna Network Centre, Malam Danjuma Ladan; The Director News and Current Affairs, who also acts as the Executive Director, Television Services of Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) Malam Akilu Abubakar Atiku; the controller News, DITV/Alheri Radio, Malam Shuaibu Gimi, and the Head of News, Africa Independent Television (AIT) Kaduna, Centre Malam Bala Sa'ad Nasiru.

All the stations' news managers have expressed mixed feelings about the emerging trend of using materials generated by blog sites and citizen journalism materials by major international television stations.

The Assistant Director News (ADN), NTA Kaduna Network Centre, Malam Danjuma Ladan said although blogs and citizen media contribute in the dissemination of information on a wider scale, the credibility of such news sources calls for serious concern. Be that as it may, however, he noted that blogs and citizen media might “prove to be useful in some exceptional

circumstances”, for example in areas that are not accessible to news reporters. He stressed that “denying people access to information is not the best practice”.

Malam Danjuma Ladan observed that media organizations in Nigeria both government and privately owned, are facing some constraint in terms of manpower, logistics and funding. He said these are the challenges that would make the stations to begin to adopt the use of citizen media.

Technology makes this trend irreversible, according to the director, when people witness news first hand and document history in the making using gadgets at their disposal. He recalled how the terror attack on the World Trade Centre in New York was captured live on camera and posted on the net and within few minutes people all over the world came to terms with the horrific scenes.

He also cited the incident of DANA plane crash in Lagos a situation whereby the mainstream media had to rely heavily on images supplied by people who had witnessed the incident and documented it on their mobile phones.

The Director News and Current Affairs, Kaduna State Television, Malam Akilu Abubakar Atiku observed that the internet revolution has propelled the process of information gathering and dissemination to a new level. He said all the relevant stakeholders in the information business should explore the opportunities offered by information and communication technology infrastructure to improve on the quality of their work.

The director said tapping news materials from the resources offered by blogs and citizen media “would make the media practitioners to fulfil one of the cardinal objectives of reporting the world” to their target audience.

He noted that now there is the absence of a formidable network that would serve as a veritable source of instant information that could serve as a pool to be accessed by media organizations at sub regional level. Similarly, he said, with security challenges on the increase, journalists are becoming prime target of assault and assassination. According to the Director, these and other factors are what drive the passion for the patronage of blog and citizen media content by television stations all over the world.

The Controller News, DITV/Alheri Radio Malam Shuaibu Gimi shared the same sentiment about the potentials of blog materials and citizen media content being used in television news broadcast. He said doing so would “avail media organizations opportunity to access more information than they used to access before”.

The Controller argues that journalists cannot be everywhere and that there are risk associated with the work which may sometimes endanger the lives of reporters. Therefore, he said these new innovations provide them with alternatives.

However, the Head of News Africa Independent Television (AIT) Kaduna Centre, Malam Bala Sa’ad Nasiru disagrees. He said the reason for the use of such materials is not justifiable for the simple fact that “if you cannot swim, you don’t jump into the river”. Explaining further, he said “any serious media organization should possess what it takes, no matter what, to get relevant information that it can disseminate to the general public”.

He said the use of blogs and citizen media poses threat to gate-keeping and he deplored the attitude of some practitioners to do arm chair journalism “by simply contacting one or two sites to put up a story together”. Malam Nasiru cautioned that “journalism is a serious business and not meant for lazy people”.

Citing example of reckless journalistic decision that triggered religious riots in quite a number of cities in the Northern part of Nigeria when Miss World Beauty pageant was to be held in Abuja in 2002, the AIT Head of News noted that most blogs are run by freelancers who do not have a stake in the news business.

He also cited example of a blog site called “Sahara Reporters” which he said carries stories that have the tendency to heighten tension and ignite conflict in Nigeria not minding the diversity of the country.

While acknowledging the enormous challenges facing media organizations in their operating environment, he said AIT, in an effort to broaden its outreach, has opened new stations across the states of the federation and procured state of the art facilities.

The News Managers of all the four television station however, unanimously agree that there is no law which barred broadcast stations especially television from using blogs or citizen journalism materials in the news or programming content.

Malam Danjuma Ladan said neither the NBC code nor NTA operational manual places any restriction on the use of citizen media content. He however, said whether the news material is generated by the station news staff or is sourced from outside, the emphasis is on source authentication. He however, cautioned that “where information is brought by an outsider who has no stake in the production process of news, using it is going to be a problem”.

He also affirmed that “there is no rule that says this is why you are limited to the use of your source of information”. The Director News and Current Affairs, KSTV Malam Akilu Atiku concurred. He said

“just like any other sources of news, you have to subject them (blog and citizen media) to the basic journalism criteria in terms of accuracy, in terms of precision, in terms of all those things that would make you as an editor to let go the stories. So, I see the same judgement coming into play with this kind of issues on the internet”.

Similarly, on the issue of restriction regarding the use of blogs in news content of television stations, he said “I stand to be corrected, but I don’t think there is a law prohibiting the use of these materials that we can get from blogs or the social media, provided that we apply the necessary judgement provided by our professional calling and other ethics and the laws of the land. Because as journalists, we are not operating outside the legal framework... so, as far as they are not going to be in contravention of any of these laws..., I think even in the NBC code, I have not seen a place where we are prevented from using materials from the net”.

Malam Atiku however, observed that live transmission from other sources especially broadcast stations is prohibited by the NBC code. He further stated that it is allowed to source news from other international broadcast stations and adopt it based on house style, as well, as laws and ethics guiding the local stations’ broadcast rule.

Malam Shuaibu Gimi, DITV/Alheri Radio News Controller also said he is not aware of any law which prohibits the use of blog or citizen media in news content of television stations. He said any material sourced whether online or not, must be properly authenticated before it is used. According to him, “they say when you are in doubt, you leave out or when you are in doubt you find out. So you don’t have to use material you are not sure of. I don’t know of any law that says no media organization should use any material it can get from such sources. The only thing is that you should make sure that you are sure of it-the credibility of the source. And also, all the ingredients of news should be there. Once they are there, I think one is safe”.

