INTERNET REGULATIONS AND INDEPENDENT NEWS ORGANIZATIONS IN INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH KOREA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Abstract

Independent media in three democracies in the Asia-Pacific – Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea – are experiencing both direct and indirect challenges on the Internet. Before the rise of social media, regulations mainly covered content published on print and broadcast media. This gap made it possible for alternative news sources to thrive online, filling the void left by traditional or state-owned news outlets. But the massive migration online in the last decade saw governments moving to include Internet activity in their regulatory structures. As a result, what used to be a niche for independent media has now become the "new battleground" for freedom of expression. In this article, reporters from Tempo and Portal KBR in Indonesia, Bulatlat and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism in the Philippines and Slow News and Newstapa of the Korea Center for Investigative Journalism in South Korea talk about their experience on ground and nuances in their respective countries. The article also features media experts from the Indonesian Press Council, the Southeast Asian Press Alliance and Freedom House as they analyze the trend from a national and regional perspective.

Chapter One: Introduction

My professional goal, I suppose, has always been clear since I left my hometown to attend college. I took up journalism, did a thesis about investigative journalism and interned at an investigative reporting magazine. My first job was at an investigative TV program and before I left to pursue graduate studies at the Missouri School of Journalism, I worked at an investigative nonprofit.

My resolve in investigative reporting has been constant, but the world around me is changing, and it is changing fast. Technology has presented us with both challenges and opportunities. What I learned in college and from work back then does not seem to be enough to ferret out stories and present them in a way that would make readers care and make an impact. To navigate this (brave new) world of investigative reporting in the digital age, I needed to adapt.

This purpose is reflected in this master's project. The professional component was intended for me to learn about the opportunities opened up by technology to assist and improve reporting. The analysis component, meanwhile, was designed for me to examine the challenges brought about by the same technology in my home country and region where I will practice journalism.

I pursued an internship with the Investigative Reporting Workshop because I wanted to get immersed in an investigation and learn from journalists who share a commitment to investigative reporting. I wanted to witness firsthand the marriage of technology and tradition – how new skills such as data reporting could enhance shoe-leather reporting and vice-versa. I wanted to see how good investigative reporting could shed light on an important issue, uncover irregularities or expose wrongdoing.

In the past four months, I have also been conducting research to complement my experience working at a news organization in the U.S. In this research, I reached out to reporters from independent news organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea to understand how Internet regulations impact their reporting. Understanding the problems faced by independent media has helped me appreciate the more grounded state of press freedom and citizens' right to free expression in each country. In the process, the research also raised new questions on how to find ways to sustain independent journalism in the digital age in more restrictive countries, unlike the U.S.

The two components prepare me for the next chapter of my professional career. In a week after I defend this project, I will be going back to the Philippines which will soon elect its new president. For better or worse, elections bring new hope for Filipinos to face and tackle the same, old problems – poverty and inequality, the sorry state of basic services, patronage in politics, corruption and disasters. I feel confident that I'll be able to do my job better as an investigative reporter, optimistic about possibilities but well aware of constraints.

Chapter Two: Field Notes

What follows is a compilation of my weekly field notes from Jan. 11 to April 21, 2016. These memos document what I have done at my internship and my weekly progress on the analysis component of my project.

Week 1, Jan. 11, 2016

I started doing research for Tennessee Watson's investigation on child sexual abuse. Through a case that she herself filed in Prince William County, VA, Watson hopes to uncover the state of prosecuting child sexual abuse cases in the U.S. She is producing the story for Reveal.

My meeting with Watson, Prof. Lynne Perri and Prof. David Donald guided my assignment for the week. We decided that I could complement Watson's initial research in Prince William County so she can also focus on Vermont while Reveal's Laura Starecheski works on Philadelphia. One goal is to compare and contrast how cases of child sexual abuse are handled in different jurisdictions.

For Prince William County, I need to obtain data on child sexual abuse cases and learn about the system of prosecution there as well as the role played by Children's Advocacy Centers, which is not set up in the county.

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week?

This is a new topic for me. I haven't covered a similar story before, both in Missouri and the Philippines. I needed to review past reports to get myself acquainted with the subject. It's an important yet neglected issue, and I look forward to learning more about the problem and possibly identify what is not working or what might improve in the system. I am also very much eager to learn from everyone in the team.

Where did you do well?

I jumped right into work on my first week. I made calls with the Prince William County Court and police department as well as the Supreme Court of Virginia to learn more about the records we need. I also called the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press to seek advice on obtaining court records.

Watson and I also went to the Prince William County courthouse on Jan. 12 to get her case records. Our visit also gave us an idea of what kinds of records are publicly available.

I also got in touch with the Center for Alexandria's Children and the National Children's Alliance to learn more about the role of Children's Advocacy Centers in handling child sexual abuse cases.

Where could you use help?

Identifying the records to request turned out to be a little tricky. Starecheski and I were both told that we need to know the names of the persons charged to be able to know more about the cases. Problem is we only know of Watson's case and a few reported ones. By obtaining records on child sexual abuse cases for a certain period, we hope to see the big picture and track the life cycle of cases in the county.

Prof. Donald advised that we use crime codes as anchor for our request instead of persons' names, which we do not have. Each crime has a designated number, which is entered in the Virginia Court's case management system. We identified all the possible sex crimes that might be committed against children. We first drew a list from Virginia's crime code and cross-referenced this with actual reported crimes. There's a long list of possible sex offenses against minors so we wanted to make sure that we cover all as

much as possible. I then drafted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that we will file before the Prince William County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. We will try to get data covering a 15-year period, from 2000 to 2015.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I drafted a schedule of tasks that I will do in the next 15 weeks or so.

Week	Tasks
Week 1 (Jan. 11)	Draft calendar of activities.
Week 2 (Jan. 18)	Conduct background research on independent news organizations and journalists who will be interviewed. Draft interview requests.
Week 3 (Jan. 25)	Draft semi-structured interview guides and questionnaires. Send first batch of interview requests (Indonesia). Continue background research.
Week 4 (Feb. 1)	Start conducting interviews. Send second batch of interview requests (Philippines).
Week 5 (Feb. 8)	Conduct interviews. Send third batch of interview requests (South Korea).
Week 6 (Feb. 15)	Conduct interviews. Send last batch of interview requests (monitoring groups). Submit final topic and detailed outline to committee chair.
Week 7 (Feb. 22)	Conduct interviews.
Week 8 (Feb. 29)	Conduct interviews. Start working on first draft.
Week 9 (March 7)	Conduct interviews. Continue working on first draft.
Week 10 (March 14)	Complete first draft.
Week 11 (March 21)	Submit the first draft to chair and, if agreed, to other members of committee.
Week 12 (March 28)	Conduct additional interviews, if needed.

Week 13 (April 4)	Conduct additional interviews, if needed. Work on final report.
Week 14 (April 11)	Finalize and proofread final report.
Week 15 (April 18)	Submit copies of the comprehensive project report to the committee.
Week 16 (April 25)	Conduct oral defense. Submit final version of the project report, including revision.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

I started reviewing the materials that Prof. Cochran shared to prepare for our first seminar on Friday.

Week 2, Jan. 18, 2016

Last week, I continued my research for Tennessee Watson's story. I also started preparing for another assignment. I'll be interviewing Pulitzer Prize winners James B. Steele and John Sullivan. I will also cover the release of the new edition of Roy Harris Jr.'s Pulitzer's Gold at the Newseum on Jan. 30.

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

We only had three working days last week. I had limited time contacting government offices. But we managed to finalize and send the Freedom of Information Act requests to the Prince William County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and the Prince William Police Department.

I hope to learn more about the process involved in prosecuting child sexual abuse cases. Understanding the process will give me leads to key persons who can be interviewed about the subject.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I did background research on the news organizations and reporters I'm planning to get in touch with. I also drafted letters and sent interview requests to journalists in Indonesia, namely: Vivi Zabkie, Wahyu Dhyatmika, Nezar Patria, Citra Prastuti, Heru Margianto and Pepih Nugraha.

I uploaded my research notes and letters in this Google Drive folder, if you'd like to see.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

We met Peter Hart, one of the top analysts of public opinion in the country. By discussing the latest NBC News-Wall Street Journal Poll conducted by Hart's research firm and another Republican firm, I learned some valuable insights on how to read and report election survey results.

Understanding polls boils down to taking into account each and every question asked of the respondents. Hart said reporters may have different interpretations of the results depending on which questions they focus on. In the latest NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll, for instance, one can surmise that Donald Trump is leading the pack but that doesn't necessarily follow that he has the best chance of winning the presidency, as least according to the entire survey. One should pay attention on what is really being measured with each and every question and how they relate with one another.

I realize that polls tell a story too and the narrative may change depending on the size of the sample, method used and timing. When reporting survey results, it's important to keep in mind all the elements that go into collecting the data. A reporter should always

check who sponsored and conducted the survey, the wording of the questions, sampling details, margin of error, and how and when the data were gathered.

Week 3, Jan. 25, 2016

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

Last week was a busy one for me even though we only had two working days due to the blizzard. Juggling different tasks at work while also doing research for the project can be challenging, but I think I am managing them as best I can. I tracked several people for Tennessee Watson's story and also covered an event.

We need legal representation for a motion we need to file to obtain Watson's complete case files. I got good lawyer referrals from the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press, the Virginia Press Association and the Prince William County Bar Association. I hope that one of these options works out.

I also covered the inaugural celebration of the Pulitzer Prize Centennial where I met and interviewed journalists who've won the prize. Their stories about how the recognition impacted their careers were inspiring. I wrote about this, and the report should published on the Workshop blog today.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I interviewed Wahyu Dhyatmika, managing editor of Tempo's Investigative Desk. I am focusing on Indonesia first, and then work on South Korea and the Philippines.

Dhyatmika explained how reporters at Tempo as well as majority of journalists in Indonesia use the Internet in reporting. He said journalists have yet to fully utilize online

tools and resources mainly because of their lack of trust of records put out by government, in addition to lack of training on how to process and analyze data. Reporters tend to prefer obtaining records directly from offices than websites. Internet regulations are a cause for serious concern, but Dhyatmika does not see it as direct threat to Tempo and other news organizations. This is because of the setup in Indonesia wherein the Press Council deals and tries to resolve complaints concerning news reports. This arrangement is one of many reforms instituted after the fall of Suharto in 1998. For instance, a candidate for an elective post sought file a defamation case against Tempo using the Information and Electronic Transactions Law of 2008. The case did not push through because the Press Council found no merit in it. Dhyatmika said news organizations try as much as they can to follow reporting standards and the ethics code. Still, he said the ITE is just one of many other laws that pose threat to the media's, and also the citizens' right to free expression.

Last week, I also sent follow up emails and received responses from Citra Prastuti of Kantor Berita Radio, Ati Nurbaiti of The Jakarta Post and Nezar Patria of the Press Council. I have scheduled an interview with each of them in the next two weeks.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

I had two main takeaways from our readings and seminar last week. I learned about the changes on how the federal government is being covered due the challenges and financial pressures faced by the news media. To earn revenue and survive, some organizations devote resources to produce "verticals" or specialized reports intended for businesses like the healthcare or defense industries. Because of this and various other reasons, there seems to be less scrutiny of institutions now, which I think is a disservice

to public. This is not a new problem. Finding the ideal or effective business model still remains a key step.

Our visit to the Newseum and meeting its chief operating officer, Gene Policinski, were also enlightening. I got a good understanding of how the news media evolved in the U.S. and the role it played in reporting historic events. I also appreciated how the Newseum focused on press freedom issues, not only in the U.S. but around the world.

Week 4, February 1, 2015

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

Last week, we received responses from the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Prince William Police Department about the public records requests I filed. I also submitted a new request to the Prince William Circuit Court, following the Supreme Court's advice that records on felony charges are kept there.

I also found a lawyer who could work with us at a discounted rate. He's waiting feedback from Tennessee Watson, the reporter I'm working with, should she decide to push through with the motion. I also found two other possible options with the Legal Services of Northern Virginia and the law firm of Levine, Sullivan, Koch and Schulz.

I think I did well at keeping track of communication as well as finding people. But I know it takes time and patience, and I need to be tenacious at making phone calls and follow-ups. I learned from my reporting classes back at MU that dealing with government offices or any organization involves a kind of negotiation. Getting a "no" does not necessarily mean a dead end.

I also spent some time transcribing Watson's interviews, which is helpful because I get to learn more about the story and some interviewing techniques. I have to admit though I have been very slow at this.

My story on the Pulitzer Prize Centennial was also published on the Workshop blog on Feb. 1. It can be seen here, if you'd like to read.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I interviewed Citra Prastuti of Kantor Berita Radio and Ati Nurbaiti of The Jakarta Post. Both explained that religious tolerance or intolerance has been a source of contention and common trigger for cases to be filed against individuals and groups who publish material that might be construed as offensive. I think this is an important element that needs to be emphasized in Indonesia's context.

I started sending out requests to journalists in Newstapa, OhMyNews, Slow News and Pressian in South Korea. This week, I will interview Nezar Patria of the Indonesian Press Council and Dr. Nakho Kim of Slow News. Dr. Kim is currently teaching at Penn State Harrisburg.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

On Feb. 5, our class visited Bloomberg's D.C. bureau where we met White House correspondents Angela Greiling Keane and Mike Dorning. Our discussion gave me a better understanding of how Bloomberg operates and the dynamic between the White House press corps and the president and his aides.

Breaking news is so important for a financial service provider and media organization like Bloomberg, especially because clients also depend on them for analysis and data services that impact their business. As in all types of reporting, developing

sources in the business beat is key. While official information comes from the White House, Keane said reporters also tap into other sources like the Center for American Progress for some issues or developments that the White House might not want to get covered.

It's also good to be reminded of some tried and tested techniques from veteran journalists. Dorning said "pre-writing" is always useful when covering events that need regular updating. Keane also said reporters should not be afraid to ask what might seem to a dumb question because the most obvious question tends to be the most important one. A reporter should trust his or her intuition, she said.

Week 5, February 8, 2015

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

I did a variety of tasks for Tennessee Watson's story, which included online research, filing of new public records requests and interviewing sources for background information.

I still get amazed by how much information is available online, but I understand that online research has its limits too and must be taken with caution. Similar to information I get from people sources, information online should always be verified. The source might not be reliable or the information is no longer updated.

For instance, we need to find a public opinion poll on the reliability of child witnesses. I found a comprehensive one but it was done in 1985. I could not find more recent ones that are publicly available. I am not sure how this 1985 study would be helpful in Watson's story.

On the other hand, I found substantial material on the use of criminal records in employment. I learned that several states, including Virginia, passed laws to "ban the box" on job applications. These laws limit employers from using criminal history to make employment decisions. I think this information will be useful in Watson's story because the probation of the defendant in her case will end in June.

We also started getting data from the requests we filed last month. The Prince William Police Department provided information, but it's in PDF format. I've asked them to send it in a spreadsheet. Otherwise, we'll have to work our way around it. I can convert it to CSV, but I think the data will need a lot of cleaning.

This week, I will follow up the other requests I made and continue transcribing Watson's interview with her prosecutor, Kristina Robinson. I also have an interview with the National Children's Alliance.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I interviewed Nezar Patria of the Indonesian Press Council and Dr. Nakho Kim of Slow News. Patria and Kim both explained the unique situations in their respective countries.

Patria explained how Internet regulations, particularly the Internet and Electronic Transactions Law of 2008, have been used to go after sources cited in news reports. Kim, meanwhile, explained the role of content portals such as Naver in South Korea.

I am still waiting to hear from OhmyNews and Pressian, the other two organizations I contacted in South Korea. I also sent interview requests to VERA Files, MindaNews and Bulatlat. These are news organizations based in the Philippines.

This week, I will follow up the requests I made for South Korea and the

Philippines. I will also transcribe my earlier interviews.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

On Feb. 12, we met Mark Hamrick, Washington bureau chief for Bankrate.com, and Sarah Spreitzer, director of federal relations for the University of Missouri system.

I found Hamrick's shift from being a journalist to an economic analyst very interesting. While he did not have formal education in economics, Hamrick took his experience as a journalist to learn how the system works and eventually become an expert. He used his interviews then not only to obtain information for his report, but also to understand the context or what might be useful for future stories. He thus emphasized the value of building relationships with sources. At the same time, he advised us to take advantage of social media to define our own brand.

Spreitzer's talk gave me a better understanding of lobbying, which is new to me. I think her work is crucial for the university to be able to amplify its issues or concerns to the government. I also found it interesting that lobbyists, in many ways, carry the institutional memory of Washington since administrations change or new people get elected in each election.

Week 6, February 15, 2015

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

Of the four public records requests we filed, one has been fulfilled while three are still being processed. I'm glad we haven't been turned down so far. I'm also learning about disparities on how offices from the same county and state handle Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

By law, obtaining records through FOIA in Virginia is restricted to residents of the state. The implementation of this provision varies, however. Even though I don't live in Virginia, I was able to send a request to the Supreme Court. For our requests to the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission and the Prince William Police Department, I used Prof. David Donald's name but I am still able to communicate directly with the offices on his behalf. The Prince William Circuit Court is most strict. Prof. Charles Lewis had to send the request for us. The deputy clerk of court said that FOIA requests have to come from residents. Both Donald and Lewis are Virginia residents.

The manner of sending requests differs by office as well. While nearly all accept requests by email, the Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court only receives requests by post. The office does not consider fax or emails as legal documents.

On paying fees, not one accepts money via credit card or wire transfer. We can only send checks. I can agree that not everyone holds a credit card, but perhaps having more options can help ensure that requests will be processed more efficiently. Sending checks through mail can take days. Until the payment is received, the office won't begin working on the information being requested.

So far, I'm learning that no standard procedure applies in handling FOIA requests. Even though the same law guides offices in Virginia, the actual steps in the process depend by office or agency. It can be challenging for reporters, especially those on deadline. It is helpful to know the process first and also keep constant communication with the persons in charge.

Last week, I also researched how Tennessee Watson could cover an upcoming court proceeding in the Supreme Court of Virginia. The process doesn't seem easy. We

first need to send a request to the Clerk of the Court. If the request is granted, we also have to secure a media ID from the Virginia State Police either through the Virginia Press Association or the Virginia Association of Broadcasters. I prepared and sent the letter last Friday, hoping for some favorable response this week.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I shared my final topic and outline with you all last week. I also started reaching out to media monitoring groups such as the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), Freedom House and IFEX. I've only heard from IFEX so far, and I got a no. IFEX instead referred me to their country experts, SEAPA and CMFR.

Mr. Oh Yeon-ho of OhmyNews also declined my request for an interview. He said he's extremely busy. I told him I'm willing to wait when he'd be available. He hasn't replied yet.

Mr. Yong Jin Kim of the Korea Center for Investigative Journalism and Ms. Carolyn Arguillas of MindaNEWS are very busy too because of the upcoming elections in South Korea and the Philippines. They are willing to help, but will only be able to answer my questions in writing.

This week, I will speak with Mr. Benjie Oliveros of Bulatlat, an online news website in the Philippines.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

There was no seminar scheduled last Friday. I did attend a forum hosted by the Investigative Reporting Workshop last week. Jane Mayer visited American University to talk about her new book *Dark Money*. I learned about brothers Charles and David Koch

and their influence on government policies and the elections.

Week 7, February 22, 2015

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

Last week was my busiest week so far at work. I was overwhelmed a little bit and I think could do better at managing my time. While working on my pending tasks for Tennessee Watson's story, I also started doing research on another project with Prof. John Sullivan for The Washington Post. I also covered Marty Baron's visit to campus for the School of Communication's "Movies That Matter" series. Baron talked about the film "Spotlight" and why investigative journalism matters. The report I wrote is posted on the Workshop blog.

In my previous memo, I mentioned that we need to cover an upcoming argument in the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Court denied our request, but we are allowed to observe as members of the public. I will head to Richmond on Tuesday for the hearing the following morning. I will also meet with Deb George of the Center for Investigative Reporting before I leave; she'll teach me how to record for radio. I have no radio experience, but I'm eager to learn.

