Mobile and Tablet Media Platforms: Effects on Editors at Print Publications

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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores how the publication of newspaper and magazine content across multiple platforms (print, web, mobile and/or tablet) is impacting editors in terms of time spent on traditional editing tasks, workload, job satisfaction, and whether editors feel this is impacting content quality. Using the framework of labor process theory, this issue is explored through preliminary written interviews followed by semi-structured interviews with various newspaper and magazine editors. This research, a partial replication of Russial’s (1989) dissertation on the effects of pagination on editors, found that the publication of content across multiple platforms is not causing editors to de-skill. Instead of abandoning traditional editing work for automated activities, editors are carrying a heavier editorial load than before, which causes makes editors unable to concentrate on any one task at a time. Regardless of the extra editorial burden, editors, for the most part, remain satisfied with their job and feel that the expansion of content to new digital platforms will ultimately be a boost to the quality of published content.