He further stressed that the management of DITV/Alheri Radio allows the use of blog materials in the station's news bulletin as long as they do not deviate from the ethics of journalism profession and that the credibility of the source and authenticity of the materials can be established. He emphasised that "media people need those blogs to keep them up to date".

The news managers however said despite the immense potentials of the internet as information resource base, it poses serious challenges as well. The Assistant Director, News, NTA Kaduna Network Centre, Malam Danjuma Ladan cautioned editors not to be carried away by the potential of scoop a story might offer. He said even where somebody sent in a story, that person needs to be contacted. "At least if it is sent, you have the sender's telephone number. Call him, interview him, ensure that what he is sending is a true material, then get to people who are within the vicinity", to authenticate the credibility of the information.

Malam Ladan revealed that there was a time when an explosion occurred in Pambegua town in Kubau Local Government area of Kaduna State and some people called him around 2:00am to inform him that it was a bomb blast in a Church in the area. He said what he did was to call another person in the town to verify the authenticity of the information. The Director said luckily, the man he contacted told him that he had personally met the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of the town who confirmed that it was a fire incident. The contact man also said he had talked to the District Head of the area who made similar confirmation.

Malam Danjuma Ladan said the story would have been different if he had not authenticated the credibility of the source of the information and just rushed to broadcast it. He said it would have compounded the already tense security situation in Kaduna state.

To the Director News and Current Affairs, KSTV, Malam Akilu Atiku, the challenge poses by the internet is not on the use, but on how to block or limit the post of some offensive or indecent materials into the net.

According to him

“as journalists we have no problem sipping out, because especially coming from the news and current affairs department. That is part of our training. We don’t just dish out anything. So my worry is not on how it is going to affect the industry but on how it is going to affect the society as a whole. Because it will mean that the society will be running away from the conventional way of sipping information. And society is gullible-it goes for those kind of things. So the challenge for the industry is how do we contain or restrict people from posting all sort of materials-true or untrue, decent and indecent into this kind of social network”.

Stressing further Malam Akilu Atiku said

“I think that should be the thing of concern to society as a whole, not just journalists. Because it will mean that the conventional way of relating the news will be on the other side or undermined. You know, instead of us to be at the fore front as broadcast stations, it means we will be trailing the rubbish that go into these kind of social networks. So instead of given the news we will be doing the damage control caused by such kind of materials”.

The Director said despite the seeming lapses associated with materials emanating from the social media, their usage by television stations might not portend danger once they are subjected to careful scrutiny. “We need to wait and see the next development or as we say they can serve as first step information to follow up as we build credible stories. So therefore they can serve as very good source of news for us”.

He also said advancement in information and communication technology has transformed the broadcast landscape. He said owing to this development, emphasis now is on on-the-spot reporting as against written reports, because television reporter is expected to have the capacity to analyse issues in the news live on camera from the beat when he is linked to the

studio. By so doing, viewers at home are kept abreast of important developments as they unfold, instead of being kept in the dark for hours until late evening for normal news telecast.

Malam Atiku explained further that all news channels that have adopted this new innovation have competitive advantage over the social networks because the reports they give are more thorough, balanced and credible than the unsubstantiated stories which the social networks often dish out.

“As TV journalists, we have to be ready for this and especially with improvement in technology. I have talked about skype so that at any point in time you (the reporter) can link up to a live studio and then you can file your report. And whoever is in the studio can raise a follow up (question) and then you respond to it”.

Also commenting on the challenges poses by the net, the Controller News and Current Affairs DITV/Alheri Radio, Malam Shuaibu Gimi said, the more those news sources, the better. He said

“although one can also say the dangers are more now because the sources are too many. The kind of stories they put into such things are too many. So it becomes more difficult, more complicated, more complex for people to be able to know whether this is a good source or this is a good material. And also to be able to see how the good aspect of the story, whether it is in line with the interest of your listeners or viewers. We are a radio and television station so whatever material we get from any online source we have to be able to know in which way will that material serve the interest, you know of, our viewers. It is very important too”.

The Assistant Director News, NTA Kaduna Network, Centre, Malam Danjuma Ladan said the advent of blog poses greater challenge to television and the mainstream media now. “Well they are going to make television stations to sit up. Because, I am sorry to say, soon television stations will be out of job. Why? because the fastness of these blogs and citizen media will put them out of market”. (sic)

Shedding more light he said

“now an incident happens in Kaduna. By the time it happened a lot of people had used their handsets. They have taken pictures. They sent the information to somebody in the US, Britain, France or Russia, Sokoto, Calabar, Port Harcourt, Maiduguri-almost everywhere. Then you that are in Kaduna will have to wait until when it is seven o clock or seven thirty (in the evening) when the media here will take it. So you find that if we are not up and doing we will soon go out of business in terms of news”. The Director opined that television should “adopt citizen journalism and be part of the trend but not rely on it”.

The Director opined that television should “adopt citizen journalism and be part of the trend but not rely on it”. He said in Nigeria some print media have taken the lead in this direction.

“Like Daily Trust now it has one column where readers send their pictures which they use. This picture is from our reader “so so in so so place”. By doing this they have enhance their coverage. So equally if the broadcast media will also adopt with caution, I think it will enhance the immediacy of news; it will enhance the timeliness, and it will also enhance the indepthness of news. But as I have said, it has to be used with caution because the world is moving fast. Technology is moving fast. They say time waits for no one. They say if you have to move, you have to move with time”.

4.4 DISCUSSION OF MAJOR FINDINGS

Below are the major findings which constitute the outcome of the research work.

4.4.1 **RQ1: Do television journalists consider blog and citizen journalism materials credible enough to be used in their news bulletin?**

Data on table 13 revealed that 67% of the respondent adjudged blogs and citizen journalism news materials to be biased as against 33% other respondents who said they are balanced, objective and accurate.

Similarly in table 14 64% of the respondents deemed blogs and citizen journalism news materials as not credible as against 36% others that said they are credible. The assessment is informed by the perception that blogs are run mostly by people who are not trained

journalists, as a result, some flaws are noticeable in the way they source for and package their news stories.

4.4.2 RQ2: What potentials do blogs and citizen journalism have as usable materials in news bulletin of Kaduna based television stations?