For the Post's story project, I helped find names of officers who shot and killed people in Missouri, Nevada and Alabama. Identifying these officers differed by jurisdiction. Las Vegas police, for instance, releases officers' names 48 hours after an incident. In other cases, officers were named either through the release of body cam footage or the results of an investigation. Starting this week, my co-worker Andrew Kreighbaum and I will spend at least one day a week at the Post to work on this project.

What progress did you make on your research project?

Last week, I interviewed Benjie Oliveros of Bulatlat, an independent news organization in the Philippines. The flow of information online in the Philippines is perhaps the least restricted of the three countries I'm studying. But Oliveros shared some experiences that I think is important for the Philippine narrative. Small, independent news organizations like Bulatlat, he said, are finding it more and more difficult to secure their place online, a medium they found most ideal more than a decade ago. They face stiff competition from mainstream and big media corporations that have built a strong presence on the Internet. Many of these news outlets are also running online news sites, in addition to their original print publication and radio and TV broadcasts. And this often includes dedicated social media teams that are active on Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites. Oliveros said Bulatlat finds it difficult to compete with this kind of system especially when most readers in the Philippines get their news through Facebook or Twitter and not directly from websites.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

We met Mary Katherine Ream of the Foreign Press Center (FPC) and former White House press secretary Mike McCurry.

Ream talked about how the FPC helps foreign journalists cover the U.S. government through briefings, reporting tours and by helping them get access to sources. While the Center is part of the State Department, Ream said they don't push for the state's agenda but pave the way for international journalists to better cover and understand the U.S.

McCurry, who is also co-chair of the Commission on Presidential Debates, talked

about his job as former press secretary during the Clinton administration as well as the presidential race. McCurry gave me a better sense of why Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders have found traction among a good segment of the population. Key in understanding this is the changing demographic of the country and the sense of frustration people feel with the establishment. He also confirmed our previous discussion about how journalists covering the White House have found it more difficult to access information.

Week 8, February 29, 2015

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

I spent half of my week last week in Richmond, VA for Tennessee's Watson's story and the other half calling law enforcement agencies for The Washington Post's police shootings project.

One of Tennessee's sources, Nancy Haynes, came to Richmond to hear the argument on her appeal before the Supreme Court of Virginia. The appeal was prompted by the dismissal of a civil case she filed before the Spotsylvania Circuit Court. She is suing her former riding coach Susan Haggerty who sexually abused her in her teens.

I tried to prepare as much as I could before leaving for Richmond, plotting my two days there, what questions I would ask and practicing using the recording kit I loaned from AU. Watson needed fresh reactions from Haynes and her lawyer after the argument. So I did not have to be inside the courtroom because I had recording equipment with me, which is not allowed inside the building. I just waited for them outside.

Preparation helped me a lot because I was able to focus more on the interviews. Haynes came with friends Carolyn and Sheryl. I interviewed them the night before the argument and the following day just right after the court proceeding concluded. I think it helped that we started talking casually first. I introduced myself, where I'm from, my role in the project and what we hope to achieve. I think it made her and her friends (and myself too) get comfortable about the idea of a reporter tagging along with them. Haynes and I met for a sit-down interview after her dinner with friends later that night.

I think the Richmond visit turned out generally well, but I should always remember to be flexible too because things will not always go as planned. For instance, I thought Haynes and her lawyer Mike Sharman would get together first before going to court. I haven't met the lawyer before so I did not know how he looked. I couldn't call him because phones are not allowed in the court. I searched his name on Google Images, but I wasn't sure about the photos I was getting. To be sure, I came up and asked several men exiting the building who I think might be Sharman. I found him in my fourth try. He came out earlier than Haynes and her friends did.

For the Post's project, we are now calling law enforcement agencies to find out if they have disclosed the names of their officers involved in shootings. I was able to call all the agencies in the 35 cases I have. Nine gave definite responses, of which three released officers' names while six refused to disclose for various reasons. A pending investigation is usually the reason why offices declined to identify officers. Four agencies also asked for official records requests. As for the rest, I either left messages and/or sent an email. I will continue calling these offices this week.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I interviewed Edgardo Legaspi, executive director of the Southeast Asian Press Alliance or SEAPA. SEAPA monitors press freedom issues in the region, including freedom of expression online.

Legaspi explained when Internet freedom became a serious concern in the region, issues emerging in each country and reasons why actors – both state and nonstate – started cracking down on the Internet.

Legaspi emphasized that it's important to understand the political environment and market forces in play in each country because these elements would almost always drive the level of online free speech and explain why restrictions are put up.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

We met Donna Leinwand-Leger of USA Today. She covered war, disaster and crime before becoming USA Today's breaking news editor. Her talk centered on how to prepare for field coverage and how to find people stories, or stories that are less about the most obvious things. She said journalists should use all five senses when reporting and be mindful of community mores and cultural nuances.

Asked about how she handles a situation when she can help someone in need, she said it’s important to remind oneself of his or her role as a reporter. Instinct is to help people, she said, but a journalist's job is to tell the story the best way he or she can.

Week 9, March 7, 2016

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

I spent most of my time last week making calls for The Washington Post's police shootings story. We need to find out whether law enforcement agencies from across the

country have previously disclosed the names of officers involved in fatal shootings. If they have not, we try to get the names or the reason why they cannot identify the officers who fired their weapons.

I'm working on 56 cases with 45 law enforcement agencies. So far, I've gotten 18 denials while seven agencies provided names. The story is due March 20 so we need to make a big push this week to get responses from all agencies.

The calls can be challenging. Some agencies were helpful but others, especially police chiefs, were wary about giving the names or just any information. They say the officer's life might be put at risk or that I need to contact the prosecuting attorney's office for any information about the shooting. I try to explain why I'm calling and avoid sounding like I'm pressing them to identify the officer. In some of my calls, I found that letting the chiefs know that we're not singling them out and that we're actually looking at all states make them more willing to talk.

For Tennessee Watson's story, we're just waiting for data from the Prince William Circuit Court. This is our remaining public records request. Last week, I also finished transcribing her interview with her prosecutor Kristina Robinson.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I interviewed Malou Mangahas, executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, a Manila-based independent news organization that focuses on investigative reporting and journalism training.

Mangahas said the key challenge for the Center now is to be able to serve two groups of audience online. The first is composed older readers who appreciate and will stay longer online to read in-depth reports. The second is the younger group who tends

to prefer shorter takes and visually appealing content.

Mangahas also talked about the Center's efforts to widen access to information using the Internet. The Center applies a two-pronged approach. Apart from encoding and publishing data online, the Center also conducts learning sessions with communities to help them understand and use data.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

Keith Woods, NPR's Vice President for Diversity in News and Operations, talked about the values that NPR stands for and why diversity has to be incorporated in journalism practice.

Mere reporting isn't enough, Woods said. This is because as an individual, as part of an organization and as a member of society, we are bound by limitations that could keep us from understanding another segment of the population. So we must make the effort, as individuals and organizations, to understand that there's more to what we already know, experience or are exposed to.

Woods also said that diversity means a lot of things. For NPR, this refers to their content, audience, staff and working environment. For this reason, NPR strives to reach out and represent more women, the larger American public spread between California and New York, people from the farther left and right, and people from different classes and age groups. He pointed out that if journalists sign on to truthful, fair and accurate reporting, then they are, by dint of this fact, signing onto diversity as well.

Week 10, March 14, 2016

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

I continued making calls last week for The Washington Post's police shootings story. From the 56 cases I started with two weeks ago, I am now left with eight cases. I'm expecting a couple more definite responses from police departments in California and Kansas early this week. The rest from Alabama and Missouri are just not very responsive. The Homewood Police Department in Alabama, for instance, did not want to talk to me at all. The commander of investigations said the chief instructed him to not say anything about the Stanley Lamar Grant shooting, and that I should contact the city attorney instead. I called the city attorney and he was surprised that the police department referred me to him. He said he has no information about the incident. I asked Prof. John Sullivan to help me with Homewood. Still, we did not get a response. In any case, if this department and the others will still not get back to us in the next few days, I have my call log and I think that will show that we made the effort to reach them.

Once the Post story is published, I'll get back to working on the adult disclosure guide to complement Tennessee Watson's child sexual abuse story. Prof. Lynne Perri thought it would be useful to draft a guide for victims who might be thinking of coming forward now, years later after their abuse. Knowing what I know now, I think each victim's experience is unique but learning about what actually happens after disclosure can take away some unknowns and help victims feel more prepared.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I started listening to some of my interviews and transcribed portions that I will use for my article. I also received a response from Mr. Yong Kim Jin of Newstapa. I am now waiting for answers from Ms. Carol Arguillas of MindaNews. She is not available for a

phone interview because she is busy with election coverage in the Philippines. I sent her my questions, and I asked if she could respond on or before March 22.

So far, I have done interviews with four sources in Indonesia, two in the Philippines, two in South Korea and one from a media monitoring group in the region.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

Our class attended the 2016 Missouri-Hurley Symposium last Thursday here at the National Press Club. The panel discussion helped me better understand last fall's protests in context of how MU handles issues concerning race. At the same time, it also raised more questions on how diversity plans can be realized and sustained at the journalism school and the industry as well.

While the events happened only very recently, the roots are much deeper. Dr. Earnest Perry said MU has a long history of mismanaging issues concerning African American students as well as students of color in general. In the 1930s, the School of Law denied Lloyd Gaines admission. This incident, he said, set off a series of cases that eventually became Brown vs. Board. The School of Journalism likewise denied Lucile Bluford admission into its graduate program.

These events from many decades ago up until today illustrate the long struggle for equality at MU and beyond. I understand that steps for progress are being undertaken, if not already underway. School of Journalism Dean David Kurpius did explain a comprehensive plan by building relationships with high schools up to the school's alumni network. While he did say that what the school is trying to do is "not rocket science," he also admitted that this is no easy task. Jobs in journalism do not particularly pay well compared to other professions. Contraction in employment and the concentration of

media ownership also continue to pose problems in the industry. I don't want to sound pessimistic, but I wonder how much impact these would result in and how soon these would be felt. Hearing from current student Morgan Young and several alumni tells me that the problem cannot be more complex. In any case, it would be crucial for us to monitor how all these will unfold.

Week 11, March 21, 2016

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

I made more calls last week for The Washington Post's police shootings story. I reached out to some of the departments that already responded to clarify why they are not able to release the names of the officers involved. Most of them were helpful and were able to identify the law that supports their non-disclosure policy. But I still have five outstanding cases from five departments. Except for one where I filed a FOIA request, the rest were just not returning my calls or replying to my emails. The Post will put these under the "no response" category if I still don't hear from them today.

We also started finalizing the database with the Post's data editor Steven Rich so I've been going back to my notes and correspondences to make sure everything is accurate. We will do the fact-checking today at the Post.

The Prince William Circuit Court sent the last batch of data we're waiting for. Tennessee Watson is now setting up a meeting with the Center for Investigative Reporting to figure out how best to work on the data. I haven't started reporting on the adult disclosure guide, but I'll get to it once my assignment for the Post is done.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I turned in the first draft of the analysis component of my project. I was also able to schedule my oral defense, which will be on April 27 at 1 p.m. I reserved a room at the Journalism Library. I will send a note to you all once I get confirmation from the library.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

We met Chris Hamby, investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and a Mizzou alumnus. I really liked the way he talks about investigative reporting. I am inspired by the stories he has done. And I'm glad that he has what appears to me as freedom to really dive deep into an issue and get the financial support he needs to get the reporting done. I got several takeaways from him, most of which are practical advice for aspiring investigative reporters.

While it's important for a story to get plenty of views, Hamby says what matters too is for the report to reach people, interested parties or those in authority who will be able to take action or change policy. In the end, he says what one really aims for is impact.

Hamby also talked about how investigative reporting really is just good reporting. It's not special in a way because reporting, in the first place, should be more than just "he said, she said." But he did say that investigations do take more time, tend to have a harder edge and require the reporter to really understand the system or a problem.

There are a lot of things an aspiring investigative reporter can do to succeed. Beat reporting is one because that helps a journalist understand the ins and outs of a policy issue or of an agency. It helps build a network of sources too. Good writing and strong storytelling skills are good assets to have as well.

Week 12, March 28, 2016

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

I completed my assignment for The Washington Post's police shootings story last week. The story was also published last Friday, and it can be viewed here.

I am glad I had the opportunity to work on this story. I learned so much from making calls to police departments across different states. While we generally followed a methodology, the responses or reactions I received led me to take different steps by agency. Many offices were helpful over the phone, but many also required inquiries in writing. Of the sixty cases I worked on, 28 required letters in writing, including official FOIA requests. Official requests could be good in a way because it provides us a record that we can always go back to. It helps avoid misspellings too. In many ways, they can be bad also because correspondences can take time, not good for reporters on a deadline.

In the latter part of my making the calls, I realized that talking more openly about what the story project was about helped facilitate the process. Next time, if I work on a similar story, I suppose I will try to explain upfront why I'm calling and that we're actually looking at all states. Some chiefs and officers became more willing to talk after knowing that they are not being singled out. At the same time, it's also important to (politely) assert one's right to public information, or at least some kind of response, even if that would elicit some testy comments.

In the Philippines, we have been so used to building our own database because our government's record-keeping system has not kept up with technology. Although that is not the main reason really. Open access is not the default policy taken by most agencies for various other reasons, including the possibility that they are hiding

something from the public. At my workplace back home, we keep a log of all correspondences we make to agencies both for our tracking and reporting purposes. We publish periodic reports about these request logs to show the offices' performance with responding to information requests. Similar to what we did for the Post's project, the call logs, although tedious, are essential for stories about transparency.

What progress did you make on your research project?

Prof. Amy McCombs has reviewed my first draft, and I'm now working on the revision. Last week, I was able to set an interview with Madeleine Earp, Asia research analyst for Freedom House's Freedom on the Net report. I will interview her on Wednesday, April 6. I was hoping to interview Dr. Cherian George, a professor at the Hong Kong Baptist University, but he declined.

I also started piecing my project report together, including parts for the professional component.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

We did not attend a seminar last week. I used the time to work on my project. Also, the story Andrew Kreighbaum and I wrote about the Hurley symposium was published last Monday. It can be seen here, if you'd like to see.

Week 13, April 4, 2016

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

I completed the first draft of the adult disclosure guide for Tennessee Watson's story on child sexual abuse. For this guide, I interviewed Lt. Jacques Poirier of the Prince William County Police Department, Teresa Huizar of the National Children's Alliance,

Bridgette Stumpf of the Network for Victim Recovery of DC and Wanda Ostrander of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia.

Writing a guide for victims on how to report about their sexual abuse is not easy. I think it's difficult to prescribe directions for victims to follow when each case is different and will encounter a unique set of obstacles as well. Although I think ultimately understanding some of the unknowns and getting a basic idea of the law enforcement process and criminal/civil justice systems can help a victim feel more prepared. In the guide, I tried to capture the nuances inherent of "conversion reporting" or when a victim comes forward many years later after the abuse. I learned about the obstacles (e.g., loss of evidence, lack of corroboration), but I also understand that this should not prevent law enforcement and prosecution from investigating or pursuing a case.

What progress did you make on your research project?

Prof. Amy McCombs and I talked about the first draft of my analysis component. The call was so helpful; I feel more confident as I revise the draft.

Last week, I also interviewed Madeline Earp, Asia research analyst for Freedom House's Freedom on the Net report. She shared her observations about the overall trend in the region. She also brought up issues that I haven't covered yet in my draft. For instance, in the Philippines, she sees similarities between bloggers and block timers on radio. Because of the high rate of killings among radio reporters in the country, she raises safety concerns for bloggers especially when they take the same critical tone as block timers.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

I learned so much from (and enjoyed) our Sunday show seminar last week. Prof. Barbara Cochran led the discussion on the history of Sunday shows, how they differ from other news programs and new developments or changes made over recent years.

Because Sunday shows are allotted more time than other programs, an issue can be discussed further, giving viewers the opportunity to really make more sense of the week's top story. Sunday shows thus have the potential to advance a story and make news.

But Sunday shows have also been criticized for the lack of diversity among moderators and panel of guests and the use phone interviews. Phone interviews might not give viewers the full picture of an interview because an interviewee's reaction cannot be seen. It could also limit the moderator's ability to ask better follow-up questions compared to when an interview is done face-to-face.

Then on Sunday, we went to the Washington Bureau of CBS News to watch the production of Face the Nation. I thoroughly enjoyed this visit, seeing the show live and how the team interacts. I got a better sense of the preparation involved and details that need to be sorted out to produce a show because I only get to see the polished version on TV.

After the show, the producers sat down with us and they talked about how they use social media to distribute their content that's usually only shown Sunday. This way, via online resources, they are able to reach more viewers and readers. Senior producer Jill Jackson also explained how they choose which guests to invite in the panel. Apart from who is available, they also consider sources of diverse ideological viewpoints.

Week 14, April 11, 2016

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

Last week, I wrote memos for each of the databases I obtained and all of the research I've done for Tennessee Watson's story. Prof. Lynne Perri submitted these to The Center for Investigative Reporting, whose staff will continue working with Tennessee. Each memo contains details about what we originally requested, description of the data we got, leads for data analysis and contact details of the person who gave us the data.

I also started doing accuracy checks for the adult disclosure guide I drafted the other week. Of the three sources I interviewed, two responded already and they're okay with the information. This week, I will revise the draft, tighten it up and also fact-check the rest of the information I got from other resources.

What progress did you make on your research project?

I revised the analysis component of my project, and also completed the entire report. I am scheduled to share it with the committee on April 20, Wednesday.

I also started doing accuracy checks with my sources in the analysis component. Of the 10 persons I reached out to, four got back to me already. I hope to hear from the rest this week.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

We visited The Washington Post's new office and met with the Steven Rich, Amy Brittain and Jeff Leen of the Investigative Team. Rich and Brittain first talked about how they got their job at the Post, how they find stories and what it's like working as an investigative reporter in their 20s. Finding stories can be hard because typically investigative reporters come from many years in the beat where they get to really

understand an issue and find leads for investigations there. Still, both Rich and Brittain say there are other ways to find stories such as tips, data or by just being curious and asking questions about what's in the news, for instance.

Leen, who is the assistant managing editor for investigative reporting for the Post, talked about how research and reporting have evolved over the years. He said the data, when used properly, can complement shoe-leather reporting (and vice-versa) to uncover new information and produce more complex and stronger stories.

Despite some newspapers backing away from investigative reporting, Leen still sees a lot of encouraging endeavors even those from what might be unusual sources like BuzzFeed. He said investigative reporting has always been under threat in the first place so the challenges are not entirely new.

Leen also gave the class advice on finding jobs. Simply, he said we should not be too picky because the most ideal job for starters will probably be hard to find and get. He said we should take on jobs wherever we can to get experience and learn. Failure at smaller jobs is less career-ending, he added.

Week 15, April 18, 2016

What were the professional challenges you encountered during the week? Where did you do well? Where could you use help?

I spent my final week at the Workshop polishing the adult disclosure guide I drafted for Tennessee Watson's story. I did fact-checking and accuracy checks with my sources as well. One of my interviewees, Teresa Huizar, is on leave so I have check back with her again next week. Prof. Lynne Perri and I will finalize the draft next week before sending it to Reveal.

The Workshop also gave the student interns a very nice send-off, which I really appreciated.

What progress did you make on your research project?

Prof. Amy McCombs and I did a second round of edit of the analysis component of my project. I also completed the entire report. I am now preparing for my project defense.

What did you learn from the weekly seminar?

We did not have a seminar on Friday. We took our final exam.

Chapter Three: Evaluation

Let me start with an anecdote, a personal one this time.

A room full of more than 300 Pulitzer Prize winners was an unfamiliar place for me to be in. But there I was three months ago at the Newseum's lobby to cover the inaugural celebration of the Pulitzer Prize Centennial. This was my first reporting assignment as an intern at the Investigative Reporting Workshop.

To my surprise the event turned out to be a cocktail party rather than a forum-type gathering that I'm more used to. Journalists were clustered in small circles. Everybody knew somebody – if not most of the people in the room. It was a reunion of sorts, reporters swapping war stories from their days on the beat and in the newsroom.