Table 15 shows that 84% of the respondents agree that blogs and citizen journalism provide alternative to the dominance of the mainstream media, news wise. Similarly, table 10 shows that 91% of the respondents agree that blogs and citizen journalism compliment the mainstream media in providing latest news to the public. This shows that blogs and citizens journalism are useful despite the perceived shortcomings they might have. This is consistent with the findings of Thurson (2008), Messner and Distabo (2008). The news managers interviewed also argued that journalists cannot be everywhere to witness news unfold and that turbulent places might be too dangerous for journalists to thread. They equally contend that blogs and citizen journalists can give fresh angle or perspective for news that can be taken to do credible stories by the mainstream media.

They however, said television stations wishing to use materials from blogs or citizen journalism must exercise some discretion on the advantages or disadvantages the material might have to the society. This is in line with the findings of Castells (2007), Allan (2007) and Moretzsohn (2006) in related studies.

4.4.3 RQ3: Do the management of Kaduna based television stations allow the use of blogs and citizen journalism related materials as news sources?

Table 18 shows that although blogs and citizen journalism materials are not being used in the news bulletins of Nigerian television stations, the non-use is not caused by restriction arising from existing broadcast laws or the operational manuals of the television stations. Rather, it

is caused by the fact that editorial staffs are not just comfortable to use the materials because of concern for ethical and legal violations, 30%, as well as a matter of managerial policy and editorial decision 22%. This is in line with the findings of Hermida and Thurman (2007), Domingo (2007), Ornebring (2007).

However, from the responses of the three of the four television stations' News Managers interviewed, it may not be long before Nigerian television stations would begin to adopt the use of materials from blog sites and citizen media in their news content. This is so because it may be inevitable in the long run because of the exigency to cover breaking news with relevant video footages. This is also consistent with the finding of Singer (1997), as well as, William and Carpini (2004).

Again data on table 8 shows that only 2% of the respondents have free access to internet broad band service and 10% have computer equipped with internet modem shows that Kaduna based television journalist lack some basic equipment needed to meet the daunting challenges of their work. This is in line with the findings of Schfrin (2011) which states there is lack of equipment and it was common to visit newsroom (in Africa) and find there are no enough computers to go around. Journalists lack laptops, digital tape recorders, are unable to make long distance phone calls.

The study also discovered that most of the respondents (57%) said they had used their mobile phones to record news worthy events as they unfolded. They said some of the materials had been used for local news telecast or programme. Others could not be used because of ethical or security considerations but were kept in the archive for reference purpose. A few of the respondents (22%) also admitted that they had posted the recorded materials to the websites of some major news organizations for various reasons. The reasons given include they wanted

to share their experiences with other people or because the media organizations had requested for the materials and they obliged. Therefore, this is an indication that with the right communication gadgets in their possession, even professional journalists are not left out in sharing news worthy pictures and information with other people other than the organizations they work for, but they do so with caution.

Another significant finding is that majority of the respondents (65%) have proficiency in using computer as they can perform quite a number of complex tasks and use some operating software relating to their work.

However, despite the proficiency of the respondents in using the computer, their access to the internet is quite limited since 32% of them had admitted to have accessed the net mainly through their internet enabled mobile phones. Only 10% of the respondents use computers equipped with internet modem and only 2% have free access to internet broad band service. This is a major drawback to television journalists who are supposed to be up to date not just on events happening within their operating environment but also around the globe.

Moreover, 49% of the respondents spent three hours and above surfing the internet daily which made them heavy users. As a result, 65% of the respondents admitted that they felt a sense of addiction toward the net. Reasons given for respondents' sense of addiction toward the internet include keeping them abreast of developments taking place across the globe; provision of companionship to fight loneliness, provision of multiple benefits of serving as source of knowledge, information and socialization.

Other complex tasks the respondents can perform on the computer are non-linear editing, coral draw, use of spread sheet for financial report, adobe photo shop; skype; animation.

The names of computer programmes the respondents can operate are pinnacle, graphics, adobe, premiere 1.5, 2.0, C53, C54 page maker, cool edit.

Reasons put forward by respondents who do not feel addicted to the net, are: busy work schedules which do not provide them opportunity to browse the internet. Another reason is that the respondents claimed that they only visited some selected sites which informed their lack of addiction to the net.

Respondents have different views based on their impression of blogs and citizen journalism news materials. Those who have reservations about the credibility of the materials contend that their sources are often doubtful. They said truth and falsehood are disseminated as information in total disregard to journalism code of ethics and the law guiding the practice of the profession. And where images are used, they contended that they are doctored to serve the interest of the writer. They argued that blogs inform and misinform people.

On the positive side however, the respondents contended that blogs and citizen journalism news materials provide breaking news which even the mainstream media can use.

Respondents who had used their internet enabled mobile phones to record news worthy events as they unfolded said they did so for a number of reasons which include absence of professional video camera to record the video footages at the time. Therefore, their mobile phones came handy and mostly the materials were used for local news broadcast or programmes. Others said sometimes the recorded materials might prove to be interesting and news worthy yet they could not be used for broadcast because of ethical or legal consideration but were kept in the archive. One incident was cited, i.e, the harassment and extra judicial

killings of people perceived to be innocent citizens by security operatives in Mubi Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

Respondents who said they have never used their mobile phones to record any news worthy event as it unfolded advanced various reasons for not doing so. These include the perception that it is unprofessional to do so due to low quality audio and video output. Others said they could not record the unfolding news event because their phones did not have recording facility at the time. Yet, others argued that they did not record via their mobile phones simply because they were not interested.

Respondents who admitted to have sent the news feeds to some stations and media outfits advanced the following reasons for their actions: that foreign broadcast stations requested for the materials; private Nigerian media outfits also sought for the materials. Others said they wanted to share the experience offered by the video footages with other people, while some said they wanted to make money out of it.

Respondents who did not send the recorded video footages of news worthy events in their possession gave the following reasons for their inaction: they said doing so is fraught with risk, therefore the materials were not posted online for security reason. Others said the file used for the footages were too heavy and they do not know how to reduce the size of the files. Some said they do not want to cause chaos in the society. Others said the risk of legal litigation associated with the materials discourage them from sending the news feeds online. Some said they have their stations to report for, and for that reason they felt that there is no justification to send the materials elsewhere.

The online news services subscribed to by the respondents are many both national and international ones. The national ones are Daily Trust, Vanguard, Leadership, the Sun Newspapers, Punch, The Nation Thisday, Guardian, Naija News, Aminiya, Almizan. The international online news services they subscribe are BBC news, Aljazeera, Sahara Reporters, Press TV, VOA Hausa, BBC Hausa.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The work is summarized to give an overview of the scope and dimension of the work.

5.2 SUMMARY

The work is titled “An Exploratory Study on the use of blogs and citizen journalism materials as news sources by Kaduna based Television stations. The study is informed by advancement in information and communication technology infrastructure which removed the barriers of time and space and facilitate the integration of people in distant places into the phenomenal global village.

The first chapter dwells on the evolution of blogs or online news letters, which at inception, was viewed with much skepticism by professionals but is gradually transforming itself into a formidable tool of information dissemination. However, the blogs have earned reputation for notoriety. Despite this seeming professional lapses, blogs have the capacity to transmit information ‘in real time’ which transcends national boundaries and official restrictions in societies that are not so open. Added to this, the development of Smartphone equipped with internet facilities has empowered people to record news worthy events taking place within their vicinity and post them on the net to be accessed by people around the globe with the click of a mouse.

The problem statement emanates from the fact that blogs and citizen journalists have emerged from obscurity to challenge the dominance of the mainstream media using alternative platforms. Most of the blog operators lack the requisite professional journalistic skills but have been turned into potential mass communicators with the capacity to reach many people

in different parts of the world. All that is required is camera equipped mobile phone, computer and high speed internet access. Knowledge gap exist in the study area because it is a relatively new phenomenon and not much has been done substantially to justify the merits and demerits of blogs and citizen journalism especially in relations to the use of the materials they provide by television stations.

The research is significant because it is a relatively new area and the findings will bridge the existing knowledge gap by providing literature materials that would stimulate further research in the area. Three research questions and objectives were formulated to facilitate the study.

Chapter two of the project is strictly a review of literature materials related to the research topic. Scholarly works of authors whose works were consulted were clearly cited and duly acknowledged. The materials used were from text books, journals, magazines and websites.

Chapter three specified the research methodology used for the study which is triangulation (i.e qualitative and quantitative techniques). This was informed by the nature of the research problem at hand. It required that in-depth interview be conducted with news managers of the four television stations that formed the case study for the research on matters of editorial policies as they relate to the use of blogs and citizens journalism materials in their news bulletins. Beside, open and close ended questionnaire was administered on the respondents to elicit unrestricted desired responses vital to the study. Responses from the open ended questions were carefully coded and interpreted appropriately.

No sampling technique was used because the population of the study was limited to newsroom staff of the four television stations which is quite small. The reason for this restriction was the technicality of the questions and the uniqueness of responses being

elicited. As a result, the totality of the respondents featured in the study represents the entire staff of News and Current Affairs departments of the four respective stations based in Kaduna.

Their number was arrived at from information obtained from their respective administrative departments. There was high return rate of the questionnaire administered on the respondents which was informed by the use of four research assistants who incidentally were staff of each of the four television stations.

The major finding of the study is that professional television journalists consider Blogs and citizen journalists as biased because they are not balanced, objective, accurate and fair in their news reportage.

Despite this seeming lapses however the study discovered that the social media (including blogs and citizen journalism constitute important source of breaking news that provide alternative to the dominance of the mainstream media or at least compliment it. It was discovered that journalists cannot be everywhere to witness news unfold and that in a world marked by turbulent crises, journalists are prime target of killers and dictators who are hell bent on suppressing information they considered unfavourable.

Another major finding is that refusal by Kaduna based Television Stations to use blogs or citizen journalism materials in their news is informed by managerial policy and editorial decision. Neither the NBC code nor the operational manuals of the television stations places any restriction on the use of such materials in news bulletin.

Another finding is that the social media give the television stations' clue over on unfolding news event to make a follow up and do credible news story on the subject. (Akilu Atiku, DNCA Capital TV Kaduna).

The study also discovered that more than half of the respondents have used their mobile phones to record news worthy events as they unfolded. Some of the recorded materials had been used for local news telecast or programme. Others could not be used because of ethical and security considerations but were kept in the archive for reference purpose. Few of the respondents who admitted to have posted the recorded materials to the websites of major news organizations other than their own said they did so because they wanted to share their experiences with others.

Another finding of the study is that Kaduna based television journalists have little access to internet facilities despite the challenges of their work which require the use of state of the art telecommunication facilities.

5.3 CONCLUSION

The study concludes that blogs and citizen journalism have evolved to become important sources of news in an information age especially in areas where freedom of information is hampered. Blogs and citizen journalism have empowerment people with information dissemination tools capable of challenging the dominance of the mainstream media. Although they have some inadequacies, their importance cannot be ignored.

5.4 CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE

Studies have been carried out on the usefulness of blogs and citizens journalism but there is no such study on the use of Blog and citizen journalism material as sources of news

by Kaduna based television stations. Finding from this study has shown that television stations in Nigeria can exercise their discretion to use or not to use materials from blogs and citizens journalism as it is the practice with other major broadcast stations around the world. There is no restriction from the NBC code or operational manual of the four television stations based in Kaduna which could have prevented them from using such materials.

Another finding is that materials from blogs and citizen journalists regarding an unfolding news event can give television stations clue they could use to do credible reports that would be beneficial to their target audiences.

(Interview with the News Managers of the Television Stations)

These are contributions to knowledge.