I stood in one corner and surveyed the room examining the problem at hand. I practically do not know anyone here, I thought, but I have a job to do. So I waded through a sea of evening dress- and tuxedo-clad reporters to find one who could spare some time for me. The first few approaches felt awkward. I was basically interrupting reporters mid-talk, mid-bite and mid-sip. By the fourth time I started getting into my stride and felt more at ease speaking with them. My roaming around the room in search of Pulitzer backstories soon got notice. A photographer introduced me to his prize-winning colleagues who were so willing to share what the Pulitzer meant to them. A lady also came up to me and asked if I would want to interview her husband and son who both won a Pulitzer. I said yes, of course.

I stayed until the very last guest left. By that time I no longer felt the anxiety I had the moment I first stepped into the room. I came home with a notebook filled with notes, new acquaintances and nuggets of wisdom from veteran journalists.

In many ways, very personal to me, that night at the Newseum encapsulates the lessons I learned and re-learned about investigative reporting through my internship at the Investigative Reporting Workshop.

Investigative reporting is problem-solving. Most often than not, we with start with what we do not know. For a young reporter, that can be very difficult and intimidating. But now I realize that a more helpful way to look at an assignment is to treat it as a series of questions that needs answers one by one. Working on the child sexual abuse story overwhelmed me at first. I had a long list of tasks and I didn't quite know where to start. I found it helpful to take on tasks one at a time. I first started filing public records requests because these could take a long time. Then I proceeded looking for sources for interviews. And while waiting for feedback on my requests and inquiries, I continued doing background research. I slowly got pieces of research and reporting together until a point where I'm asking new questions from the answers I already have. In the end I felt confident that I knew a lot more about the prosecution of child sexual abuse than I had before.

Investigative reporting is a discovery process. Contributing research to The Washington Post's police shootings story, I learned not to make assumptions that could taint the integrity of the reporting process. While I may have preconceived notions about a certain issue, these could be wrong or lead me to a wrong conclusion. For instance, while it's easy to think that police departments would not release names of officers involved in fatal shootings, that wasn't necessarily the case when I made my calls. A good number withheld the names but some also identified officers involved in shootings. In the process I also learned about laws concerning disclosure of officer records and rules

and nuances in various states. Making those calls to police led the Post to an exact number of unnamed officers and the conclusion that no standards exist in releasing the names. This isn't just a generalization but a finding backed by evidence.

Investigative reporting today is a marriage of tradition and technology. The Washington Post story on police shootings is a perfect example of how digital technology can complement shoe-leather reporting and vice-versa. The data work involved in the story provided concrete evidence while old-school reporting brought the numbers to life with real stories from real people.

Investigative reporting has to be a collaboration. Reporting can be very solitary, but I think journalists can no longer afford to be lone wolves. I think the best stories are produced by people from different reporting backgrounds and of different skill sets. The partnerships developed by the Investigative Reporting Workshop with The Center for Investigative Reporting and The Washington Post are good examples of this kind of collaboration. Seeing and being a part of this partnership gave me ideas of how we might replicate the same setup in the Philippines.

Investigative reporting is about people. The child sexual abuse story was about Tennessee Watson, Nancy Haynes and many more victims of sexual assault. The police shootings story was about the victims, their families and the officers. The daily grind of reporting might lead us to think that these people are merely sources of information for a story we have on a deadline. When speaking with victims, I think it's important to keep in mind that they are sharing perhaps the most terrible experiences of their lives, and reporters should try not to aggravate the situation by showing compassion and making sure we get their stories straight. On the other hand, investigative reporting is also about

keeping institutions in check and holding responsible people accountable. So reporters are obligated to keep asking questions and reject non-answers. To use a phrase coined by journalist and humorist Finley Peter Dunne, it is our job to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

With all of these lessons I've gained this semester, I leave the Workshop with a better appreciation of the values of investigative reporting and how reporters could do it well in the digital age. Investigative journalism is said to be under threat with newsrooms cutting back on resources and backing away from this kind of reporting. Yet my experience at the Workshop leads me to believe there is a good future for investigative reporting if we continue to find ways to face and overcome challenges.

To end, I'm sharing a quote from Marty Baron who was at the helm of The Boston Globe's Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation on the cover-up of sexual abuse committed by Catholic priests in Boston. He said: "I believe the single most irresponsible thing we could do would be to abandon this kind of work and to stop holding powerful interests accountable."

Chapter Four: Abundant Physical Evidence

I contributed to two stories co-produced by the Investigative Reporting Workshop: a report on the prosecution of child sexual abuse (The Center for Investigative Reporting) and a review of law enforcement's policy in releasing the names of officers involved in shootings (The Washington Post). The memos, public records requests, research and reporting I produced for these two stories are appended below.

I also covered two events and wrote articles for the Investigative Reporting Workshop's blog. These are also attached below. I also wrote a sidebar for the child sexual abuse story, but this has yet to be published.

I also transcribed interviews and kept a log of all calls and requests I made to agencies. Due to the volume of these files, I am sharing them in this Google folder.

A. Research and reporting for child sexual abuse story (The Center for Investigative Reporting)

1. Memo on Court records copy and some Prince William County news clips, Jan. 12, 2016

Dear Tennessee,

I am sending the scanned copy of the records obtained from our court visit today.

And below are links to some related stories I found in T he Washington Post:

Former Manassas elementary aide pleads guilty to 22 counts of sex abuse
June 11, 2012

A former elementary school aide pleaded guilty to sex crimes involving eight victims and dating back to 1981. One of the victims came forward to the police after seeing the Sandusky trial .

Kristina Robinson also prosecuted the case. She told the Post: "The plea agreement prevented what probably would have been an emotional trial for the victims, who would have been asked to recount decades-old abuse."

Former Pr. William Christian school teacher accused of rape, June 25, 2013 and Court documents: Alleged sexual assaults of 12-year-old began in school classroom, July 3, 2013

A former teacher was arrested and accused of sexually assaulting a student more than three decades ago. The victim's family reported the incident to school officials in the 1990s, but the y did not go to the police. The school supposedly made its own investigation and later fired the teacher.

MIGHT BE WORTH CHECKING OUT: "Officials said the reportage of serious crimes years or even decades after the incident is becoming more common. The spike in Prince William's crime rate last year was due to rapes that had occurred in past years being reported to police and prosecutors, they said."

Manassas City police detective in teen 'sexting' case commits suicide
Dec. 15, 2015

The Post wrote about the incident report shared by Ms. Starecheski .

Former Manassas teacher sentenced to year in jail on sex abuse case
Oct. 28, 2010

According to the report, a former high school teacher who admitted to molesting a male teen was sentenced to a year in prison. He 's also linked to 30 years of sex abuse .

Thank you,
Karol

2. Memo on Court data research, Jan. 13, 2016

Hi Tennessee,

I have some updates on my research. I would appreciate your advice.

CSA case information
I followed Laura's notes on getting the data from the court clerk. I was told that we do need the name of the person being charged, and that we should ask the Commonwealth Attorney's office. A staff at the Commonwealth Attorney's office said that the names cannot just be given out. She can't say if we need to file a FOIA request, but I think that might be the way to go.

(Kristi Wright, the PIO, hasn't returned my calls, by the way. But I'll try her again.)

I spoke with Kevin Delaney of the Reporters Committee to seek some advice . He said that we might really need to have the persons' names or the case number s . He said he

will ask his colleagues if they might be able to give other tips.

I thought of another route, apart from filing a request with the Court. It might lead to us building our own database though .

The Prince William County Police Department publishes arrests reports by year. It has the name of the person and offense type , but no details are included if the arrest involves a child.

I'm thinking of filing a FOIA request for the names of the persons arrested due to a CSA related offense. I called the Records Office, and Ms. Martin said we can file a letter detailing the information we need and send to her by email (fmartin@pwcgov.org).

(I'm thinking that this data could be the breakdown of the "number of arrests" cited for Prince William County in this file:
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/about/reports/children/cps/accountability/2015/Child_Protection_Accountability_SFY_2015.pdf) .

After getting the names from the Police Department, then we can search each in the court's online records system. This should give us more detail. We can also print more documents on site if needed.

Thank you,
Karol

3. Research on public opinion re reliability of child witnesses, Feb. 7, 2016

The Times Poll: Children's Abuse Reports Reliable, Most Believe
By Lois Timnick, Times Staff Writer
August 26, 1985
http://articles.latimes.com/1985-08-26/news/mn-26344_1_sexual-abuse

In July 1985, The Los Angeles Times conducted a nationwide poll on child sexual abuse. The Times poll was conducted during the early years of the McMartin preschool trial, wherein the owner of a Manhattan Beach nursery school and six former teachers were charged with molesting 19 children.

Covering 100 questions, the survey was administered via telephone to 2,627 adults. About half of the survey respondents were not aware of the McMartin case while more than two-thirds of those interviewed on the West Coast knew about the case.

According to the Times report, the poll is considered to be the "first comprehensive study of the extent of child sexual abuse in the United States."

Below are the survey findings, as quoted in the Times report:

- *The survey, supervised by Times Poll director I.A. Lewis, found that at least 22 percent of Americans had been molested as children.*
- *Most Americans believe that children can reliably describe sexual abuse that occurred years before.*
- *Those who are aware of the McMartin Pre-School molestation case believe that at least some of the child witnesses are telling the truth.*
- *Seventy-nine percent of those polled said they are "certain" that children under 13 are capable of giving accurate accounts of much earlier events.*
- *Eighty-six percent of those who had themselves been victimized as children said those accounts should be believed.*
- *One in three of those familiar with the McMartin case said they believe that "most" of the children had been sexually abused, and half said they believe that at least "some" had been molested.*
- *Ninety percent of those who identified themselves as having been child victims of sexual intercourse said they believe at least some of the child witnesses' testimony.*
- *Only two people in the survey said they believe that no abuse occurred, 10 percent said they think that only a "few" had been molested and 7 percent were not sure.*
- *About one in three of those aware of the McMartin case said they are dissatisfied with the way authorities have handled it. Twenty-eight percent said they are satisfied and 40 percent had no opinion. Among victims who said they had suffered abuses similar to those alleged in the McMartin case, the rate of dissatisfaction rose to 42 percent.*
- *The public is more concerned about protecting children from psychological damage when they testify in court about sexual attacks than it is about protecting the legal rights of defendants. Only 13 percent ranked the two concerns equal in importance, and 81 percent of women victims said the child's interests should predominate.*
- *The poll's respondents also are three times more concerned (61 percent to 21 percent) that guilty people might never be brought to trial than that innocent people may be tried for crimes they did not commit. Only 12 percent said that both dangers worry them equally.*

The poll also examined public attitudes toward child sexual abuse problem and possible solutions. The full report can be seen here: http://articles.latimes.com/1985-08-26/news/mn-26344_1_sexual-abuse.

Fifty-four Percent of Americans Believe Allegations Against Jackson
By Jeffrey M. Jones, Gallup News Service
Dec. 17, 2003

http://www.gallup.com/poll/9979/Fiftyfour-Percent-Americans-Believe-Allegations-Against-Jackson.aspx?g_source=child%20sexual%20abuse&g_medium=search&g_campaign=tiles

The Gallup Poll found that majority of Americans believe the allegations that Michael Jackson sexually abused a boy. But note that the percentage of those who believed the allegations were true dropped from 62 percent to 54 percent.

Below are excerpts from the 2003 Gallup report:

Prosecutors in California are expected to formally file multiple child sexual molestation charges against pop singer Michael Jackson this week. A new Gallup Poll finds that a majority of Americans believe the allegations that he sexually abused a boy are definitely or probably true.

Most Americans also hold an unfavorable view of Jackson. On both questions, a significant racial gap in perceptions exists -- blacks are much more likely to view Jackson favorably than are whites, and also to believe the allegations against Jackson are untrue.

In recent days, amid news reports that the victim's case against Jackson may not be particularly strong, there has been a slight drop in the percentage of Americans who believe that the allegations are true.

The most recent poll, conducted, Dec. 11-14, shows 54 percent of Americans saying the sexual abuse allegations against Jackson are "definitely" (7 percent) or "probably" (47 percent) true. Thirty-one percent say the charges are "probably" (27 percent) or "definitely" (4 percent) not true.

Public reaction to the scandal has shifted somewhat in the past several days. The percentage believing the allegations are true has dropped from 62 percent in a Dec. 5-7 CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll to the current 54 percent.

More Americans are moving to an unsure or neutral stance on the charges, as the percentage not expressing a view on the allegations has risen from 9 percent to 15 percent in the past week. Meanwhile, the percentage believing the charges are not true has stayed fairly steady (29 percent to 31 percent).

69% Believe Former Penn State Coach Guilty of Child Abuse

The Rasmussen Report
June 12, 2012
http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/lifestyle/general_lifestyle/june_2012/69_believe_ex_penn_state_coach_guilty_of_some_child_abuse_charges

Below is the text available to non-subscribers:

The trial of former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky has just begun, but most Americans think they've already heard enough.

A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey of American Adults shows that 69 percent believe Sandusky is guilty of at least some of the child sexual abuse charges against him. Just one percent (1 percent) don't think he's guilty of any of the charges, but 29 percent are not sure.

The survey of 1,000 Adults nationwide was conducted on June 8-9, 2012 by Rasmussen Reports. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence.

Below are the questions asked in the survey:

1. How closely have you followed recent news stories about the trial of a former college football coach charged with child sexual abuse?
2. Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable impression of Penn State University?
3. A former assistant football coach at Penn State University has been charged with multiple counts of child sexual abuse. From what you know of the case, is the former coach guilty of at least some of the charges against him?
4. How would you rate the media coverage of the Penn State child abuse case – excellent, good, fair or poor?
5. How serious a problem is child sex abuse in America today?
6. Should corrections systems be allowed to hold sex offenders indefinitely if they believe the offender will strike again?

4. Criminal record and employment research, Feb. 8, 2016

According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), federal law does not prohibit employers from obtaining and using job seekers' and employees' criminal records. Employers, however, are not allowed to use these records to discriminate against applicants and employees.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits employers from treating job applicants or employees with the same criminal records differently because of their race, national origin or another protected characteristic. This is known as "disparate treatment discrimination."

The same law also prohibits "disparate impact discrimination," which means that "if criminal record exclusions operate to disproportionately exclude people of a particular race or national origin, the employer has to show that the exclusions are 'job related and consistent with business necessity.'"

The employer can prove that an exclusion is "job related and consistent with business necessity" if it: (1) considers at least the nature of the crime, the time elapsed since the criminal conduct occurred and the nature of the specific job in question, and (2) gives an applicant, who is excluded by the screen, the opportunity to show why he should not be excluded.

In April 2012, the Commission released an enforcement guidance for employers, employment agencies, unions covered by Title VII, applicants and employees and EEOC enforcement staff.

Several states have issued laws to "ban the box" on job applications. These laws limit employers from using criminal background record to make employment decisions.

In April 2015, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed Executive Order No. 41 (2015),. The order prevents employers from asking applicants to disclose expunged criminal charges. An applicant also does not have to refer to any expunged charges if asked about his or her criminal record.

According to the order, state employment decisions will not be based on the criminal history of an individual "unless demonstrably job-related and consistent with business necessity, or state or federal law prohibits hiring an individual with certain convictions for a particular position."

According to a Reuters report, gubernatorial spokesman Brian Coy said an individual's criminal record may be considered only if it "bears specific relation to the job for which they are being considered, such as child care workers, state troopers, court officers and jail guards."

The executive order also states that a criminal history background check may only be conducted if an applicant has signed the appropriate waiver authorizing release, has been found otherwise eligible for the position, and is being considered for a specific position.

Sources:

What You Should Know About the EEOC and Arrest and Conviction Records, http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/wysk/arrest_conviction_records.cfm

2012 Enforcement Guidance, http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/practices/inquiries_arrest_conviction.cfm

Virginia bans asking job applicants about criminal history, http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-virginia-employment-idUSKBN0MU19N20150403

BAN THE BOX: U.S. CITIES, COUNTIES, AND STATES ADOPT FAIR HIRING POLICIES, http://www.nelp.org/publication/ban-the-box-fair-chance-hiring-state-and-local-guide/

Virginia's Executive Order re IMPLEMENTATION OF "BAN THE BOX" HIRING POLICIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH, https://governor.virginia.gov/media/3762/eo-41-ban-the-boxada.pdf

5. Notes on interview with Wanda Ostrander, Feb. 11, 2016

Hi Tennessee,

The call on Tuesday is at 10:30 a.m. Yes, it would be great if you could join. She knows that you're doing the report, and she's willing to speak with you too. I only have her office number though. I can ask if we can call her via Skype or Google.

Wanda Ostrander explained how Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) are formed and the efforts being made in Prince William County now. She said it really is community-based and is usually triggered by an event or if the child abuse rate in the area is higher than the national rate.

The multidisciplinary team, composed of law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, mental health services and school representatives, is key, she said. Somebody can express interest through the team or the team itself makes the move. Not all localities have these teams set up though. Virginia recently passed an order, effective July 2015, requiring each city and county to form a multidisciplinary team. Ostrander said the team has to meet in six weeks from the report date to review the case.

CACs get their money from the state, grants and other fundraising activities. The amount each CAC gets from the state budget is based on a formula. Accreditation of the CAC,

rate of child abuse in the area, number of localities served and child population are all taken into account.

In October 2015, Lieutenant Jacques J. Poirier of the police department reached out to Ostrander. Poirier is making a plan to form a CAC in Prince William. Ostrander referred us to Poirier. She said we can call him at (703) 792-5155 but he'll be out of the office until Tuesday.

If there is no CAC in the area, a child may be brought to the nearest CAC if it is close enough. She said sometimes it doesn't make sense to form a CAC in small communities where there might only be two or three child abuse cases per year.

The Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia also conducts forensic interview training for multidisciplinary team members. So even if there's no CAC in the area, MDT members could also be trained and they would know how to talk to a child. Ostrander said Prince William has sent many officers to attend the course. One of their instructors is also from Prince William, Kevin Carr of the special victims unit.

CACs are open in 16 locations in Virginia. Two more will open by end of 2016. Eight are also in the very early stages of developing a CAC.

Ostrander also sent some related documents, including the Virginia order. I dropped these in our Google folder.

Thanks,
Karol

6. Reporting notes from coverage of Nancy Haynes' court hearing in Richmond, VA, March 3, 2016

Interview notes
March 1-2, 2016
Various locations

Zoom 10 — conversation with Nancy and her friends Carolyn and Sheryl, March 1 evening, The Tobacco Company

Nancy talked about what she has gone through since she filed the case. It takes a lot of patience, a lot of waiting for not much to happen, she said. But since her abuse took place 40 years ago, looking for justice in the last couple of years is just a blink of an eye for her.

Zoom 11 — conversation with Nancy and her friends Carolyn and Sheryl, March 1 evening, The Tobacco Company

Carolyn and Nancy talked about how Carolyn found out about what Sue did to Nancy. Sue told her when she was 18. Carolyn said she was very naive and didn't quite know what to think about it.

Nancy then talked about Sue's modus operandi and how running a riding facility became the perfect setup to get young girls.

All through these years, Nancy said she learned to be very leveled. She doesn't want get too excited so she won't feel so down if things don't go her way.

13:32 -- Disclosing is always good but Nancy wants to get the word out so parents won't send their daughters to Sue's camp. Exposure has been her paramount driving reason all this time.

15:58 -- Asked about her advice for victims who might have concerns about coming forward, Nancy said she really has no advice but just keep persevering. She knows she doesn't sound encouraging but that's the reality in her case. She went to so many entities, called all 800-numbers she could find and still failed to get meaningful help until she met Mike Sharman in 2012.

18:21 -- Carolyn asked Nancy how she gets on with her life.

21:45 -- Carolyn on Nancy: She's very brave despite the fact that the community doesn't openly talk about sexual abuse and people don't want to hear about it.

Zoom 12 — sit-down interview with Nancy, March 1 evening, hotel basement

Asked about what she's feeling about the upcoming argument, she said she has no expectations and feels surprisingly numb. This is because she's trying to keep an even keel, and stay steady. She has been waiting for so long and has gone through so many highs and lows.

She gets strength from her friends, her boyfriend and family. She believes in karma and a higher power and that it's not up to her or the State of Virginia to punish Sue.

What really drove her to pursue the case are the non-results she had been getting and the publicity of the Jerry Sandusky case. The availability of the Internet also helped do her research.

If she could talk to Sue now, Nancy said one can't really tell a person like Sue anything in a way that she would understand. She said Sue probably thinks that she just wants an apology, but that apology will never be true or heartfelt.

15:58 -- Nancy said there's "no statute of limitations on decent, moral behavior." She wants her story out so others perhaps could come forward.

Zoom 13 — ambient sound, 100 North Ninth St., entrance and exit to the Supreme Court of Virginia

About a minute.

Zoom 14 — interview with Mike Sharman and Nancy Haynes right after the argument, March 2 morning

Sharman said the justices' focus was not just to rule on the case, but on what public policy the Supreme Court will be crafting with its decision on Nancy's case.

Nancy said it was hard for her to be in the courtroom and not take everything personally. Questions were asked about why she waited many years. But she said she's been trying for so long, but kept slipping through the statute of limitations cracks.

Sharman said the justices will meet privately and they'll vote. The chief justice will assign a justice to write the opinion, which should be released in one to four months.

The court could either say that the Spotsylvania ruling was correct and that Nancy's time to file a case has passed or the statute which allowed her cause of action to be revived is a valid statute and that she can go back to court and begin again.

Sharman explained that it's normal for a childhood sexual abuse victim like Nancy to come forward many years later after her abuse. But because civil statutes of limitations tend to be shorter, it stops her from asserting her rights when she is willing and able to come forward. What is needed are longer statutes of limitations, he said.

Zoom 15 — ambient sound, 100 North Ninth St., entrance and exit to the Supreme Court of Virginia

About a minute.

-End-

B. Memos produced for data obtained for child sexual abuse story

1. Notes on Prince William County Police Department data, April 12, 2016

What's in the folder
The Google Drive folder contains the following: data in PDF and Excel, disposition code, copy of request-letter and sexual assault incident reporting guidelines produced by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for further definition of codes.

Who gave us the data
Master Detective Samuel E. Walker
Internal Affairs Bureau, Prince William County Police Department

Tel: 703-792-5688
E-mail: swalker@pwcgov.org

What we requested

We requested for information on incidents involving sex crimes committed against children from 2000 to 2015. We referred to specific crime codes, as per Prof. Donald's advice. Please see copy of letter for the full list.

We also asked if we could obtain the data below. I referred to the Virginia State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-Based Procedure Guide Manual for possible data we might be able to obtain.

Administrative Data: ORI Number, Incident Number, Incident Date/Hour, Exceptional Clearance, Exceptional Clearance Date, Cargo Theft;

Offense Data: UCR Offense Codes, Offense Attempted/Completed, Offender(s) Suspected of Using Bias Motivation, Location Type, Number of Premises Entered, Method of Entry, Type of Criminal Activity, Type Weapon/Force Involved, Entry/Exit, Type Security, How Left Scene;

Property Data: Type Property Loss/Etc., Property Description, Value of Property, Date Recovered Number of Stolen Motor Vehicles, Number of Recovered Motor Vehicles, Suspected Drug Type, Drug Quantity/Measurement, Property Quantity, Property Offense Code;

Victim Data: Victim Sequence Number, Victim Connected to UCR Offense Code, Type of Victim, Age of Victim, Sex of Victim, Race of Victim, Ethnicity of Victim, Resident Status of Victim, Aggravated Assault/Homicide Circum., Additional Justifiable Homicide Circumstances, Type of Injury, Offender Number(s) To Be Related, Relationship of Victim to Offender Assault Status, Type Activity, Type Assignment Victim/Offender/ Arrestee Relationship;

Offender Data: Offender (Sequence) Number, Age of Offender, Sex of Offender, Race of Offender;

Arrestee Data: Arrestee (Sequence) Number, Arrest (Transaction) Number, Arrest Date, Type of Arrest, Multiple Arrestee Segments Indicator, UCR Arrest Offense Code, Arrestee Was Armed With, Age of Arrestee, Sex of Arrestee, Race of Arrestee, Ethnicity of Arrestee, Resident Status of Arrestee Disposition of Arrestee Under 18, Arrest Type Activity, Arrest Type Drug;

Case status information: Case status and/or investigation results, Police investigator / Detective; and Attorney for the Commonwealth / Prosecutor assigned to the case.

What we got
We received data on incidents of sex crimes against children reported to police from Jan. 1, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2015. The data were provided in PDF and Excel formats with more than 14,600 rows.

The police were only able to provide the Event ID, Call Date, Type of Crime, Offender's Date of Birth, Victim's Date of Birth, Disposition.

Data analysis leads
I think the we could extract the following information from this database:

1. Average age of victims by the time they report to police
2. Average age of offenders
3. Number of reports by crime type, per year and month
4. Number of cases by disposition type – It would be helpful to know how many cases end up with an arrest, proceed to the criminal justice system or are unfounded.
5. Number of female and male victims
6. Number of female and male offenders

Problems seen in data
I think we need to reorganize the columns to have each row refer to a specific case. The Event ID and Type of Crime data are used as labels in the current format.

What the record layout/database code shows
According to Detective Samuel Walker, the disposition terms are defined as follows:

"EXCADULT - Cleared exceptional, adult suspect.
EXCJUV - Cleared exceptional, juvenile suspect.
ARRADULT - An adult was arrested.
ARRJUV - A juvenile was arrested.
ACTIVE - The case is still open/on-going.
UNFOUNDED - No evidence to support the allegation or the offense did not take place.
INACTIVE - No further leads to pursue. Until there is something new in the case, the case will remain inactive."

I also referred to the sexual assault incident reporting guidelines produced by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for the definition of some of the disposition terms listed above.

Case Cleared: an open case is investigated and proceeds through the criminal justice system, or no formal charges are issued due to elements beyond law enforcement control (i.e. death of offender, prosecutor declines to take the case after an offender has been identified, offender is arrested but will be prosecuted in a different jurisdiction).

Case Inactivated/Unsubstantiated Report: a case is removed from the active caseload but remains technically open pending possible future investigative developments.

Information Report: incident that does not currently meet the elements of a crime but the information is led/preserved for future evidence or criminal connections.

Case Unfounded: an investigation shows that an offense was not committed or attempted. Cases can be coded as unfounded because they are either baseless or false.

Unfounded, baseless: a case does not meet the elements of a crime or was improperly coded as a sexual assault.

Unfounded, false: evidence obtained through an investigation shows that a crime was not committed or attempted.

2. Notes on District Court data, April 12, 2016

What's in the folder
The Google Drive folder contains the following: data in Excel, database code, copy of request-letters, district court information and Kristi Wright's letter explaining who keeps the data.

Who gave us the data
Ms. Kristi S. Wright
Director of Legislative and Public Relations
Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
Tel: 804-225-3474
E-mail: KSWright@courts.state.va.us

Data analysis leads
For cases heard in the District Court, I think we can extract the following information from the database:

1. Average difference between Date Received/Arrest Date and Offense Date – This could show us how many years have gone by before the case was filed against an offender.
2. Number of cases by disposition type – It would be helpful to know how many were found guilty, not guilty or dismissed, especially those that took many years before a case was filed.
3. Number of pleas by type
4. Number of case by crime type, per year and month

What we requested
We sent separate requests to the Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and the Supreme Court of Virginia for a copy of a database that contain

information on cases involving sex crimes against children from 2000 to 2015. We also sent specific crime codes, as per Prof. Donald's advice.

The Supreme Court of Virginia eventually facilitated our request. Kristi Wright said majority of the offenses we are requesting are felonies, which are heard and disposed in the Circuit Court. The District Court hears misdemeanors and will only be able to provide this data. We sent a separate request to the Circuit Court for felony data.

What we got
We received data on cases heard before the District Court and how they have been disposed. The database covers data from January 2011 to December 2015. The data was provided in Excel format with more than 3,454 rows.

Since felonies are disposed in the circuit court and misdemeanor offenses are disposed in the district court, I expected seeing only misdemeanor data in the district court database. But some cases are labeled as "CF" or criminal felony in both the case type and amended case type columns.

Kristi Wright explained that it not unusual to have felonies in the district court data as the preliminary hearing is held there. There will also be misdemeanors in the circuit court data because they have jurisdiction over misdemeanor appeals and misdemeanors originally charged in the circuit court.

She recommends us to read the informational pamphlets that are available for both the circuit (http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/circuit/circuitinfo.pdf) and juvenile and domestic relations district courts (http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/jdr/jdrinfo.pdf).

We might also want to consult either a Commonwealth's Attorney or a defense attorney to learn more about how criminal cases heard in district courts.

What the record layout/database code shows
Kristi Wright sent codes for some of the row labels, but not all. Please see database code in the folder.

3. Notes on Circuit Court data, April 12, 2016

What's in the folder
The Google Drive folder contains the following: data in Excel, database code, copy of request-letter, district court information and Kristi Wright's letter explaining who keeps the data.

Who gave us the data
Mr. Bob FitzSimmonds
Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, Prince William Circuit Court
Tel: 703-792-6018
Email: bfitzsimmonds@pwcgov.org

Data analysis leads
For cases heard in the Circuit Court, I think we can extract the following information from the database. This is similar to the District Court data.

1. Average difference between Date Received/Arrest Date and Offense Date – This could show us how many years have gone by before the case was filed against an offender.
2. Number of cases by disposition type – It would be helpful to know how many were found guilty, not guilty or dismissed, especially those that took many years before a case was filed.
3. Number of case by crime type, per year and month

What we requested
Upon Kristi Wright's advice that felonies are heard in the Circuit Court, we sent a separate request to Mr. Bob FitzSimmonds of the Prince William Circuit Court. We requested a copy of a database that contains information on cases involving sex crimes against children from 2000 to 2015. We also sent specific crime codes, as per Prof. Donald's advice.

What we got
We received data on cases heard before the Circuit Court and how they have been disposed. The database covers data on cases disposed from 2000 to 2015. The data was provided in Excel format with more than 24,000 rows.

Since felonies are disposed in the circuit court and misdemeanor offenses are disposed in the district court, I expected seeing only felony data in the circuit court database. But some cases are labeled as "M" or misdemeanor.

Kristi Wright explained that it not unusual to have misdemeanors in the circuit court data because the circuit court have jurisdiction over misdemeanor appeals and misdemeanors originally charged in the circuit court.

She recommends us to read the informational pamphlets that are available for both the circuit (http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/circuit/circuitinfo.pdf) and juvenile and domestic relations district courts (http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/jdr/jdrinfo.pdf).

We might also want to consult either a Commonwealth's Attorney or a defense attorney to learn more about how criminal cases are heard in circuit courts.

Note: I don't think Tennessee's case is in this database. I cross-referenced her case details (offense date and arrest date) in the database and did not find hers.

What the record layout/database code shows
Mr. FitzSimmonds sent codes for some of the row labels, but not all. Please see database code in the folder.

4. Notes on Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission data, April 12, 2016

What's in the folder
The Google Drive folder contains the following: data in Excel, documentation files, copy of request-letter and Meredith Farrar-Owens' reply.

Who gave us the data
Ms. Meredith Farrar-Owens
Director, Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission
Telephone: 804-371-7626
E-mail: meredith.farrar-owens@vcsc.virginia.gov

Data analysis leads
This database was requested after Tennessee found a source who also requested for the same set of data. I'm not particular with the source's findings so it might be helpful to check back with her.

1. Number of cases by departure type
2. How offenders were sentenced
3. Number of case by crime type, per year and month

What we requested
We requested for all Sentencing Guidelines Data for below select offenses for all circuit court Judges from January 2000 to December 2015, listed by each individual judge, for any of the following offenses under the Code of Virginia:

18.2-48, 18.2-61, 18.2-63, 18.2-64.1, 18.2-67.1, 18.2-67.2, 18.2-67.3, 18.2-67.4, 18.2-355, 18.2-361, 18.2-366, 18.2-370 through 18.2-370.2, 18.2-371, 18.2-371.1, 18.2-374.1, 18.2-374.1:1, 18.2-374.3, 18.2-387 and 40.1-103.

This is similar to the request made by one of Tennessee's sources.

What we got
In addition to the Excel file, the Sentencing Commission provided several documentation files:

- Sample cover sheet and worksheet showing the variable labels used in the Excel file,
- Judge identification codes,
- Alternative sanction codes (when judges impose a sanction other than prison, jail or supervised probation),
- Judicial departure codes (when judges sentence outside of the sentencing guidelines range),
- Virginia Crime Codes (VCCs - used to identify the crimes resulting in conviction),
- FIPS Codes (locality identifiers), and the
- Definition of sentencing guidelines compliance.

C. Research and reporting for police shootings story (The Washington Post)

1. Memo on St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officer-involved shootings in the last five years, March 18, 2016

Leah Freeman, a spokeswoman for the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, said all findings permissible under the Sunshine Law are released to the public, including officers' names, once the investigation is done and the Circuit Attorney's Office and U.S. Attorney's Office have reviewed the findings and rendered a decision. She cannot tell how long this entire process takes because the time just varies by case.

As for the department's investigation alone, Freeman said this takes months -- not years -- since the Force Investigative Unit (FIU) was established in September 2014. The FIU is the entity responsible for the criminal investigation of all officer-involved shootings.

I checked SLMPD's website and found at least two FIU investigations concluded within two to six months. These two cases had also been reviewed by the Circuit Attorney's Office. The St. Louis police also released the names of the officers involved.

VonDerritt Myers Jr.
http://www.slmpd.org/press_releases/VonderritMeyersCase20141205.pdf

Oct. 8, 2014 -- Shooting occurred.
Dec. 5, 2014 -- SLMPD turned over investigation findings to circuit attorney's office.
May 18, 2015 -- The St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office released its findings. No charges will be filed against the city police officer who shot and killed Myers. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the CA did not name the officer in its report because he was not charged with a crime, but Police Chief Sam Dotson released a separate statement, including the name of Officer Jason Flanery. The Post-Dispatch noted that Flanery had been identified several months before.

Kajieme Powell
http://www.slmpd.org/press_releases/KajiemePowellInvestigation_20150217.pdf

Aug. 19, 2014 -- Shooting occurred.
Feb. 17, 2015 -- SLMPD finished its investigation.
Nov. 3, 2015 -- The St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office released its findings. No charges will be filed against the two officers who shot Powell. The Post-Dispatch cited Chief Sam Dotson identifying the officers involved: "Nicholas Shelton, with nearly four years on the force, and Ellis Brown, who has served more than four years."

Before FIU, the department's Homicide Division investigates officer-involved shootings. Freeman cannot tell the difference between the work done by the Homicide Division before and that of the FIU now. She said this should be asked through a Sunshine request.

To your question on whether the SLMPD has released any name of an officer involved in

a shooting for the past five years, I think the answer is yes following the Myers and Powell cases above.

Now, I'm waiting to get the number and details of officer-involved shootings SLMPD had been involved in for the past five years. Perhaps, we can find out which cases had officers' names released and which ones had non-disclosures.

2. St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officer-involved shootings clip search, March 24, 2016

Hi John,

Andrew and I have class tomorrow morning. I can do the fact-checking with you on Monday or Tuesday. Tomorrow afternoon can work too for me, but I have a deadline for my master's project so I plan to use the time for that.

As for the St. Louis police shooting, I found seven cases from 2010. But the officers in only one of these cases (Stephon Averyhart) appear to be unnamed still. Please see file attached.

I called St. Louis police and filed a Sunshine request. I could not get an immediate response because they need to check with their Legal Division first. I'll get back to you on this as soon as I hear from them.

I also have six cases left. I have called these offices more than three times, left messages or sent them emails.

Thanks,
Karol

Incident Date	Victim	Shooters	Source
2014-08-19	Kajieme Powell	Nicholas Shelton Ellis Brown	http://www.slmpd.org/press_releases/KajiemePowellInvestigation_20150217.pdf http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/prosecutor-no-charges-against-st-louis-officers-in-fatal-shooting/article_8286d6a1-9a32-5be4-ab8e-6f52503a31c4.html
2014-10-08	VonDerritt Myers Jr.	Officer Jason Flanery	http://www.slmpd.org/press_releases/VonderritMeyersCase

			20141205.pdf
2013-04-24	Carlos Ball Jr.	Officer Jason Chambers Officer Timothy Boyce	http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/article_331ddb0e-6cc9-11e3-9c36-0019bb2963f4.html http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/st-louis-police-chief-calls-for-fbi-probe-into-officer/article_5a10b4cc-bc57-5d7c-84ca-190a78ab2433.html
2011-12-21	Anthony Lamar Smith	Officer Jason Stockley	http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/video-plays-major-role-in-fatal-shooting-investigation/article_71b25781-9d39-51fb-b240-29d2b0ca0274.html
2010-06-25	Normane Bennett	Detective Marc Wasem	http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/family-of-man-killed-by-st-louis-police-sues-in/article_3ab50cb8-63eb-11e1-8206-001a4bcf6878.html
2008-12-01	Randy Hill	Officer Beary Bowles Officer Brian Strehl	http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/st-louis-police-handle-shootings-by-officers-with-little-oversight/article_483565a2-33c9-5434-819c-24eb56b9ed2e.html
2014-02-12	Stephon Averyhart Unnamed – filed Sunshine request with SLMPD	The officers involved -- a 35-year-old officer with 10.5 years on the force and a 32-year-old officer	http://www.riverfronttimes.com/newsblog/2014/09/15/still-no-answers-seven-months-after-police-shoot-and-kill-stephon-averyhart

		with 8 years' experience -- were not injured. They are now on administrative leave pending an investigation, which is required by department policy.	

3. Memo on St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officer-involved shootings in the last five years, April 2, 2016

Hi John,

I finally heard from the St. Louis police yesterday. St. Louis police spokeswoman Leah Freeman said the February 2, 2014 incident where Stephon Averyhart was shot and killed is still an open investigation. The SLMPD has not yet released the names of the officers involved in this shooting. This appears to be the oldest case where St. Louis police hasn't identified officers involved, at least according to my clip search.

But as I noted in my March 18 and March 24 memos, St. Louis police have identified officers involved in other shooting incidents. These were cases from 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014.

Thank you,
Karol

C. Samples of public records requests drafted and filed for child sexual abuse and police shootings story

For the child sexual abuse story, I sent five separate public records requests to the Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Supreme Court of Virginia, Prince William Police Department, Prince William Circuit Court and Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission. All of these requests were granted.

For the Post's police shootings story, I contacted 47 law enforcement agencies to find out if they have released the names of officers involved in fatal shootings. My assignments were Alabama, Missouri, California and Nevada. Responses varied by

department because no standards exist on releasing information after an officer shoots someone. An open investigation and officer safety are typically cited for non-disclosure.

Of the 60 cases I worked on, 28 requests were denied, 25 were granted, two said they were not involved in the case while five did not respond. The story, published on April 1, 2016, can be viewed here.

1. Public records request with the Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Jan. 19, 2016

Jan. 19, 2016

Ms. Frances H. Hedrick, Clerk
Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
9311 Lee Ave., Manassas, VA 20110
Tel: (703) 792-6160 / (703) 257-7190

Subject: Public records request

Dear Ms. Hedrick,

I write to request records maintained by the Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

I would like to obtain a copy of a database that contain information on cases involving sex crimes against children from 2000 to 2015. I refer to crimes listed on the next page.