5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made based on findings from the study;

- ✚ According to the Television News Managers interviewed (ADN NTA Kaduna, & Controller News DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna) trained journalists must feel challenged not to leave blogging exclusively to amateurs. It is high time professional journalists begin to explore this vast area not only to instil sanity in the way blogging is being practiced, but lead the train in that direction.
- ✚ Since neither the NBC code nor the operational manual of television stations in Nigeria places restriction on their use of blogs or citizen journalism materials, the stations should strive to identify blog sites with track record of credibility and dependability and begin to patronize news worthy materials from the blogs deemed beneficial to their target audiences. (ADN NTA Kaduna, & Controller News DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna)

- ✚ ADN NTA Kaduna, & Controller News DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna said television stations should borrow a leaf from the BBC user generated content hub by opening similar websites with the aim of exploring materials being provided by citizen journalists for use in their news telecasts. This kind of material will prove invaluable in enriching news content from especially areas not accessible to newsmen. However, a criteria should be set to judge the authenticity, accuracy and lack of subjectivity of the materials similar to the standard set by the BBC's UGC hub.
- ✚ ADN NTA Kaduna, Head of News AIT Kaduna & Controller News DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna advised that television stations should strive to provide breaking news, as well as news updates with commentaries and analysis on things happening within their area of coverage. Doing so will enhance their competitiveness in a market already saturated with news outlets of different types.
- ✚ Digitization of broadcast brings with it some advantages including ability to transmit in multiple channels using a single frequency or metre band. Television stations should explore the opportunity by dedicating one of the channels to all news broadcasts. According to ADN NTA Kaduna, Head of News AIT Kaduna & Controller News DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna, this would avail Nigerian television stations the opportunity to compete favourably in providing news and information regularly to the target audiences.
- ✚ Proprietors of television stations should expedite action to convert their stations to the digital platform. This would go a long way to improve the quality of transmission and reception of their signals. (ADN NTA Kaduna, DNCA Capital TV Kaduna, Head of News AIT Kaduna & Controller News DITV/Alheri Radio Kaduna).

Based on data on table 8, respondents are of the view that proprietors and management of television stations should provide internet access and facilities for use by television journalists. This will go along way not only to keep them abreast of developments taking place in different parts of the world but enable them to update their skills and knowledge by having access to the latest operating software, research journals and search engines. In addition to the above, television journalists should be adequately equipped with modern technological equipment to improve their job performance and proficiency in operating the computer.

5.6 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

In line with the principle of promoting research initiatives in different field of academics, the following areas related to study are recommended for further research. To know;

1. how tertiary institutions perceive blogs as sources of news.
2. the operational challenges and prospects of blog based journalism from the perspective of bloggers.
3. how audience perceive user generated content of some selected broadcast stations' news coverage.

REFERENCES

- Abbot, E. A. and Brassfield, L. T. (1989). Comparing Decisions on Releases by TV and Newspaper Gatekeepers. Journalism Quarterly 66, 853-856.
- Aina, S. (2003). Anatomy of Communications Abeokuta, Julian Publication 69-75
- Allan S. Citizen Journalism and the Rise of Mass Self Communication": Reporting the London Bombings. Global Media Journal Australian edition Issue 1, Volume 1, 2007.
- Allan, S. (2005). *Journalism: Critical Issues*. Berkshire England, Open University Press, pp. 1-15.
- Ajzen, I. And Fishbein, M. (1980). Understanding Attitudes and Predicting Social behaviour, Boston Prentice Hall Viewed 4 August 2004.
- Alterman, E. (2005) Pundit Limbo: How low can they go? The Nation, P10.
- Arrant, M. D. & Anderson, J. Q. (2001). Newspaper Online editors support traditional standards. Newspaper Research Journal, 22 (4), 57-69.
- Asemah, E. S., Gujbawu, M., Ekharefo, D. O. And Okpanachi, R. A. (2012). Research Methods and Procedures in Mass Communication, Jos, Great Future Press pp. 245-257.
- Babbie, E. (2005). The Basics of Social Research. Thomson/Wadsworth, Belmont CA, p. 251-289.
- BBC Focus on Africa, April – June, 2011, Vol. 22, No. 2.
- Banda, F. (2010). Citizen Journalism & Democracy in Africa, Grahamstown, South Africa: Highway Africa.
- Baran, S. J. (2010). Introduction to Mass Communication: Media Literacy & Culture. 6th edition, Boston, McGraw Hill International Edition, pp. 225-259, 276-443.
- Baran, S. J. and Davis, D.K. (2000). Mass Communication Theory: Foundations, Ferment, and Future. 2nd edition, Australia, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, pp. 89-197.
- Berkowitz, D. (1993). Refining the Gatekeeping Metaphor for Local Television News. Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media 34 (1), 55-68.
- Boczkowski, P. J. (2004a). The Process of Adopting Multimedia and Interactivity in three Online Newsrooms, Journal of Communication, 54(2): 197-213.
- Boczkowski, P. J. (2004b). Digitizing the News: Innovation in Online Newspapers, Cambridge, MA; MIT Press.

- Boyd, A. (2001). Broadcast Journalist: Techniques of Radio and Television News 5th Edition, Boston, Elsevier Focal Press.
- Branston, G. and Stafford, R. (2006). The Media Student's Book. 4th edition, Rutledge, London, pp. 205.
- Cassidy, W. P. (2006). Gate keeping similar for Online, Print Journalists. Newspaper Research Journal, 27 (2), 6-23.
- Carpenter, S. (2010). News Quality Differences in Online Newspaper and Citizen Journalism Sites in Public Journalism 2.0 The promise and Reality of a Citizen Engaged Press Rutledge.
- Creech, K. C. (2003). Electronic Media Law. 4th edition, Boston Focal Press, pp. 278-305, 313.
- Dare, S. And Michaelmas, H. (2010). The Rise of Citizen Journalism in Nigeria. A Case Study of Sahara Reporters, Reuters Institute Fellowship paper, Oxford University.
- DAAR Communications Plc – Internal Control Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Davis F. D. (1989). Perceived Usefulness, Perceived ease of use and user acceptance of information technology', MIS Quarterly, Vol. No. 3 pp. 319-40, Viewed 5 June 2004.
- Davis, F. D., Bagozzi, R. P & Warshaw, P. R. (1989). User acceptance of Computer Technology: a Comparison of two Theoretical Models', Management Science, Vol. 35, No. 8, pp. 982-1003, Viewed 7 June 2004.
- DITV Programme Schedule for 3rd and 4th Quarters, 1996.
- Domingo, D. (2006). Material and Organizational Constraints in the Development of Online Journalism; Conference Proceedings of the COST A 20 Conference the Impact of Internet on the Mass Media in Europe, Delphi, Greece, 26-29 April 2006.
- Domingo, D. (2008). Interactivity in the Daily Routines of Online Newsrooms; Dealing with an Uncomfortable Myth' Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, B: 680-704.
- Domingo, D; Quandt, T; Heinonen, A; Paulussen, S; Singer, J; and Vajnovic, M. (2007). Participatory Journalism Practices in the Media and Beyond: an International Comparative study of Initiatives in Online Newspapers, Paper Presented at the Future of Newspapers Conference, Cardiff, UK, 12-13 September 2007.
- Dominick, J.R. (1996). The Dynamics of Mass Communication. 6th edition, Boston, McGraw Hill.
- Dominick, J.R. (2009). The Dynamics of Mass Communication. 10th edition, Boston, McGraw Hill Higher Education, pp. 90-2, 94.