Specifically, I would like to obtain the following case details:

- Case Number, Date Filed, Commenced by, Locality;
- Defendant, Sex, Race, Date of Birth, Address;
- Charge, Code Section, Charge Type, Class;
- Offense Date, Arrest Date;
- Hearing Details: Dates, Time, Type, Room, Plea, Duration, Jury, Result;
- Final Disposition and Status Details: Disposition Code, Disposition Date, Concluded By, Amended Charge, Amended Code Section, Amended Charge Type, Jail/Penitentiary, Concurrent/Consecutive, Life/Death, Sentence Time, Sentence Suspended, Fine Amount, Costs, Fines/Cost Paid, Program Type, Probation Type, Probation Time, Probation Starts, Restriction Start Date, Restriction End Date, Restitution Paid, Restitution Amount, Military, Appealed Date;
- Attorney for the Commonwealth / Prosecutor assigned to the case;

- Police investigator / detective; and
- Judge Designate.

I request that the records be provided in a spreadsheet and sent to my email dcdonald99@gmail.com and my colleague Karol Ilagan's email karol.ilagan@gmail.com. Please feel free to call me at (703) 622-7174 or Karol at (573) 289-7391 to work out the technical details of this request.

I ask that you waive the fee for processing this request. Kindly inform me first if you decide to charge a fee to fulfill this request.

Thank you very much. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

(signed)
David Donald

Chapter 4. Crimes Against the Person

Article 7. Criminal Sexual Assault
§ 18.2-61 Rape
§ 18.2-63 Carnal knowledge of child between thirteen and fifteen years of age
§ 18.2-64.1 Carnal knowledge of certain minors
§ 18.2-64.2 Carnal knowledge of an inmate, parolee, probationer, detainee, or pretrial or posttrial offender; penalty
§ 18.2-67.1 Forcible sodomy
§ 18.2-67.2 Object sexual penetration; penalty
§ 18.2-67.3 Aggravated sexual battery; penalty
§ 18.2-67.4 Sexual battery
§ 18.2-67.4:1 Infected sexual battery; penalty
§ 18.2-67.4:2 Sexual abuse of a child under 15 years of age; penalty
§ 18.2-67.5 Attempted rape, forcible sodomy, object sexual penetration, aggravated sexual battery, and sexual battery

Chapter 8. Crimes Involving Morals and Decency

Article 4. Family Offenses; Crimes Against Children, Etc.
§ 18.2-370 Taking indecent liberties with children; penalties
§ 18.2-370.01 Indecent liberties by children; penalty
§ 18.2-370.1 Taking indecent liberties with child by person in custodial or supervisory relationship; penalties
§ 18.2-370.2 Sex offenses prohibiting proximity to children; penalty
§ 18.2-370.3 Sex offenses prohibiting residing in proximity to children; penalty
§ 18.2-370.4 Sex offenses prohibiting working on school property; penalty

§ 18.2-370.5 Sex offenses prohibiting entry onto school or other property; penalty
§ 18.2-370.6 Penetration of mouth of child with lascivious intent; penalty
§ 18.2-371 Causing or encouraging acts rendering children delinquent, abused, etc.; penalty; abandoned infant
§ 18.2-371.1 Abuse and neglect of children; penalty; abandoned infant

Article 5. Obscenity and Related Offenses
§ 18.2-374.1 Production, publication, sale, financing, etc., of child pornography; presumption as to age
§ 18.2-374.1:1 Possession, reproduction, distribution, solicitation, and facilitation of child pornography; penalty
§ 18.2-374.3 Use of communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children
§ 18.2-374.4 Display of child pornography or grooming video or materials to a child unlawful; penalty

2. Public records request with the Prince William County Police Department, Jan. 20, 2016

Jan. 20, 2016

Internal Affairs Office
Prince William County Police Department
1 County Complex Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192
Tel: (703) 792-4127 / Fax: (703) 792-5181

Subject: Public records request

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to request records maintained by the Prince William County Police Department under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

I would like to obtain a copy of a database that contain information on incidents involving sex crimes committed against children from 2000 to 2015. I refer to crimes listed on the next page.

Specifically, I would like to obtain the following information:

Administrative Data: ORI Number, Incident Number, Incident Date/Hour, Exceptional Clearance, Exceptional Clearance Date, Cargo Theft;

Offense Data: UCR Offense Codes, Offense Attempted/Completed, Offender(s) Suspected of Using Bias Motivation, Location Type, Number of Premises Entered,

Method of Entry, Type of Criminal Activity, Type Weapon/Force Involved, Entry/Exit, Type Security, How Left Scene;

Property Data: Type Property Loss/Etc., Property Description, Value of Property, Date Recovered, Number of Stolen Motor Vehicles, Number of Recovered Motor Vehicles, Suspected Drug Type, Drug Quantity/Measurement, Property Quantity, Property Offense Code;

Victim Data: Victim Sequence Number, Victim Connected to UCR Offense Code, Type of Victim, Age of Victim, Sex of Victim, Race of Victim, Ethnicity of Victim, Resident Status of Victim, Aggravated Assault/Homicide Circum., Additional Justifiable Homicide Circumstances, Type of Injury, Offender Number(s) To Be Related, Relationship of Victim to Offender Assault Status, Type Activity, Type Assignment Victim/Offender/ Arrestee Relationship;

Offender Data: Offender (Sequence) Number, Age of Offender, Sex of Offender, Race of Offender;

Arrestee Data: Arrestee (Sequence) Number, Arrest (Transaction) Number, Arrest Date, Type of Arrest, Multiple Arrestee Segments Indicator, UCR Arrest Offense Code, Arrestee Was Armed With, Age of Arrestee, Sex of Arrestee, Race of Arrestee, Ethnicity of Arrestee, Resident Status of Arrestee Disposition of Arrestee Under 18, Arrest Type Activity, Arrest Type Drug;

Case status information: Case status and/or investigation results, Police investigator / Detective; and Attorney for the Commonwealth / Prosecutor assigned to the case.

I request that the records be provided in a spreadsheet and sent to my email dcdonald99@gmail.com and my colleague Karol Ilagan's email karol.ilagan@gmail.com. Please feel free to call me at (703) 622-7174 or Karol at (573) 289-7391 to work out the technical details of this request.

I ask that you waive the fee for processing this request. Kindly inform me first if you decide to charge a fee to fulfill this request.

Thank you very much. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

(signed)
David Donald

Please refer to same list of crimes provided in the request to the Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

3. Sample letter sent to law enforcement agencies for The Washington Post's police shootings story

March 22, 2016

Karl Hall, Reno City Attorney
1 E. First Street, Reno, NV 89501
Tel: 775-334-2050
Email: hallk@reno.gov

Subject: Matthew Grows incident

Dear Mr. Hall,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Karol Ilagan, and I'm working with John Sullivan, a reporter with The Washington Post. We are working on a story on officer-involved shootings.

I've been reaching out to law enforcement agencies in various states to check if they have released the names of officers involved in shootings. I was referred to your office by Mr. Tim Broadway of the Reno Police Department.

In this regard, I'd like to find out if we can get the name s of the officers involved in the shooting of Matthew Grows. The incident happened on on Nov. 22, 2015 .

I understand there may be situations when the officer's name cannot be disclosed. If this is the case, it would be helpful if you could cite a law or reason for non-disclosure at this time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I may be reached at (573) 289-7391 or karol.ilagan@gmail.com.

Respectfully,
Karol Ilagan

D. Articles published for the Investigative Reporting Workshop blog

Reporters reflect on journalism's highest honor
By Karol Ilagan | February 1, 2016
http://investigativereportingworkshop.org/blogs/shop-notes/posts/2016/feb/01/pulitzer-prize-winning-reporters-reflect-receiving/

Throughout his career, Doug Pardue has kept the Pulitzer Prize as a goal. Not because he wanted to win the award but because he realized that if he kept striving to do the kind of journalism worthy of the prize, then he was doing the best he could.

So to finally get it felt like an honor, he said: “It’s the capstone to my career.”

Pardue, projects reporter for The Post and Courier, in Charleston, South Carolina, was part of the four-member team that investigated domestic violence killings in the state. The series, "Till Death Do Us Part," led to the passage of a bill that imposed tougher penalties and barred abusers from owning guns. It also won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service.

Pardue joined more than 200 prize winners at the Newseum on Jan. 28 for a celebration of the Pulitzer Prize Centennial. The occasion marked the beginning of a yearlong series of events across the country. The prizes, administered by Columbia University, recognize the best work in journalism and the arts each year.

Keven Ann Willey, chair of the Pulitzer centennial committee, said they want to celebrate the first hundred years of journalism and the arts, and the values that are the foundation for the Pulitzers.

“But we also want to inspire the next generation, the next hundred years of exemplary journalism, arts and letters and the values that undergird all of that,” she said.

The Pulitzer Prize Board has organized talks, film screenings, book discussions and other events throughout the year to give the public the opportunity to interact with some of the reporting, photography and literature that won the prize.

The Workshop recently spoke with some of the winners to learn about the impact of their recognition, how Pulitzer values have inspired their work and their advice for aspiring young reporters.

James B. Steele, a two-time recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in National Reporting, said the award reaffirmed to his newspaper at the time, The Philadelphia Inquirer, the value of digging deeper into matters of public interest.

“It encouraged us to continue to follow a story where it led,” he said, adding that more people at the Inquirer also began doing more in-depth reporting.

Steele, together with colleague Donald L. Barlett, won his first Pulitzer in 1975 for the duo’s series that exposed the unequal application of federal tax laws. Their work also gave the Inquirer its first Pulitzer.

In 1989, Barlett and Steele received their second Pulitzer for their 15-month investigation of the "rifle shot" provisions in the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Lawmakers then inserted special-interest deals that were intended to benefit a specific individual or group. The

series gained public attention, prompting Congress to reject proposals that gave special tax breaks to influential individuals and businesses.

Barlett and Steele went on to become one of the most respected investigative reporting teams in the country. After working together for more than four decades at the Inquirer, they also worked at Time magazine, where they earned two National Magazine Awards, and now are contributing editors at Vanity Fair. They have also written eight books, the most recent of which, “The Betrayal of the American Dream,” made the The New York Times and Los Angeles Times best-sellers lists in 2012. The book, researched in part by Workshop staffers, and undertaken as part of a two-year project in which they wrote for the Workshop’s site, examined “what went wrong” in America to consistently undercut the middle class. “What Went Wrong” was also the title of an in-depth series and subsequent book done while they were Inquirer staffers.

Michael Vitez and John Sullivan are two of many more reporters who in various ways continued Barlett’s and Steele’s legacy at the Inquirer.

Vitez, along with April Saul and Ron Cortes, won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Journalism for a series that followed five critically ill people as they approached the ends of their lives.

Vitez said the inspiration was the work he did, not the award he won.

“It’s great to win a Pulitzer. It’s a wonderful thing,” he said. “But, really, it's the work that is the important thing — not the recognition you get for it.”

Receiving the award, he said, gave him great confidence. “I realized, when I did that work, what great work was. It gave me a bar to shoot for,” he said.

For Sullivan, who is now a reporter for The Washington Post's investigations team and a senior editor at the Workshop, knowing that he has done the kind of excellent work that colleagues and the board find worthy of a Pulitzer is incredibly satisfying and rewarding.

What the prize has given him is the freedom to do the kind of work he wants to do, he said. Sullivan also teaches a graduate practicum in investigative journalism at the American University, pairing students with reporters on various teams and projects.

In 2011, Sullivan led a team of five reporters who examined pervasive violence in the Philadelphia schools. The series, which triggered reforms to improve the safety of teachers and students, won the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service in 2012.

Sullivan was also a finalist for the prize in national reporting in 2009. He, John Shiffman and Tom Avril reported on how political interests have undermined the role of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Asked for advice for aspiring investigative reporters, Steele said the most important thing is to look at the larger picture. He said reporters should try to devote as much time as possible to helping people understand complex subjects.

Humanizing stories is another key element in reporting, Steele said, because that's the way for people to respond to stories.

“People are the heart of all stories,” he said. “People, the good or the bad.”

Pardue of The Post and Courier said many reporters are doing great work overseas, covering the wars, but he also points out that a "war" might also be going on in one's own backyard. Reporters need to get out there and look at what's troubling their own community because that's where stories are.

Vitez said one shouldn't worry about recognition because the only thing that will drive a reporter to greatness is the pursuit of truth.

"You have to love the craft. You have to love what you do. That's got to be all that matters," he said.

Sullivan said reporters should find their own sense of motivation — and that can't come from bosses, the news organization or awards. It has to be a determination borne out of a desire to do work that one loves and cares about.

"And that's its own reward," he said.

-End-

'Spotlight' shows why journalism still matters
By Karol Ilagan | February 26, 2016
http://investigativereportingworkshop.org/blogs/shop-notes/posts/2016/feb/26/spotlight-shows-why-journalism-still-matters/

Marty Baron thought of a number of reasons why a movie about reporters investigating child sexual abuse that implicated priests would not make it to the big screen.

It deals with a sensitive subject, for one. It is told by journalists whose work neither needs special effects nor superheroes to be depicted in film. Most of all, a popular pope sits in the Vatican.

Yet for all the shortcomings Baron had in mind, the idea proposed to him seven years ago turned out to be one of the most celebrated movies of the year: “Spotlight.” The film is nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Named after The Boston Globe’s investigations unit, “Spotlight” tells the story of how a team of reporters exposed the cover-up of sexual abuse committed by Catholic priests in

Boston. Baron, who was portrayed by actor Liev Schreiber, was at the helm of the Globe at the time; he wanted the Spotlight reporters to dig deeper into allegations of sexual abuse within the Church. Baron is now the executive editor of The Washington Post.

Baron, who spoke at the Doyle/Forman Theater at American University Wednesday night, talked about his role in making the film, why investigative journalism matters and how, 14 years later, The Globe's Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation continues to make an impact.

The event, co-sponsored by the School of Communication, Investigative Reporting Workshop and the Center for Media and Social Impact, was part of AU's "Movies That Matter" series.

Baron said the film resonated with different groups of people in different ways. That includes journalists, survivors of sexual abuse and even a segment of the public, who, however skeptical they may be, has come to appreciate the role of investigative reporting.

"I think it certainly resonated with journalists who feel that it's an authentic portrayal of the work that they do and the purpose of the work that they perform," he said.

Baron described the efforts made by the filmmakers to get as close to how events actually unfolded during The Globe's investigation. Director Tom McCarthy and writer Josh Singer conducted extensive interviews. Baron said he was interviewed and re-interviewed to the point that he had nothing more to say — and learned things about his own newsroom that he didn't know at the time.

What makes "Spotlight" an honest representation of journalism is that it also highlighted the flaws of what Baron calls an "imperfect profession." Sources who kept telling the Spotlight team that they had already alerted The Globe about the abuse were part of the narrative.

"We miss stories all the time," Baron said, noting that information can get lost in the daily grind of reporting.

He said what makes the film realistic is that it portrays journalists as real people. "It doesn't really make reporters out to be heroes. It makes the reporters out to be people who are, at long last, doing their jobs."

One of the most pivotal moments occurs when the team is told the Globe isn't going to publish yet, even though reporters knew the names of several priests involved, because the scope of the story was not yet broad enough; they didn't have enough to show that there was a cover-up. The scene was based on a memo Baron wrote.

This key event in the investigation offers some lessons for reporters on how to handle personal feelings in their jobs. Baron said that journalists can't let their emotions take over.

“We’re supposed to be the rational players in these things,” he said. “I think it’s important that we sit back and understand all of the facts, when we should publish and when we shouldn't publish, what facts we still need to gather.”

One of the riskiest things in journalism, he said, is what one doesn’t know. “The biggest embarrassment comes up when you publish, and you discover there was some thing you did not ask, you did not pursue, and it undermines your story.”

In the Internet environment where stories are churned out quickly, Baron acknowledged that it can be difficult to sit on a story for a long period of time. He stressed the importance of being self-critical.

“It’s important that we ask ourselves the hardest questions before the public asks us those questions,” he said.

Journalism Professor Jane Hall, who covered the media for The Los Angeles Times, moderated the conversation, and asked Baron whether he is optimistic about the future of investigative journalism, given the financial challenges and consolidation of ownership.

Owners and publishers, Baron said, need to understand the essence of journalism and journalists — what they stand for and what binds them to readers.

“I think our readers really do expect us to be independent,” he said. “They expect us to hold the powerful interests accountable. They expect us to take appropriate risks.”

Baron said he does not have absolute confidence that all owners and publishers think this way, but he believes that many do.

“I believe the single most irresponsible thing we could do would be to abandon this kind of work, and to stop holding powerful interests accountable,” he said.

The sister of a victim of abuse asked Baron if he knew how many victims each priests had, but Baron said it is not a “numbers game.”

“The Church is supposed to be a refuge,” he said, pointing out that the core issue was what the Church did when senior clergy found out about the grave abuse committed by priests repeatedly. In The Globe’s investigation, the Church chose to protect its reputation, and priests were transferred to other parishes, repeatedly, in some cases.

This kind of reporting, as dramatized in “Spotlight,” resonated strongly with survivors. Baron said it encouraged survivors to come forward and talk about the abuse they suffered.

At a talk he gave last week at Lehigh University, he said one of the first people to get up during the open forum was an 82-year-old who was sexually abused at age 12. The man said he had never told anyone about his experience until he saw the film that day.

Baron recalls the man telling him: “All I can say is thank you.”

“That was incredibly moving,” Baron said.

-End-

Chapter Five: Analysis

In a 24-hour news cycle where scoops sell and trending thrives, Slow News is veering away from the viral.

As its name implies, this Seoul-based online news organization aspires to deliver news "slowly but more deeply." Concerned by the sensationalized stories put out by many profit-driven online outfits in South Korea, likeminded journalists and bloggers formed Slow News with a modest yet essential goal: to generate a deeper discussion of issues.

Nakho Kim, one of Slow News' founders, says the quick pace of online news has contributed to a decline in journalistic standards. "So why not simply build one that is completely the opposite?" he asks.

That's exactly what Kim and his colleagues did in 2012. And since then Slow News has covered topics in politics, business and culture that might not otherwise be given much attention by traditional media. For a small news outlet in the country's booming media market – there are more than 2,000 online news sites – Slow News has drawn readers through social media.

But critical developments have been looming over the bandwidth capital of the world for several years now. In late 2015 the government revised its Newspaper Law in a move to curb tabloid-type stories on the Web. The amendment would revoke the registration of online news outlets unless they hire or keep at least five employees by November 2016. Previously, only three employees were needed to get certified, and for which only a staff list was required. Details about employment benefits are to be

submitted as well now. Although not required, getting registered provides news outlets access to press conferences and other benefits.

The new order poses a problem for Slow News, which currently has two full-time employees, an editor-in-chief and a publisher who also serves as designer. Unlike conventional newsrooms, part-time contributors -- journalists, media scholars and bloggers who all keep day jobs -- run Slow News.

Kim does not deny that many online outlets tend to sensationalize news for profit. In South Korea, clicks directly lead to advertising revenue. Many news sites thus put out articles containing trending words, juicy headlines and appealing images to gain more attention. Such practice is troubling enough for journalism at large. Another big issue, Kim says, is that the ordinance may be used to repress small media outlets critical of the government.

"So it's like killing two birds with one stone," he says.

The new prerequisite follows a list of other measures that have been enacted or expanded to cover Internet content in South Korea. For decades, the controversial National Security Law of 1948, in addition to the passage of more recent laws, has been considered as the most serious affront not only to a free press in South Korea but free speech, affecting all citizens.

New battleground

South Korea is not alone in the region. Independent news organizations in two other democracies, Indonesia and the Philippines, are also experiencing both direct and indirect challenges in cyberspace, from blocking of content and limited readership to censorship and self-censorship.

Before the rise of social media, regulations mainly covered content published on print and broadcast media. This gap made it possible for alternative news sources to thrive online, filling the void left by traditional or state-owned news outlets. But the massive migration online in the last decade saw governments moving to include Internet activity in their regulatory structures. As a result, what used to be a niche for independent media has now become the "new battleground" for freedom of expression.

Edgardo Legaspi, executive director of the Southeast Asian Press Alliance, says threatened governments are now "playing catch-up" after recognizing that the Internet can be an effective tool for people's voices to be heard. Governments especially in repressive regimes, he says, are now trying hard to keep Web-based news organizations, which were not previously covered by their regulatory frameworks, in line.

Formed in 1998, the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) is a Bangkok-based nonprofit that monitors press freedom issues in Southeast Asia. The group's campaigns center on access to information and the safety of journalists in the region. In the last four years SEAPA also started looking into freedom of expression online after seeing a spate of Internet crackdowns across countries. The cases range from distributed denial-of-service or DDOS attacks during intense political episodes, taking down of social media accounts for allegedly inciting hatred, to the prosecution of bloggers in restrictive countries like Vietnam and Singapore.

What's alarming, Legaspi observes, is that the problems ordinarily met by journalists before are now dispersed to the larger public. Online censorship does not distinguish between individuals using Web platforms to express their views and formal media organizations running news websites.

"Journalists used to be on the receiving end of these threats," he says. "Now, there are more cases, more victims."

Madeline Earp, Asia research analyst for Freedom House's Freedom on the Net report, says the Internet, as a "democratizing platform," allows practically anyone to express themselves, bypassing professional media which used to provide them the avenue before. "So the field is wide open in terms of people who can face potential repercussions," she says.

Legaspi's and Earp's observations cannot be more true than in Indonesia.

Indonesia's press predicament

In 2015 Kantor Berita Radio, Indonesia's sole independent national radio service, published on its website, Portal KBR, a story about a hotel development in Jakarta. The project met strong opposition from the community because the development was getting in the way of a basic need: water access.

Citra Prastuti, Portal KBR's news manager, says they were careful with the report as they are in everything else they publish. They made sure to follow ethical guidelines and got legal advice on parts that might have been sensitive. Anticipating that one source might encounter trouble at work, they agreed to not name this person in the report. The source stayed anonymous in both the print and audio versions of the story, although the person's voice can be heard in the podcast.

After the story aired, Portal KBR received a call not from the subject of the story but from the anonymous source. The source asked to have his parts removed from the story because he had been getting a lot of questions from his workplace.

Prastuti says Portal KBR decided to take out the parts in the audio report where the source's voice is heard, although the print story remained untouched. "We look at him as a good source, but then we have to make sure that he is safe," she says.

Portal KBR has not run into any trouble with the law with any story that they have published – and they plan to keep it that way. But getting good information from sources like the one they found in the hotel development story has lately become more complicated in Indonesia.

Nezar Patria, a board member of the Indonesian Press Council, says threats aimed at sources – not news organizations – have become more common in the country in the past two years. Patria says the government and other parties seem to have found a new way, not to precisely control the media, but to seek redress by going after sources.

Similar to South Korea, Indonesia also employs a set of laws covering web content. In addition to defamation provisions in its Criminal Code the government also passed the 2011 State Intelligence Law, the 2008 Anti-Pornography Law and the 2008 Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) Law. Each law was enacted with good intentions: to ensure national security, counter pornography and protect customer data, respectively.

These measures, however, were widely criticized. Media experts and human rights advocates say these laws contain vague language that leave them open to abuse. The ITE Law, for instance, expanded the authority of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to censor online content. Blocking of content tends to be arbitrary because the wording is unclear as to what constitutes "forms of disturbance," "abuse of electronic information," "public interest," and "public order."

The most contentious clause in the ITE Law is Article 27 (3) which prescribes criminal punishment for anyone found guilty of transmitting electronic information or documents that intimidate or defame anyone. Those found guilty of defamation in the ITE Law may serve up to six years in jail and/or a fine of up to Rp1 billion ($75,921). This is much more severe than the penalty provided in the criminal code which is nine months of imprisonment or a fine of up to Rp4,500 ($0.34). The ITE Law has been challenged before the Constitutional Court at least four times with none of those judicial reviews leading to any change.

Yet unlike in South Korea Indonesian journalists do not exactly see these laws as a "direct threat" to the press – although they are still very much a cause for serious concern. This is because of the rather special setup in Indonesia wherein the Press Council deals and tries to resolve complaints concerning news reports. This arrangement stipulated in the 1999 Press Law is one of many reforms instituted after the fall of Suharto in 1998.

In effect, parties may find it difficult to go after news organizations because of the strong legal protections for the press. As an alternative they appear to be going directly after the source using Article 27 of the ITE Law for instance.

Patria explains the simple logic behind this phenomenon. Filing a complaint with the Press Council, if successful, would often only result in the media making a correction or the complainant be given the right to reply. Filing a lawsuit against a source who is not covered by the Press Law may lead to criminal charges or imprisonment if convicted.

"This I think is more dangerous to the citizens in Indonesia because criminalizing resource persons is a threat to a wider freedom of speech," Patria says.

The law may thus create a chilling effect on sources. In a 2014 news report in The Jakarta Post, Information and Communication Technology Watch Indonesia director Donny Budi Utoyo said few experts are willing to be news sources for journalists because of Article 27 of the ITE Law.

Wahyu Dhyatmika, managing editor of Tempo's Investigative Desk, says that to some degree sources take more caution now when speaking to reporters. He doesn't have data to back the observation but notes that there's a growing pressure among newsrooms now to come up with a new set of rules or guidelines to protect both sources and the news outlet when a legal threat is made.

Tempo, founded in 1971 during the Suharto dictatorship, has been the constant source of independent and investigative reporting in Indonesia.

From 2008 to 2014 there were 74 individuals sued under the ITE Law according to a Freedom House report. Ninety-two percent of these cases were filed for online defamation, 5 percent for blasphemy and 1 percent for online threats. The number of prosecutions under the ITE Law also doubled in 2014, with a total of 41 cases, up from 21 in the previous year.

Still in transition

For Dhyatmika, another reality that needs to be addressed is the fact that the Indonesian media is still largely in transition in the digital shift. Many news organizations, he says, are struggling financially while figuring out how to navigate the online system.

Dhyatmika says efforts to find ways for the media to survive in the digital age are wanting. "We are still using Internet mostly for our basic needs -- to verify information,

to check people's background -- but not really taking advantage of what the Internet can offer," he says.

As an example, the Indonesian government as part of the global open data movement has made more data available online. But Dhyatmika says too few stories are churned out from these records for a number of reasons. The shadow of dictatorship from Indonesia's not too distant past has made it difficult for journalists to trust information presented by the government. Reporters covering a beat, for instance, tend to obtain records on their own or through their own sources in government. Often journalists find it hard to use data in reporting because they lack skills such as using spreadsheets to analyze the data.

Dhyatmika says there's plenty of room for Indonesian journalists to use data in stories and create applications for people to get stories they need. "There's a lot of digital training that needs to be done so that journalists can use the Internet at its optimum," he says.

Prastuti of Portal KBR says Kantor Berita Radio moved online because they believe that it is the future of the news media. Even though they had very limited resources back then, she says they just pushed themselves to do the online version.

"We're trained as radio journalists. We don't have enough training for online," she says. "But we feel that we really had to move to the online platform. Otherwise, we will be quite left behind."

South Korea's 'new gatekeepers'

In contrast, South Korea's news ecosystem is flourishing so much so that thousands of news sites exist online. By all accounts South Korea's Internet service

sector is far ahead in the region with its high Internet and smartphone usage coupled with speedy connections.

The online migration of the news media in South Korea began in the mid-90s before the widespread use of the Internet worldwide. The digital shift gained more traction in the late '90s when South Korea adopted broadband Internet. The country was also one of the earliest users of digital subscriber lines or DSL. By the turn of the century, about half of the population already had Internet access. Now at 84 percent South Korea is one of the most wired countries in the world. Meanwhile, according to 2016 data Indonesia is at 20 percent and the Philippines is at 43 percent.

For the past 15 years, most Koreans have gotten their news from Internet portals such as Naver and Kakao. Naver, for instance, has almost 80 percent of the country's search market, beating search engine giants Google and Yahoo. Small independent media are disadvantaged in this thriving online market.

Nakho Kim, who teaches media and journalism at Pennsylvania State University – Harrisburg, says the growing dependence on Naver and Kakao has led to portal sites becoming the "new gatekeepers" in the flow of information online.

Portal sites in South Korea do not operate like Google as they do not search all possible sources of news. They provide content from contracted news outlets. To get a contract with Naver a media outlet needs to be certified with the government for at least one year. For Kakao the condition is two years.

Although there are other ways to reach readers a news organization's visibility can be limited without a contract with these portal sites. This is expected to be more

difficult now with the recent ordinance requiring news outlets to have at least five employees to be eligible for certification with the government.

Yong Jin Kim, editor-in-chief of the Korea Center for Investigative Journalism, South Korea's first online investigative nonprofit, cannot say that the government issued the new order specifically to suppress the media. However, he allows that it will lead to a decrease in the number of small, independent media.

In addition to the minimum required staff number, news organizations also need to submit details about employment benefits and proof that it has a newsroom (such as an office lease) to get certified. Seeking registration, however, does not mean getting permission from the government, so if a news outlet pass qualifications, it will most likely get certified.

News outlets do not necessarily need to go through the formal registration process to practice journalism in South Korea. But getting certified has its benefits such as access to press rooms or conferences in Congress, courts or the prosecutor's office.

Nakho Kim says small startups typically end up with two options. "One thing is to get a little bigger and then try to reach a deal with Naver," he says. "If you won't be able to do that you won't be read on Naver and that will very much limit your visibility." The second option is to utilize other avenues such as Facebook and Twitter to reach more readers.

Yong Jin Kim says most media organizations do rely heavily on Naver and other web portals. Only a few small news outlets, he says, are able to reach readers through other means, either directly through membership or the vigorous use of social media.

Newstapa, the online publication of the Center, is one such example. Although it has had a two year news article search contract with Naver and since 2015 a contract with Naver News Stand Newstapa draws most of its readers, about 30 percent, from Facebook followed by direct visit at about 20 percent. Kakao Story, a social media application run by Kakao, and Naver make up about 20 percent of Newstapa's web traffic, and the rest come from Twitter, Google and other platforms.

Kim says Newstapa has been able to keep its earliest readers using only social media to distribute content. In Kakao Story it has the most number of followers among all Korean media outlets.

Newstapa also gets substantial traffic through direct visits because it regularly sends newsletters to its 35,000 donating members. Still, Kim says they are looking into how to get more direct visits to their website. "We haven't figured out anything much in particular yet. We are focusing on spreading our content through social media at this moment," he says.

For Kim, the problem takes root from the commercialization of the media, in which clicks automatically lead to advertising revenue. The set-up, he says, leads to abuse, causing many mainstream newspapers and network channels' news sites to run articles containing words trending on social media or web portals.

"These news sites are full of articles with sensational headlines and pictures to attract clicks," he says. "Such practice of media is severely damaging the Internet news culture."

For Kim, ensuring accountability online cannot be achieved by setting a minimum number of employees for news agencies.

Newstapa collaborates with a network of small, local nonprofit media in Daegu and Gwangju, two major cities in South Korea. They share resources to cover the local and general elections, for instance. Kim says these groups are very small organizations with less than five staff members, yet they write great stories and follow ethical standards.

"It is unreasonable that such excellent news organizations don't qualify for news agency certification because they have a small number of journalists and have a small budget," he says.

Censorship and self-censorship in South Korea

Naver, Kakao and other online service providers in South Korea are legally considered media outlets and are thus not exempted from media laws and regulations, including defamation provisions.

Nakho Kim says these intermediaries are thus obliged to block content. "If there is somebody who tries to say that he has been defamed by this libelous content, they can just notify online services, such as Naver, or blog services, and they have to filter out the content right away."

In South Korea, a portal site can block content first before any form of discussion or conflict resolution could take place.

"By default, your content will get filtered if somebody, either the subject of a story or sometimes a government official, says it's a problem," Kim says. "The whole conflict resolution process begins in weeks or months even, and during that period the content just gets blocked."

News outlets, journalists and Internet users are therefore likely to practice self-censorship in the country.

Nakho Kim observes that users, especially those in portal sites like Naver do self-censor because they want to avoid getting into trouble with the government. He says individual news outlets also practice a fair deal of self-censorship but the focus has been more towards reporting about companies rather than the government. South Korea's advertising market is an oligopoly. Self-censorship on stories concerning businesses thus become more prevalent among news organizations whose main lifeline is advertising.

Yong Jin Kim says Newstapa has pursued reporting, offering no sanctuary for anyone, but he cannot say the same for each and every news organization in South Korea. "We've covered, with no hesitation, corruption and problems with any part of the society, including the president, the majority party, National Intelligence Service, prosecution and more," he says. "But it seems like self-censorship has become a daily ritual for many other media outlets."

Kim says he has been seeing tendencies among the press to steer clear of controversial issues in order to avoid potential lawsuit or pressure. In March 2016, for instance, a veteran investigative reporter quit his job at the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) and moved to Newstapa. The reporter produced a two-part documentary about how the government has been giving out medals to inappropriate figures. Authorities at KBS supposedly were concerned that this documentary could put former president Park Jung-hee, the father of incumbent president Park Geun-hye, in a negative light and kept the documentary from airing. The reporter was also demoted from the investigative team to the radio news copy-editing desk.

"Seeing incidents like this, most journalists end up thinking that writing non-controversial stories is a convenient way to live," he says. "They end up giving up journalism."

Philippine cyberspace: A sad and happy place

The Philippine press is considered one of the freest not only in the region but also in Asia. The Internet in the country is remarkably open as well when compared to its neighbors. Yet challenges faced by Filipino journalists come in many forms.

Key measures such as the Freedom of Information Act and Whistleblower Protection Act remain in legislative limbo. Citizens still find it difficult to access public records or feel secure to inform on a person or an entity engaged in irregular or illegal activities.

In 2012 the passage of Republic Act No. 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act met with tremendous criticism from human rights groups and media freedom advocates. Petitions to nullify certain provisions of the law were filed before the Supreme Court but the high court found online libel constitutional.

This development follows a trend in the region where offline crimes are also made punishable online and with penalties much higher than those committed offline. In the Philippines, a person convicted of online libel could be imprisoned for up to 12 years. This sentence is double the maximum jail term for libel committed in traditional media.

Beyond legal measures, independent media in the Philippines encounter a much more basic problem. While no formal mechanisms to regulate content exist the digital divide is still far and wide. Lack of infrastructure, education and training has made it

difficult for citizens to fully access information and communication technologies and for journalists to fully utilize the Internet as a reporting tool.

Like many countries in the region and elsewhere, the Internet has driven audience behavior and has changed the way Filipino readers consume news. For the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, a Manila-based investigative nonprofit, two types of audiences have emerged with the increased use of the Internet and social media.

The Center's executive director Malou Mangahas says the Center is now working to find ways to serve the needs of these two groups of audience. On one hand, she says the Center has its traditional readers who grew with its long-form stories and who appreciate hardball investigative reporting. Then there's the other group, the younger online community who are less politically aware. The second group wants stories brought to them, she says.

The key challenge for the Center now is to be able to bridge these two segments of the Center's audience. Mangahas says they are exploring ways to tell stories by producing graphics and multimedia packages parallel to the work being done on the long-form side.

In many ways, Bulatlat, another independent news organization in the Philippines, also finds itself with the same set of challenges.

"It's a hard balance to strike," Bulatlat's editor-in-chief Benjie Oliveros says. He says Bulatlat is trying to adapt to the much faster pace of the news cycle. At the same time they also want to make sure they don't sacrifice the quality of their reporting vis-à-vis shorter, more visual presentation of news and issues preferred by the younger users of the Internet.

Bulatlat is now focusing on how to best utilize social media, recognizing that many online readers, millennials in particular, get their news through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The work is not as simple as it sounds for a news outfit that only has a team of six reporters. Covering an event means all hands on deck with one reporter dedicated to write the story, another to handle social media and another to take photos.

Oliveros also says Bulatlat faces competition from media conglomerates that have gained strong presence on the Internet in the past several years. Many of these news outlets are also running online news sites in addition to their original print publication and radio and TV broadcasts. This often includes a dedicated social media team that is very active on Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites. “Because of their huge budgets, resources and staff, they bombard the Internet with their oversimplified, tabloid-type reporting and interpretation of news and issues, which crowd out in-depth reports,” he says.

Mangahas says it would really be hard for a small news outlet to compete for eyeballs and adapt to the quick pace of online news because it does not have the same resources as the bigger media groups. Another concern, she notes, is that “being quick doesn’t always come with being correct.”

Although the market is somehow disaggregated now, Mangahas says the type of stories that still gets the most hits are stories about crime or celebrities. “So eyeballs do not really give you a good measure of how good your journalism is.”

“So you might want to look at different and unique content you offer that mainstream online news agencies cannot provide,” she says. She says the best websites,

from both big and small news outlets, are actually in "perpetual beta" stage so one has to continue to innovate, continue to offer more unique content.

Legaspi observes the tendency for journalists to make mistakes as they try to keep up with the fast pace of the news cycle. However, looking at the situation more broadly he sees that journalists, especially the more experienced ones, still adhere to professional standards and conduct fact-checking as a routine. The same cannot be said for common citizens who are not bound by such rules, however. In a way, this may also create a potential problem. When a case arises for online media journalists or bloggers, the professional media groups who are more organized might not able to respond that well as they would for their members, Legaspi says.

"There has to be a conversation between traditional media and the new media because the thing that unites us is we have all made a private choice to write -- to do work as writers or journalists but we do it in the public domain," Mangahas says. "The common concern we should address is to not to give government an opportunity, or even the courts, to give a negative landmark jurisprudence on this matter because that would be a legal reference."

The fact that Internet laws do not distinguish between journalists and online users in the Philippines, where journalist killings are high, is especially troubling for Earp of Freedom House. Blogging, she says, is very much similar to block-time radio reporting, where one could purchase time to share his or her opinions on the airwaves. In the same manner, anyone could start a blog and share his or her views there.

In the Philippines, people who use radio as a political platform have been vulnerable to violent attacks. "So if we see that same pattern replicated -- when people

adopt blogs for the same kind of expression -- that would be very problematic," Earp says.

The Internet is both a happy and sad place for Filipinos too, Mangahas says. It's a happy place because more and more Filipinos are online. We Are Social data for 2015 shows that 44.2 million Filipinos have access to the Internet, and 42 million are active on social media. There are also 114 million mobile subscriptions, a figure higher that the country's 101 million population. We Are Social is a marketing agency that conducts a series of studies on digital use around the world.

On the other side of the coin, for every Filipino online more than one is offline, Mangahas notes. More Filipinos still have no access to data services and they tend to be the poorer segments of the population. Mangahas observes that the Internet in the Philippines still has not delivered the values of better public service delivery and more accountable and efficient government.

Mangahas' observations are reflected in the World Bank's 2016 World Development Report, which found that while digital technologies have spread rapidly, "the broader development benefits from using these technologies have fallen short and is unevenly distributed."

Citing data from 2014 the World Development Report shows that that the higher percentage of individuals with access to the Internet at home in the Philippines are those who live in urban areas, with post-secondary education and are in the upper 60 percent of the income scale. Individuals living in rural areas, with primary or no education and are in the bottom 40 percent of the income scale compose the smaller number, faring well below the national average of 17.6 percent.

"So the Internet is still a sad place because it is not inclusive," Mangahas says.

Regional trend

Freedom House, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that monitors democracy and freedom worldwide, has documented in its annual Freedom of the Net reports ways in which Internet use is limited. The latest study released in 2015 found Internet freedom in decline overall with more governments blocking content, making arrests and cracking down on user privacy.

Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea – three democracies in the Asia-Pacific – fared differently in the 2015 study. Online activity is considered "free" in the Philippines while Indonesia's and South Korea's are both "partly free."

Each country exhibits a different set of motivations, Earp says, noting that Internet laws are passed according to the specific agendas of each government. She says a lot of the concerns in South Korea stem from either its tense relations with North Korea or social responsibility such as protecting the youth. In Indonesia, racial and religious elements also complicate the speech issue. In the Philippines, the passage of the Cybercrime Prevention Act seem to reflect different interests turning the law into a patchwork of provisions meant to address various issues, including online libel. For all their differences, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea share one thing in common: All three criminalize defamation or libel, but the penalties are harsher online than they are offline.