- Dominick, J.R. Messer, F. & Sherman, B.L. (2004). Broadcasting, Cable, the Internet and Beyond: An Introduction to Modern Electronic Media. Boston, McGraw Hill Higher Education, pp. 307.
- Dumenco, S. (2006, January 16). Oh please, a blogger is just a writer with a cooler name, Advertising Age p. 18.
- Dumenco, S. (2008, January 28). The written word? Its so totally over, according to Mr. ipod. Advertising Age p. 20.
- Folarin, B.A. (1999). Survey Research Methods. Lagos, Ideal Press.
- Franklin, B. & Mensing, D. (eds 2011). Journalism Education, Training and Employment, New York Rutledge Downloaded 23rd September, 2013.
- General Profile: Kaduna State Radio, Kaduna State Television (Pamphlet).
- Gillmor, D. (2004). We the Media, Grassroots Journalism by the people, Sebastopol; O'Reilly
- Guidlines for the Preparation and Writing of Project Reports, Theses and Dissertations (2012) School of Post Graduate Studies Abu Zaria-Nigeria.
- Hermida, A. (2008). 'How the MSM is Tackling Participatory Journalism', Reportr.net, Blog Post from 24 May 2008, Available at <http://reportr.net/2008/05/24/how-the-msm-is-tackling-participatory-journalism> (accessed 25 May 2008).
- Hermida, A. and Thurman, N. (2007). 'Comments Please; How the British News Media is Struggling with User Generated Content Paper Presented at the 8th International Symposium on Online Journalism, Austin USA, 30-31 March 2007, Available at <http://online-journalism.utexas.edu/2007/papers/Hermida.pdf> (accessed 30 May 2007).
- Itule, B.D. and Anderson, D.A. (2008). News Writing & Reporting for Today's Media 7th edition, Boston, McGraw Hill International Edition, pp. 129-144.
- Jamieson, K.H. and Campbell, K.K. (2001). News, Advertising, Politics and the Mass Media: The Interplay of Influence. 5th edition, Belmont C.A., Wadsworth Thomson Learning, pp. 40-52.
- Kripanont, M. (2007). Examining a Technology Acceptance Model of Internet Usage by Academics within Thai Business Schools (Phd Thesis) Melbourne.
- Loosen, W. and Schmidt, J. (2012). Three Tensions Shaping Creative Industries in a Digitized and Participatory Media Era in Westland O (ed) Information, Communication and Society, Special Issue, Vol. 15 No. 6.
- Malemi, E. (2009). Mass Media Law. 3rd ed., Ikeja, Lagos. Princeton Publishing Co.

- McQuail, D. (2005). McQuails Mass Communication Theory 5th edition, London, Sage Publications p446-447.
- Meeske, M.D. (2006). Copywriting for the Electronic Media: A Practical Guide.5th edition, Belmont CA, Thomson/Wadsworth, pp. 271-276.
- Mencher, M. (1996).Basic Media Writing.5th edition, Chicago, Brown & Benchmark Publishers, pp. 30-126.
- Mgbejume, O. (2008). Television-Video Production. Jos: Motion Picture Academy, pp. 47-71.
- Moemeka, A.A. (2007). Is the Medium the Message or the Massage? A Critique, not of theory, but of interpretation.(Continuing struggle against intellectual colonialism). Being a keynote speech delivered at National Conference of the ACCE held in ABU Zaria, Nigeria 4 – 9 September, 2007.
- Moyo, D. (2009). Citizen Journalism and the Parallel Market of Information in Zimbabwe's 2008 Election: Journalism Studies 10 (4): 551-567.
- Mutsvairo, B. Columbus, S. Leijendekker I African Citizen Journalists Ethics and the Emerging Networked Public Sphere, Amsterdam University College P. O Box 94160, 1090 GO Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Moretzsohn S. Citizen Journalism and the Myth of Redemptive Technology Brazilian Journalism Research Volume no. 2 Semester 2 2006.
- Nip, J. Y. M. (2010). Routinization of Charism-The Institutionalisation of Public Journalism Online in Public Journalism 2.0 The Promise and Reality of a Citizen Engaged PressRutledge P. 135.
- Nwanze, I. (2003). Broadcasting in Nigeria: Private Broadcasting, Prospects, Challenges, Legal Aspects. Port-Harcourt, Renaissance Communications Ltd., pp. 1-15.
- Oteki, C. De Bastion G, Shitz R & Bierhals, G. (2010). From the Birds Eye to the Grassroots view. Working Paper, New Thinking Communication.
- Ornebring, H. (2007). The Consumer as Producer of what? User-generated tabloid content in the Sun (UK) and Aftonbladet (Sweden), paper presented at the Future of Newspapers conference, Cardiff, UK, 12-13 September 2007.
- pandey, A. R., Srivastava, A. and Shukla, P. (2013). A Content Analysis of Journalists' Blogs with Special Reference to Driving Forces for Blog Writing WJMCR (43) January.
- Paulussen, S. and Ugille, P. (2008). User generated Content in the Newsrooms: Professional and Organizational Constraints on Participatory Journalism in Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture (University of Westminster, London) Vol. 5. (2): 24-41.