Future of Internet freedom

Media experts are careful to make broad assumptions about the direction the three countries and the region will take in the next few years. Legaspi says the difficulty lies in

the fact that not only are the countries so different, but also because politics in the region is volatile. “(A country) can make an unexpected turn toward greater or lesser freedom, depending on who is in power,” he says.

The election of Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Philippine President Benigno Aquino III were generally seen to foster greater democracy. However, Legaspi does not see major gains in freedom of expression in general or in freedom on the Internet in particular, in these two democracies in Southeast Asia.

Legaspi says the situation might stagnate in the immediate future with the likelihood of even more restrictions as governments continue to extend regulations on traditional press to online media. Although in reality, he says these restrictions would not be entirely new because rules are just being expanded to cover online content.

Although the region appears to be moving toward greater restriction online, Earp says the online platform itself can be used to protect Internet freedom. The Internet can be used to actively campaign against a problematic law, especially if it has not been passed yet. This, she says, has to be paired with efforts that will bridge the community online and the institutions that can actually respond.

“It’s quite important to have recognition in the online community that a law is problematic, but you then need to take that energy and channel it somewhere,” she says.

Earp hopes for more sustained efforts to challenge these laws, particularly in the more democratic countries, and more understanding by institutions that these laws do not actually tackle the problems that they’ve been designed to solve.

People's efforts should also move beyond changing their profile pictures on Facebook as a sign of support against a particular law. "If you have people file legal challenges with the court, that's something that the court can act on," she says.

Appendix One: Supervisor Evaluation

April 19, 2016

To: Barbara Cochran, University of Missouri
Fr: Lynne Perri, American University
Re: Karol Ilagan, Missouri grad student who has interned at the Investigative Reporting Workshop for the spring semester

Karol was a tremendous asset to the Workshop over the past few months. I assigned her to work with Tennessee Watson, a public-radio reporter, on a partnership project we were developing with Reveal News of the Center for Investigative Reporting.

When I think of how to describe Karol, these words and phrases come to mind:

- **Thoughtful:** She really takes the time to figure out how best to pursue a story or interview.
- **Organized:** She is great at finding and then requesting documents and data, documenting how she did so, what the data might show.
- **Tenacious:** Whether she was calling one of the dozens of police departments we assigned her to for the "Fatal Force" investigation for The Washington Post or pursuing whether and how to find someone in the court system in a county in Virginia to determine how we could access records, Karol was steady, calm and unflappable, even when stonewalled.
- **Persistent:** See above!
- **Even-tempered:** She is calm even on deadline. She stays late, comes in early and doesn't change the tone of her voice on the phone even if she is constantly asked to repeat the information she has already given several times.

She writes well — she wrote several reporting memos for us in addition to blog posts — and she is always willing to re-check a fact or work on tightening and polishing her stories in order to improve them.

She has been a great colleague, enjoying conversations with others on the staff and friendly with everyone, though more reserved than some. She is always professional.

The project with Reveal News was hard for her she said; she hasn't dealt with this subject matter before. The reporter is writing/producing a first-person account of sexual abuse by her gymnastics coach when she was 9, and coupling that with the story of delayed prosecutions, as she didn't press charges until she was an adult in her 30s. She is showing what it took to find and obtain her records; how her case compares with other adults who press charges based on childhood abuse; how her interest in going to trial was at odds with the prosecution's need to settle. (Her accuser was allowed to plead to a lesser charge and will be able to work with young children again beginning in June.) Karol pursued court records, traveled to Richmond for a hearing and interviewed subjects on the phone and in person. She wrote memos for the reporter and editors here at the Workshop and Reveal; transcribed interviews; made notes about possible additional story ideas; and then

wrote a sidebar. The radio documentary and written stories online will be aired and published in June.

We also assigned Karol to work with a team of students here at American University in our Post practicum, calling 400 police departments around the country to talk about whether and when they release the names of officers involved in fatal shootings, and helping to compile a database with this info and much more. Karol devoted more than two straight weeks to this project. The result was “Fatal Force,” which ran in the Post in print and online and which we co-published on the Workshop’s site.

When I asked her about challenges this semester, she said she always has trouble juggling different and multiple tasks, citing the week she started working on the Post story when she was still waiting for call-backs and following leads for Tennessee’s story. But in practice, I never saw her anxious or hurried or frustrated.

We really appreciated all her work. And I know the Post editing staff did as well.

Appendix Two: Project Proposal

Internet Regulations and Independent News Organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea

Introduction

I have been living in two worlds for the past year. One here at the Missouri School of Journalism where I have been reintroduced to the core principles of good journalism in the digital age and another back home in the Philippines where I hope to help encourage a culture for investigative reporting.

My motivation to pursue this professional project is drawn from lessons learned from these two worlds. At the J-School, I have gained a more informed perspective on the role of journalists in people's lives. Covering the local government beat at the *Columbia Missourian* under the supervision of Prof. Scott Swafford has helped me understand how the city and county governments affect the community. This was important to me as an international student.

Taking Prof. Daryl Moen's Intermediate Writing class and Prof. Mark Horvit's Investigative Reporting course impressed upon me the discipline of verification and the value of "being there" as key elements in good reporting. I realize the potential that good journalism holds to reveal irregularities and make an impact. I also learned a new set of skills to perform this responsibility through Prof. David Herzog's data journalism classes.

Attending the lectures of Dr. Joseph Hobbs in geopolitics, Dr. Earnest Perry in reporting civil rights and Dr. George Kennedy in American journalism have all changed the way I see the world and the way I read the news. I have gained a more nuanced grasp of current events and how these are covered by the news media.

I am inspired by possibilities and innovations that allow for new ways to find and tell stories. But this has also led me to constantly ask whether the same could also be put into practice in my home country. The answers aren't always yes but I am more hopeful than pessimistic.

There is clear recognition of the need to move the story forward, cut through the codswallop and dig deeper into matters of public interest. This often gets lost in the daily grind of filing stories for many journalists, however. Weak editorial policies and unfavorable working conditions also get in the way of muckraking.

The crux of the problem lies in the challenge to move beyond these pitfalls, find ways to understand systems and make in-depth reporting the norm rather than a special assignment. These are no easy tasks. I also understand the hurdles that go beyond a reporter's control. For instance, the rise of the Internet as a tool to promote free speech and widen information access in my part of the world came with strings attached. Threatened governments have imposed or expanded regulations to cover content published online. The digital divide has also remained far and wide, making it difficult for many journalists to fully utilize the Internet as a reporting tool.

It is in this context that I propose to study Internet regulations and their impact on independent journalism. Exploring how Internet-related laws affect independent media could help reveal the more grounded state of press freedom and citizens' right to free expression and information. Through this study, I hope to learn about the challenges faced by news organizations and find ways to sustain independent journalism in the digital age.

Upon successful completion of this project and my graduate study, I will return to the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, a Manila-based independent news organization that specializes in investigative reporting and journalism training. I intend to help lead the Center's Investigative Reporting Desk, working with other reporters across the country to do investigations at the local level. I am also keen to work with colleagues in the region to produce cross-border stories alongside the upcoming integration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In the same vein, I hope to take a more active role in the Center's Training Desk by introducing the new skills I have learned at the J-School.

In the long term, I hope to continue learning the rigors of investigative research and reporting while strengthening my journalism values. I hope to become a more competent journalist and essentially be able to serve the public better.

Keywords: Internet, Internet regulation, press freedom, independent journalism, Indonesia, Philippines, South Korea

Professional Skills Component

The analysis component of my project will be conducted while I work as an intern at the Investigative Reporting Workshop. A project of the American University's School of Communication, the Workshop is a nonprofit news organization that pairs professional reporters and editors with graduate students to produce stories on government and corporate accountability. The Workshop co-publishes these reports with mainstream media partners and nonprofit newsrooms.[i]

I believe that the Workshop will allow me to apply what I have learned at the J-School, while also providing an enriching environment and a network of sources that will

be useful for my study. The Workshop's objectives and structure are similar to those of the independent news organizations that I will reach out to in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea.

I have completed coursework in both journalism theory and practice. I have taken news reporting, intermediate writing and data journalism classes, in addition to history and geopolitics courses. These classes should be able to prepare me to perform my responsibilities as an intern. I also have a decade's worth of professional experience in the Philippines. I have spent the last six years reporting for the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, where I am on leave.

I will work a minimum of 30 hours a week, beginning the week of Jan. 11, 2016 until end of April of early May 2016. Prof. Lynne Perri, the Workshop's managing editor, will be my supervisor. Details of my specific assignments have yet to be confirmed, but I am expected to conduct research and assist in the Workshop's activities. (*See Appendices A and B for related materials.*)

Analysis Component

The rise of the Internet has placed journalism worldwide in a state of flux. In many countries in the Asia-Pacific, the Internet is still an emerging medium, if not entirely new, compared to developments in Western countries. While there is extensive research on reporting in the digital age in the U.S., the same kind of coverage is still growing in the region. Disparity exists in Internet access among countries. News organizations are also in disparate stages in migrating online. Contributing research on Internet and journalism in this part of the world thus makes for a timely and potentially valuable endeavor.

The Internet has offered new sources of information and innovative ways of telling stories. Many independent news organizations in Asia have found a home on the Web, offering them space to publish what might not be acceptable in government-owned and -controlled news outlets and big, privately held media corporations. However, some governments, in the case of Indonesia and South Korea, have imposed or expanded regulations and used the force of law to restrict the free flow of information, including content published online. In the Philippines, no formal mechanisms to regulate content exist, but the lack of infrastructure and education has made it difficult for citizens to fully access information and communication technologies (ICT) and for journalists to take advantage of the Internet as a reporting tool.

Research Question

For the journalistic analysis of this project, I propose to study this research question: How do Internet regulations affect independent news organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea in their use of the Internet to gather and publish news?

I would like to learn about the challenges faced by independent news organizations with laws, rules and regulations that pertain to Internet content in their respective country. Specifically, I would like to look at the implementation of the Information and Electronic Transactions Law of 2008 and Internet-related regulations issued by the Ministry of Communication and Information in Indonesia, Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 in the Philippines and the 1948 National Security Law, the 2008 Comprehensive Measures on Internet Information Protection, 1990 Act on Exchanges and Collaboration between South and North Korea and the Information and

Communications Network Act in South Korea.[ii] I will also look at each country's libel, defamation and slander provisions in their respective penal codes or criminal laws.

I would like to know whether journalists have experienced any form of limitation or threat with these regulations in the course of doing their professional work. This may include cases in which their website, social media account or content have been blocked, or if they have experienced any form of defamation, libel or physical threat concerning a report or information they posted online. The study will also cover the practice of self-censorship given the legal environment in each country.

Rationale.

Tracking how governments respond to these developments through legal means could uncover how they support, discourage or disregard the Internet as a new medium for journalism to thrive and for people's voices to be heard. Learning about how the Internet affects independent media could help reveal the more grounded state of press and Internet freedoms in the three countries. Similarly, the state of journalists is likely to mirror the status of citizens' right to free speech and information.

Scope.

The research will focus on independent media or news outfits that are neither owned nor controlled by government because they are more likely to use the Internet as their main publication medium. I have also chosen Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea because they are all bastions of democracy in Asia. The news media in these countries enjoy a certain level of freedom.[iii] All three countries are signatories to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a treaty adopted by the United Nations for the respect individuals' civil and political rights, including the right to life,

freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial. Indonesia and the Philippines are likewise state parties to the covenant.[iv] Citizens also have a fairly greater Internet access in these three countries than others in the region.[v] However, despite the fairly "free" environment in these countries, all have experienced moderate to severe threats to press freedom, particularly on the free flow of information on the Web.

Theoretical Framework

Siebert, Peterson and Schramm (1956) in the *Four Theories of the Press* describe the four models of mass media in context of the purposes they serve in various countries under different regimes. The premise of this seminal body of work takes off from the idea that the press reflects the sociopolitical structure and the control dynamics between individuals and institutions within which it functions. In the authors' perspective, one must look at the systems and values held in a society in order to fully grasp the kind of press that operates in it.

Published in the midst of the Cold War, the book extends two basic theories of the press – *authoritarian* and *libertarian* – into four models, including *Soviet communist* as a development of the former and *social responsibility* as an offshoot of the latter.

I will draw threads of thought from both the libertarian and the social responsibility theories as framework for my analysis, which center on independent news organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea, three democracies in Asia. The study will employ both theories to complement limitations in each, taking into account how mass media systems have changed since the book was first published.

In the libertarian theory, the press functions to report the truth and "check on government" by opening a place for ideas and information to flourish. Siebert lists three functions of a libertarian press: to inform, to entertain and to sell in order to assure financial independence. The key attribute of this model is that the press must be free from state control or influence for it to properly perform its role. This theory deviates from the authoritarian model, in which the media supports the government.

Siebert draws concepts of liberalism in journalism from John Milton, John Erskine, Thomas Jefferson and John Stuart Mill. The basic premise in the libertarian system is that government, having direct involvement in policies, is in itself a dominant party already. The press is then placed in a position to keep government from taking even more advantage. The role of the press is to provide a check on government, which no other institution could provide, wrote Jefferson. This conforms to the idea of the press as the "fourth estate" in the press system of the U.S., for example.

Still and all, libertarians recognize the reality that governments are likely to take some form of role in the process as in the case when it operated or regulated the postal, telephone and telegraph systems at the time. Today, governments have also been in charge of developing information and communication technologies, including the Internet and mobile communication. These also open the space for governments to impose restrictions.

Siebert also acknowledges that the libertarian model might not work in all parts of the world, underdeveloped ones in particular, because of conditions that beset democracies. He noted that "nationalistic pressures, internal security and economic conditions" can make it difficult for a libertarian press to thrive.

Peterson (1956), meanwhile, discusses events that led to a gradual shift from the libertarian perspective to the social responsibility theory of the press at the turn of the century. As the media grew in size amid the technological and industrial revolution, it also drew widespread criticism about its lack of independence and tendency to sensationalize stories.

In 1947, the Commission on the Freedom of the Press, also known as the Hutchins Commission, published a report titled *A Free and Responsible Press.* The report supported the idea of an independent press but it also stressed the need for journalistic standards. "An overall social responsibility for the quality of press service to the citizen cannot be escaped; the community cannot wholly delegate to any other agency the ultimate responsibility for a function in which its own existence as a free society may be at stake," the report noted (p. 126).

McQuail (2010) explains that what was seen as failures of the media at the time triggered the development of professionalism in journalism. Press councils were created and codes of practice and ethics were drawn up.

The social responsibility theory of the press is a modification of the libertarian model. While it recognizes the need for media to be free, the model also emphasizes that the press must be responsible to serve the public. Similar to the libertarian model, the press in the social responsibility model informs and enlightens citizens. But in the event that the press is not able to carry out these responsibilities properly, some form of intervention must be done to ensure compliance. The public's right to know is another key aspect of the social responsibility theory that is not emphasized in the libertarian model.

Related Studies.

Several scholars have adopted the libertarian and social responsibility theories in their research, either as framework or as an assessment of how the theories apply in today's news media.

Markin (2004), for instance, used both the libertarian and social responsibility theories to explain how news organizations justify "ride-along reporting" or the kind of reporting when a television crew joins the police in their emergency response. Journalists joining law enforcement officers allow them to check on government, which is an attribute of the press in the libertarian model. At the same time, "ride-alongs" are said to fulfill the public's right to know, a key element of the social responsibility theory.

Akpan et al. (2012), meanwhile, adopted the social responsibility theory to study news objectivity in online news reporting. The theory dovetails nicely with the study because it stresses the need for journalists to adhere to professional standards in order to serve the public interest, whether it be on traditional or online media.

Ramaprasad and Rahman (2006), on the other hand, looked at how the roles of the press in the libertarian and development theories apply in Bangladeshi media. Through a survey, the researchers learned that journalists find the libertarian functions more important than development functions. Differences between perceived importance and actual practice for most functions were also identified.

Limitations.

Scholars in the last two decades have cited some shortcomings in the formulation of the four theories.

Nerone et al. (1995) highlight the "lack of fit between theory and practice" as a consistent problem among all the models. Likewise, Yin (2008) identifies specific cases why the four theories do not necessarily fit in Asian media systems because of realities that do not conform to Western ideologies from which the four theories were based.

Apart from the Western leaning of the four models, Ostini and Fung (2009) also underscore the linear evolution that the four models follow – that press systems would move from Communist to authoritarian then to libertarian and to social responsibility. This, they say, is false.

Keeping in mind the valid arguments raised in these studies, I deem that the very basic ideas postulated in the libertarian and social responsibility theories apply in my analysis because they both stress the importance of a free flow of information, which is essentially the crux of the research. Both theories, albeit limited, are also relevant in the scope of the study, which focuses on independent media online (not mainstream) and democracies (not closed ones like Vietnam or North Korea). Moreover, free speech is guaranteed in the Indonesian constitution[vi] while press freedom is provided for in the Philippine[vii] and South Korean constitution[viii]. In principle, news organizations in these countries also follow a code of ethics, stressing the importance of both media freedom and responsibility.

Literature Review

Through a review of related articles, this paper draws insights and links between Internet regulations and their impact on independent news organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea.

The use of the Internet in journalism is well documented in the Western world. A number of studies focus on the same subject in Asia, but they do not precisely correlate how the rise of the Internet and how it is being regulated affect independent news organizations.

This paper pays significant focus on Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea to represent and reflect the diverse media landscape in young democracies in the region. It also provides a working definition of the "independent model" in context of journalistic purpose. Additionally, this review examines the rise of Internet use in the region alongside regulations put in place as backdrop in the development of independent media.

Independent journalism.

In Platon and Deuze's (2003) study of *Indymedia*, independent media is described as "separated from corporate or commercial interests." In the U.S. and many Western countries, independent media are also referred to as "alternative media" mainly because they provide another source of information from what is already being distributed by mainstream outlets. In developing countries, independent media emerge as an alternative source of news from organizations that are predominantly owned or controlled by government.

Platon and Deuze, however, explain that even though independent news organizations describe themselves as "independent," they are not independent per se, pointing out that the people producing the content could also be, at a certain level, affiliated or associated with a movement or an advocacy.

In many countries in the Asia-Pacific, the need for alternative news sources amid political upheavals has largely prompted the birth of independent news organizations.

The increased use in information and communication technology, particularly the Internet, has also become a crucial, if not an active, element in this process.

In a region of young democracies and repressive regimes, the use of the Internet is generally seen as a positive development. Overall, it has offered new sources of information and innovative ways of telling stories, filling a void that traditional, profit-driven or government-owned and -controlled news outlets could not fully provide.

As George (2003) puts it, existing regulations in print and broadcast media in the more restrictive countries in the region have made it possible for alternative news sources to thrive on the Web. This is because controls over Internet content were not as firm as those imposed on traditional media. The author cites a similar case in the Zapatista movement in Chiapas, Mexico where the Internet has been used to aid democracy. In Asia, George finds evidence in the cases of *Harakah Daily*, *Malaysiakini* and *Aliran* in Malaysia, and *Fateha* and Think Centre in Singapore. Malaysia and Singapore are two countries with moderate to severe media regulatory structures.

Finding an unlikely home on the Internet, *Malaysiakini*'s story is one that Steele (2009) focuses on in her paper. Founded in 1999, *Malaysiakini* or "Malaysia Now" is one of the few independent media organizations in a country that has strict policies on the practice of journalism. *Malaysiakini* is able to exist because of a legal ambiguity that does not require it to seek a permit from government. In Malaysian law, online reporters and bloggers are not classified as "official journalists" hence online publications are not subject to licensing.

For the first time since South Korea shifted to a democratic form of government in 1987, journalists in 2012 held protests against government censorship. Freedom House

(2015) reports that this led to the birth of alternative media online. One of which is *Newstapa*, an investigative reporting platform put out by the Korea Center for Investigative Journalism. According to Freedom House, *Newstapa* has since secured about 35,000 donors and attracted more than 10 million views on its YouTube channel by early 2014. It became a leading source of news on the 2013 election scandal in South Korea.

In the U.S., Coates (2013) finds some good practices in online journalism from a pool of 10 nonprofit news organizations. Similar to *Malaysiakini*, the digital natives examined by the author saw the Internet as a tool to improve reporting as well as generate revenue. Creative use of technology, she notes, could help guide traditional media in the digital age.