- Paulussen, S. (2004). Online News Production in Flanders. How Flemish Online Journalists Perceive and Explore the Internet's Potential' *Journal of Computer Mediated Communication*, 9 (4), available <http://jcmc.indiana.edu/vol9/issues4/paulussen.html> (accessed 30 April 2008).
- Pember, D.R. (2003/2004). *Mass Media Law*. Boston, McGraw Hill, pp. 342-343.
- Rodman, G. (2006). *Mass Media in a Changing World: History, Industry, Controversy*. New York, McGraw Hill. P 70-72 Pp. 311, 345, 495.
- Schffrin, A. (2011). The Limits to Foreign Funded Journalism in Africa in Franklin B and Mensing (eds) *Journalism, Education, Training & Employment*, New York, Routledge.
- Seipp 2002 May, *The blogging revolution*. *Wired* pp. 43-44.
- Shoemaker, P. J. & Reese, S. D. (1996). *Mediating the Message: Theories of Influences on Mass Media Content* (2nd ed.) White Plains, N Y Longman.
- Shoemaker, P. J., Vos T. P. And Reese S. D. (2009) *Journalist as Gatekeepers in Wahl-Jorgensen K. and Hanitzsch, T. (ed.) the handbook of Journalism Studies*, New York, Routledge.
- Singer, J. B. (1997). Still guarding the gate? The newspaper journalist's role in an online World. *Convergence: The Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*, 3 (1), 72-89.
- Singer, J. B. (1998). Online journalists: foundations for research into their changing roles. *Journal of computer mediated communication* 4 (1). Retrieved July 28, 2008, from <http://www.jcmc.indiana.edu/co/4/issue1/singer/html>
- Singer, J. B. (2001). The Metro Web: Changes in Newspapers Gatekeeping Role Online; *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, 78(1), 68-81.
- Singer, J. B. (2005). The Political j-blogger : "Normalizing" a new media form to fit old norms and practices. *Journalism*, 6 (2), 173-198.
- Sobowale, I. (1983). *Scientific Journalism*. Ikeja, John West Publications Ltd., pp. 25-48.
- Straub, E. T. (2009). Understanding Technology Adoption: Theory Future Directions for Informal Learning, *Review of Educational Research* June vol. 79 No. 2 pp625-649
Dol: 103102/003465308325896 AERA <http://rer.aera.net> accessed 10/2/2011
- Thussu, D. K. (2000) *International Communication: Continuity and Change*, London, Arnold pp. 73-75.
- Wahl-Jorgensen K. And Hanitzsch, T. (ed.) (2009). *The Handbook of Journalism Studies*, New York, Routledge. File 63400594129473750 pdf.

Walton, M. (2011). Mobilizing African Publics, Information Technologies & International Development 7 (2): 47-50.

Williams, A. (2006). The Blogger as Nemesis at a Launching of www.saharareporters.com at the offices of New York Foundation, Empire State Building, New York City on Saturday 18, 2006.

Williams, B. A. and Carpini, M. D. (2004). Monica and Bill all the time and everywhere: The Collapse of gatekeeping and agenda setting in the new media environment. American Behavioural Scientist, 47 (9), 1208-1230.

Wimmer, R.D. and Dominick, J.R. (2003). Mass Media Research: An Introduction. 7th ed., Belmont, Wadsworth/Thomson, pp. 127-129.

Zukerman, E. (2009). Citizen Media and the Kenyan Electoral Crisis in Allan S. & Thorsen E (eds), Citizen Journalism: Global Perspectives New York, Peter Lang.

Magazines

Time International News Magazine, December 20, 2010, Vol. 176, No. 25, pp. 9, 14.

Time International News Magazine, March 21, 2011. Vol. 177, No. 11, pp. 18-27.

Time International News Magazine, July 18, 2011, Vol. 178, No. 3; pp. 8.

Time International News Magazine, June 13, 2011, Vol. 177, No. 24, pp. 26-29, 33-34, 59.

Time International News Magazine, June 15, 2009, Vol. 173, No. 24, pp. 28-33.

Time International News Magazine, October 8, 2007 Vol. 170, No. 14/ www.time.com., pp. 26-30.

Time International News Magazine, October 18, 2011, Vol. 176, N. 16, pp. 26-29.

Time International News Magazine, Special Report: Target London, July 18, 2005 Vol. 166 No. 2 www.timeeurope.com AOL Keyword: TIME, pp. 14-30.

Time Person of the Year – You December 25, 2006/January 1, 2007 Vol. 168, No. 27/28, pp. 26-53.

Time Special Report: Facebook... and how it is redefining privacy. May 31, 2010, Vol. 175 No. 21, pp. 18-24.

Time Special Report: Tsunami, December 26, 2004, January 10, 2005 Vol. 165 No. 2, pp. 10-33.

Adebayo, I. "How we Use Social Media to Source Stories, by Nigerian Journalist." An Article, Sunday Trust, September 9, 2012, Vol. 7, No. 11.

Website

BBC User Generated Content in Editorial Policy Newsletter no 2
<http://www.bbc.uk/guideline/newsletter>. November @

BBC "Your news, your pictures" <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/taking-point/2780295.stm>+your-
pics. October 13, 2006

www.bbc.co.uk/mobile access 4th June, 2013

Newsweek July 18, 2011, Vol. CLVIII, No. 3. (pp. 6-8).

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

The researcher is a student of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria conducting a study on An Exploration of the Use of Blogs and Citizen Journalism Materials as Sources of News by Kaduna-Based Television Stations. The research is part of the requirements for the award of M.Sc. Mass Communication. You are therefore required to answer the questions as candidly as possible. Please tick as appropriate from the alternative answers provided, any of the response that reflects your view. And where there are no options to choose from, fill in the blank in your own words. All answers given would be treated as confidential and use strictly for academic purpose.

Yours faithfully,

Aliyu Suleiman

M.Sc/Soc-Sci./19883/2007-2008

P13SSMM8039

SECTION A: Respondent Personal Data

- 1. Sex
 - a. Male []
 - b. Female []
- 2. Age
 - a. 18 – 25 years []
 - b. 26 – 30 years []
 - c. 31 – 35 years []
 - d. 36 – 40 years []
 - e. Above 40 years []
- 3. Educational qualification attained.
 - a. National Diploma/NCE []
 - b. HND/Degree []
 - c. Postgraduate Diploma/M.Sc []
- 4. Which of the following television stations do you work?
 - a. AIT Kaduna []
 - b. Capital TV Kaduna []
 - c. DITV/Alheri Radio []
 - d. NTA Kaduna []
- 5. For how many years have you been working?
 - a. 5 – 10 years []
 - b. 11 – 15 years []
 - c. 16 – 25 years []
 - d. Above 26 years []
- 6. Designation of respondents.
 - a. Reporter []
 - b. News producer []
 - c. News editor []
 - d. News controller []
 - e. News manager []

SECTION B: Computer Appreciation Level of Respondents

- 7. Which of the following task can you perform on computer?
 - (a) Open a file and folder []
 - (b) Use worksheet like MS Word, Excel, Access, & PowerPoint []
 - (c) Send or receive an e-mail []
 - (d) All of the above tasks []
 - (e) None of the above tasks []
- 8. State other complex task you can perform with the computer on your own.

- 9. State the name of computer programme(s) you can operate.

SECTION C: Internet use by respondent

10. Through which of the following do you access the internet?
- (a) Internet café []
 - (b) Free access to internet broadband service []
 - (c) Computer equipped with internet modem []
 - (d) Internet enabled mobile phone []
 - (e) All of the above []
11. How many hours do you spend on the internet?
- a. Less than one hour []
 - b. One to two hours []
 - c. Three hours []
 - d. Above three hours []
12. I feel a sense of addiction towards the internet.
- a. Agree []
 - b. Disagree []
13. If the answer is Agree (6a) what makes you feel that you are getting addicted to the internet?
-
-
14. If the answer is Disagree (6b) what makes you feel that you are not getting addicted to the internet?
-
-
15. What do you use the internet for?
- a. Seek knowledge through search engines []
 - b. Seek information through online versions of newspapers/magazines []
 - c. Seek information through blogs []
 - d. Know what citizen journalists post online as news materials []
 - e. Make contact and friendship through social networking sites []
 - f. All of the above []

SECTION D: Respondent's view on blog and citizen journalism materials online post.

16. Blogs are electronic journals that provide news and information on wide range of issues on the net. Which of the following newsarea do you patronize from blog site(s), if any?
- a. Political news []
 - b. Economic news []
 - c. Social news []
 - d. General news []
 - e. All of the above []
 - f. None of the above []
17. News supplied by blogs and citizen journalists online news post are
- a. Balanced, objective, accurate and fair []
 - b. Biased []
18. Blog and citizen journalists online news are therefore
- a. Credible []

- b. Not credible []
19. Blogs and citizen journalists online news post provide alternative to the dominance of news and information by the mainstream media (newspaper, magazine, radio and television).
- a. Agree []
- b. Disagree []
20. Blogs and citizen journalists online news post compliment the mainstream media in providing latest news to the public.
- a. Agree []
- b. Disagree []
21. I subscribe to the idea of my TV station to use materials from blog sites as well as citizen journalists online news post in its news content.
- a. Agree []
- b. Disagree []
- c. Undecided []
22. Which of the following is correct regarding the use of blog and citizen journalists online news post materials in news content of Nigerian television stations?
- a. Existing broadcast laws do not allow use of such materials by stations []
- b. Refusal to use such materials is a matter of managerial policy and editorial decision []
- c. Editorial staff are not just comfortable with the use of such materials because of ethical and legal implications []
- d. All of the above []
23. Which of the following statements best describe blog and citizen journalists online news post?
- a. Blog and citizen journalists online news post are blessing []
- b. Blog and citizen journalists online news post are curse []
- c. Blog and citizen journalists online news post are combination of good and evil []
24. Justify your reasons based on the option you tick in question 17 above.
-
-
25. There is need to make laws to guide the operations of blogs and protect the public from abuse.
- a. Agree []
- b. Disagree []
- c. Undecided []
26. Are you aware of the existence of a forum formed by Operators of blogs to fashion out code of ethics for practitioners?
- a. Yes []
- b. No []
- c. Undecided []
27. Through which of the following channels/news outlets do you get most of your news from?
- a. Newspaper []
- b. Magazine []
- c. Radio []
- d. Television []

- e. Online version of traditional media []
 - f. Blogs/citizen journalists online news post []
 - g. All of the above []
28. Have you ever used your internet enabled mobile phone to record any newsworthy event as it unfolded?
- a. Yes []
 - b. No []
29. If the answer is Yes (22a) why?
-
-
30. If the answer is No (22b) why?
-
-
31. Have you ever fed the recorded materials to the website of any major broadcast station or weblog?
- a. Yes []
 - b. No []
32. What are your reason(s) for sending the news feeds via your internet enabled mobile phone if the response is Yes (25a)?
-
-
33. What are your reason(s) for not sending the news feeds via your internet enabled mobile phone, if the response is No (25b)?
-
-
34. Do you subscribe to the online news service of a major broadcast station or print newspaper or magazine?
- a. Yes []
 - b. No []
35. If yes, which on line news service do you subscribe via your mobile phone?
-
-
-

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. There is a new trend by television stations to use materials generated from blog and citizen journalists online news post sites in their news content. What is your assessment about this new development?
2. If you observe carefully, you will notice that the use of such blog and citizen journalists online news post materials is informed by one of two factors: either the television stations do not have correspondent on ground to report where the news occurred, or because of security consideration or official restraint they could not have assign their reporter. Do you think the stations have justifiable reason to resort to using this new innovation?
3. As a professional, what is the ethical and legal implication of patronising materials generated from blogs or citizen journalists online news posts by such television stations?
4. Do existing broadcast laws in Nigeria sanction the use of blog and citizen journalists online news post materials in news content of television stations?
5. Does the management of your station approve of the use of blog and citizen journalists online news post materials in news bulletin by your newsroom?
6. What is your candid opinion about the use of blog and citizen journalists online news post materials in news content of television stations?
7. The crave for the latest breaking news is responsible for patronage of blog and citizen journalists online news post materials by especially well-established television stations. On your part, how do you intend to overcome this seeming challenge caused by the use of blog and citizen journalists online news post materials in news content?
8. Do you consider blog and citizen journalists online news post materials credible enough to be used as content of your news bulletin?
9. If you are to be given the option to use blog and citizen journalists online news post materials in your news, would you welcome the idea?
10. If you are to use blog and citizen journalists online news post materials in your news, what criteria would you use to judge the newsworthiness of the content and credibility of the source of information?
11. In your opinion, what kind of impact would blog and citizen journalism have in shaping the future of television news reports?