Internet regulation.

While the use of the Internet is touted to promote freedom of expression and help advance democracy, several studies also illustrate that a positive and direct relationship is not automatically achieved. As the news media attempt to maximize the use of the Internet, governments have also tapped online resources to engage with citizens and disclose information. In the same vein, scholars have found evidence of governments moving to include Internet activity and content in their regulatory structures.

Gomez (2004), for one, discusses how the governments of Singapore, Burma and Vietnam were able to set Internet controls by capitalizing on terrorism concerns in the aftermath of 9/11. Internet policies against gambling, spam and pornography were revised to include political content. Various regulations, either through law or other

measures, were put in place, and these range from restricted access and content bans to high fees.

The use of information and communication technology to aid democratic processes could well be an attainable goal in other parts of the world. But Gomez finds that this assumption could be misguided in the context of many countries in the region.

Magpanthong (2013) finds a similar track in the history of regulations employed by the Thai government to control Internet use and censor information. A scan of news reports from 1995 to 2009 shows that while the laws initially sought to prevent pornography and gambling, they also covered websites that were political in nature. The government imposed more restrictions through the Computer Crime Act of 2007, in addition to legal measures on crimes against the King of Thailand.

It should be noted that the countries Gomez and Magpanthong studied in their respective researches already operate under repressive regimes so government regulations on online activity should not come entirely as a surprise.

The lines are blurred all too often, however. The Southeast Asian Press Alliance allows that journalists who work in fairly democratic countries, such as Indonesia and the Philippines, also encounter challenges as leaders employ ways to influence and undermine the independence of news organizations.

De Jesus (2012) of the Manila-based Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility finds that politics has generally slowed down the institutionalization of media freedom in the region, raising the possibility of elected leaders becoming autocratic.

To be sure, the evolution of the news media and Internet regulation the region do

not follow a single narrative. Mitchell (2001) and Hopkins (2014) highlight some nuances. Apart from being able to connect citizens in general, the Internet has also been used by some governments to strengthen its control over the flow of information.

In Singapore, Mitchell finds that the government is pursuing a balancing act between the need to be at the forefront of technology and the tradition of "religious harmony" and maintaining "social value." This could explain why the country has one of the largest online populations, despite its suppressed media environment.

In Malaysia, Hopkins examines how the government uses the Internet to gain control of the political discourse. She used the prime minister's active use of social media and the so-called "cybertroopers" or pro-government bloggers as examples.

Internet freedom in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea.

Independent news organizations in the Asia-Pacific region thrive in an environment that can be best described as a spectrum where levels of freedom vary from repressed to recognized. The polarity takes root from a region of diverse economies, politics, history, culture and religion. The type of government in each country has influenced the independence of news organizations, in one way or another.

Freedom House, a Washington D.C.-based organization that monitors threats to press freedom around the globe, identifies only 14 countries in the region where the news media are considered "free." These are Palau, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Micronesia, Australia, Japan, Vanuatu, Taiwan, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Samoa. The rest are either "partly free" or "not free." According to the 2015 Freedom of the Press study, an annual survey of media independence in 199 countries and territories, news organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines and South

Korea are all “partly free.”

First published in 1980, the Freedom of the Press index examines the level of press freedom in each country and territory using 23 methodology questions and 132 subquestions divided into three categories: legal, political and economic environments. For each question, a lower number of points is assigned for a “more free” situation, while a higher number of points is allotted for a “less free” environment.

The latest report saw press freedom in global decline as journalists faced more risks and restrictions to reporting, a situation fraught with peril to their own lives. Both state and nonstate actors contributed to the deplorable state of press freedom. Governments used the force of law to impose censorship and pursue arrests while nonstate forces kidnapped and murdered journalists covering conflict and crime. Media outlets owned by business tycoons are found to shape news coverage to benefit their own interests or those of the government or a political faction.

Freedom House (2015) points to a gleaming irony in the overall health of the media worldwide: While there appears to be more ways to deliver and access information with the advent of digital technology, journalists have found it even more difficult to uncover many parts of the world.

Employing both subtle and deliberate ways to limit the use of the Internet is also documented in Freedom House’s Freedom on the Net report. The 2015 edition of the study also found Internet freedom in decline with more governments blocking content and making arrests, in addition to cracking down on user privacy.

The table below shows the status of Internet freedom in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea. Covering developments that took place between June 1, 2014 and May

31, 2015, the findings are based on a set of indicators identified by to analyze the level of Internet freedom in each country. The study looked at various obstacles to access, limits imposed on content and violations of user rights such surveillance, privacy and imprisonment or harassment or other possible consequences of engaging in online activities.

Table 1

Freedom on the Net in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea, 2015

Country	Indonesia	Philippines	South Korea
Population	251 M	100.1 M	50.4 M
2013 Internet Penetration	17%	40%	84%
Social Media/Information and Communication Technology Apps Blocked	Yes	No	No
Political/Social Content Blocked	Yes	No	Yes
Bloggers/ Information and Communication Technology Users Arrested	Yes	No	Yes
Score	42	27	34
2015 Status	Partly Free	Free	Partly Free

Source: Freedom on the Net 2015, Freedom House
Note: 0=most free, 100=least free

Freedom House's findings are echoed in the Southeast Asian Press Alliance's latest overview of media freedom in the region in 2015. Established in 1998, the Southeast Asian Press Alliance or SEAPA is a Bangkok-based nonprofit organization that advocates for "genuine press freedom" in Southeast Asia. SEAPA's report titled "A region gagged by law" chronicles the current situation of the news media in 10 countries in the region, including Indonesia and the Philippines.

Indonesia. Harsono (2002) writes that Indonesia's news media has experienced a renewal with the downfall and resignation of authoritarian leader Raden Suharto in 1998.

It began with the closing of the Ministry of Information, signaling the government's more tempered hold of the news media. But Indonesia is not without its problems.

The Alliance of Independent Journalists Indonesia (2015) underscores the problem of impunity by perpetrators, causing a series of violent attacks against Indonesian journalists. The group has likewise observed a shift on how the government has viewed the Internet as an open space for diverse opinions to thrive. Indonesia's Internet and Electronic Transaction Law has apparently been used to place restrictions on content, limiting freedom of expression on the Web. The number of citizens who have been convicted and imprisoned under the said legislation has risen in the last three years, the group reports. In March 2015, 22 websites were blocked for content considered to spread hatred and call for violence in the name of religion.

Indonesian law also prohibits persons from spreading blasphemous information. Persons found guilty of blasphemy may be charged for up to five years in prison through Article 156-A of the Criminal Code. The same law applies to reporters if he or she includes "blasphemous" content in journalistic outputs.

Philippines. The news media in the Philippines are regarded as one of the freest not only in the region but also in Asia, according to Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's 2011 Asian Media Barometer. This is partly because of protections to press freedom enshrined in the country's current constitution and even in its old charter dating back to 1899. Yet threats to Filipino journalists come in many forms, the report notes.

Key measures such as the Freedom of Information Act and Whistleblower Protection Act remain in legislative limbo. Even though Filipinos generally enjoy a certain level of freedom than many of their neighbors, citizens still find it difficult to

access public records or feel secure to inform on a person or an entity engaged in illegal activities.

Libel is also recognized as criminal offense in the Philippines under the Revised Penal Code. A person convicted of libel may be subject to imprisonment from one day to six years, in addition to the imposition of fines.

In 2012, Republic Act No. 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act was passed into law. The legislation met with tremendous criticism from human rights groups and media freedom advocates. Robie and Abcede (2015) note that the passage of the cybercrime law has been compared to the restrictive regime during the Martial Law era in the Philippines. Petitions to nullify certain provisions of the law were filed before the Supreme Court, but the high court found online libel in the law constitutional.

According to Robie and Abcede, cybercrime law advocates argue that the measure would strengthen Internet governance as it seeks to make the Web safer from identity theft, hacking, piracy and cybersex. The Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, as cited in the article, sees a different perspective. It stressed that the government cannot impose limits on freedom of expression in exchange for security and safety on the Web. Higher penalties have been introduced for online libel in the new law. A person convicted of cyberlibel could be imprisoned for up to 12 years. This is double the maximum number of imprisonment years for libel committed in traditional media such as print and broadcast.

Beyond legal measures, the Philippines also suffers from being one of the most dangerous places for journalists. In November 2009, a local warlord was allegedly involved in the murder of 58 people in the worst case of election violence in Philippine

history. According to Lingao (2010), the event tagged as the "Maguindanao Massacre" had the largest number of journalists killed in a single incident in the world, making the Philippines the most dangerous place for journalists in 2009. At least 32 journalists were killed. This took place even though the country was not at war, like other countries in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Five years hence, the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (2015) reports that press freedom in the Philippines continues to be under attack with four journalists killed between May 2014 and May 2015. The Maguindanao Massacre trial is ongoing, but with a primary accused released and a key witness killed.

South Korea. Online activity in South Korea is one of the most vibrant in the region. But, like many of its neighbors, the government has also started placing restrictions on the Web content. Censorship is mainly carried out by the Korea Communications Standards Commission, which was created in 2008 to maintain ethical standards in broadcasting and Internet communications. Official figures, as cited in Freedom House's report (2015), show that 85,644 websites or pages were censored, 62,658 blocked and 22,986 deleted in 2013. The government may censor content from a wide range of categories, including gambling, "illegitimate food and medicine," obscenity, violating others' rights, and violating "other laws and regulations."

The 1948 National Security Act also prohibits content that praise "anti-state" groups, which for the South is the North. Freedom House reports that 27 foreign sites, 338 social networking accounts and 132 online communities were blocked while 15,168 items of propaganda were deleted for supposedly jeopardizing national security in 2013.

User privacy on the Web has also been of particular concern in the country. According to Freedom House, even though the Constitutional Court ruled in 2012 against websites registering users' national ID numbers, users' personal information have remained vulnerable on account of cyberattacks in the past five years. Government authorities have likewise obtained user data from service providers in country.

Frank La Rue, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the protection of the right to free expression, as cited in the Freedom on the Net 2015 report, found observations pointing to Internet restrictions increasing since the conservative party's return to power in 2008.

In 2013, Margaret Sekaggya, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, called on South Korea "to bring certain laws and practices in full compliance with international standards, such as provisions affecting the right to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly."

Digital divide in the Asia Pacific.

There is more to Internet regulation in the countries being studied so far. The flow of information in many Asia-Pacific communities via the Internet is not only defined by state censors or regulators alone but also by the accessibility and affordability of services.

While Clarke observes an increase in the use of ICT services, the author maintains that the so-called digital divide persists in the region. Income and education were found to be key factors in adopting new technology. Similar to Gomez's findings in his 2004 study, the use of the Internet does not correspond with greater access to information or the promotion of freedom of expression due to factors other than state control. In

Vietnam, for instance, Mitchell finds that the attempt to push for further restriction is not coupled with strict enforcement because citizens lack resources to access the Internet in the first place.

Kluver and Banerjee (2005) draw similar observations on Internet use and democratization in their survey of Internet use in nine Asian countries. The authors' study goes beyond the lack or minimal access to Internet per se, but the availability of infrastructure and the need for technology education and training.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a United Nations agency specializing in information and communication technology, provides a good reference on the development of ICT around the world.

ITU data shows that South Korea is ahead in the region in terms of ICT development; it is second out of 166 countries surveyed. The Philippines and Indonesia, meanwhile, are nearing the bottom third at 103 and 106, respectively.

Limitations of the Studies.

This paper recognizes the limitation of the review on account of the dearth of articles that precisely cover the link between the concepts that I would like to analyze. The scholarly materials discussed in this paper use examples from several countries while articles about independent news organizations in the Asia-Pacific deal with specific issues and not exactly the relationship between Internet regulation and the reporting of independent media. Still and all, the studies provide a road map and leads for further analysis as I proceed with the actual phase of research.

Methodology

This study will employ interviewing to explore how Internet regulations impact the reporting of independent news organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea. Specifically, I will conduct semi-structured interviews to find out how Internet laws affect how independent media in these three countries use the Internet to gather and publish news.

This method was chosen as appropriate for the research question because of the kind of information I seek and the time and access that I have to complete the study. According to Gillham (2000), a semi-structured interview is appropriate for studies that require in-depth responses as opposed to questionnaires that are primarily used for factual and straightforward answers.

One of five types of interviews associated with qualitative research, semi-structured interviews have a flexible design, different from structured interviews, which follow a sequence of questions to be asked of all interviewees in the same manner. Mason (2004) notes that a semi-structured interview is usually organized around an interview guide, which contains themes or areas to be covered during the course of the interview, rather than a script of standardized questions. The interviewer follows this guide, but is able to make trajectories if deemed appropriate. Certain areas may be followed up or developed further with interviewees.

Semi-structured interviewing has been applied in previous researches that are also related to the study of Internet use and press freedom.

Voltmer and Wasserman (2014) conducted 58 semi-structured interviews to find out how journalists from six new democracies (Bulgaria, Poland, South Korea, Taiwan, Namibia and South Africa) view press freedom and how this might affect their

profession. The researchers found that journalists see press freedom based on both its universal interpretation and ideas rooted in their own culture and political experiences.

In an earlier study, Wasserman (2010) also used semi-structured interviewing to explore how journalists, politicians and political intermediaries in South Africa and Namibia understand the values of freedom of expression, media responsibility and the democratic role of the press. The study found no clear consensus about what media freedom and responsibility mean in the two countries where journalists and politicians often clash.

Taylor (2014), meanwhile, examined how journalism students use the Internet to gather news and assess its credibility. In addition to a content analysis of video recordings of the students' keystrokes during the newsgathering process, the researcher also conducted subsequent semi-structured interviews with the subjects. While students show some level of understanding about the importance of verification, they rely strongly on search engines and trust the credibility of search-engine results, the study found.

Interviewees.

I will interview two sets of sources in this study. The first group is composed of the heads or representatives of independent news organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea. The second group will be comprised of either other journalists or heads of organizations that study and monitor press freedom issues in the Asia-Pacific.

I hope to gather specific and grounded information from primary sources from each country while also gaining big-picture perspective from the monitoring groups. My goal is to interview two to three primary sources from each country and about six sources

from the secondary group for a total of at least 12 interviews. I will choose the most relevant sources from the pool of contacts below.

Primary sources: Independent news organizations

Indonesia

Bambang Harymurti
Former Editor-in-Chief, Tempo Magazine
Website: http://www.tempochannel.com

Ati Nurbaiti
Editor, The Jakarta Post
Website: http://www.thejakartapost.com
E-mail: editorial@thejakartapost.com

Vivi Zabkie
Former producer and presenter, currently marketing manager, Kantor Berita Radio
Website: http://www.portalkbr.com
E-mail: vivizabkie@gmail.com

Philippines

Malou Mangahas
Executive Director, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism
Website: http://pcij.org
E-mail: mcmangahas@pcij.org

Carolyn Arguillas
Executive Director, MindaNEWS
Website: http://www.mindanews.com
E-mail: carol@mindanews.com

Luz Rimban
Founder, Vera Files
Website: http://verafiles.org
E-mail: newsroom@verafiles.org

South Korea

Choi Seung Ho and Kim Yong-Jin
Newstapa, Korean Center for Investigative Journalism
Website: http://newstapa.org
Tel: 02-2038-0977, 02-2038-0978

Oh Yeon-ho
Founder, OhmyNews
Website: http://www.ohmynews.com

Pressian
Website: http://www.pressian.com

Slow News
Website: http://slownews.kr

Secondary sources: Monitoring groups

In-country and regional organizations

Ed Legaspi
Executive Director, Southeast Asian Press Alliance, Thailand
E-mail: epl@seapa.org

Cherian George
Director, Nanyang Technological University's Asia Journalism Fellowship, Singapore
E-mail: director@ajf.sg

Melinda Quintos-De Jesus
Executive Director, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, Philippines
E-mail: mqdejesus@cmfr-phil.org

Wiratmo Probo
Program Director, Institute for the Studies of the Free Flow of Information, Indonesia
E-mail: bayu@isai.or.id

Eva Danayanti
Executive Director, Alliance of Independent Journalists Indonesia, Indonesia
E-mail: eva@ajiindonesia.or.id

Eni Mulia
Executive Director, Perhimpunan Pengembangan Media Nusantara, Indonesia
Website: http://www.ppmn.or.id
E-mail: eni.mulia@ppmn.or.id

Go Seung Woo
Director, Civic Democratic Media Association, South Korea
Website: http://www.ccdm.or.kr/
Tel: (822) 392-0181

Gim Hwang Yun
National Union of Media Workers, South Korea

Website: http://media.nodong.org/
E-mail: media@media.nodong.org

International organizations

Sanja Kelly
Project Director, Freedom on the Net 2015, Freedom House
Tel: (202) 296-5101
E-mail: research@freedomhouse.org.

Benjamin Ismail
Head of Asia Desk, Reporters Without Borders, Paris
Tel: +33 1 44 83 84 70
E-mail: asie@rsf.org

Vjollca Shtylla
Vice President, Development, International Center for Journalists, Washington, D.C.
E-mail: vshtylla@icfj.org

Shawn W. Crispin
Senior Southeast Asia Representative, Committee to Protect Journalists, New York, NY
E-mail: swcrispin@yahoo.com

Marianna Tzabiras
Section Editor, Asia & Pacific and Digital Rights, International Freedom of Expression Exchange, Canada
E-mail: mtzabiras@ifex.org

Interview preparation.

Cohen (2006) explains that semi-structured interviews are often preceded by observation and informal interviewing in order for the researcher to develop a keen understanding of the topic. This is necessary in order to craft relevant questions for the actual semi-structured interview.

Prior to the interviews, I will first conduct preliminary research on the structure and objectives of each organization identified per country as well as the background of each interviewee. I will find out the information below either through online research or by asking journalists from each country.

1. Organizational make-up – number of editorial and administrative staff and composition of board of directors;
2. Main activities – production of stories, research, trainings, seminars, etc.;
3. Media used – print, TV, radio, online or syndication;
4. Online presence – social media accounts used and number of subscribers and visitors and user engagement;
5. Economic profile – annual operating cost and sources of funding and revenue.

The goal of this exercise is to gain relevant information that will help guide the actual interview. Information gathered during this phase will also be verified with sources.

Interview Guide.

Semi-structured interviews will then be conducted with both primary and secondary sources. The interviews will cover two main areas, but not limited to the following topics:

Internet Use and Challenges. Independent news organizations will be asked how they are using the Internet to gather and present news as well as the difficulties they encounter in context of how the Internet is managed and regulated in their respective countries.

1. Gathering of sources

I will ask whether independent news organizations gather (1) documentary sources and (2) people sources using online tools. Specifically, each organization will be asked how they obtain public records using the Internet, whether they track people sources using websites or social media accounts and if they use crowdsourcing.

Similarly, I will ask about any difficulties they have faced in accessing records and people sources online. They will also be asked to give examples and details about each incident.

2. Presentation of stories

I will ask about how independent news organizations present or publish their stories. Apart from websites, the groups will be asked if they also use Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms to distribute their content. Social media applications native to each country will be included. For example, instant messaging application KakaoTalk is popular in South Korea. The sources will also be asked whether they interact with readers through the comments section.

The groups will then be asked if they have experienced any form of limitation or threat in the course of doing their professional work. I will ask if there have been cases wherein their website, social media account or content have been blocked. They will be asked if they have experienced any form of defamation, libel or physical threat concerning a report or information that they have posted online. They will also be asked if they have considered practicing self-censorship given the legal environment in their country.

The interviews with secondary sources, meanwhile, will cover their observations or findings in their monitoring of press and Internet freedom in each country. The following topics will be discussed:

1. Patterns or trends observed in the legal environment in each country;
2. Grounds for enactment and implementation of Internet-related laws in each country;

3. Similarities and differences observed between and among the three countries and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region;
4. Most urgent threats to press freedom in each country; and,
5. Possible solution to address said threats to press freedom.

Possible Publication.

I will submit the final product to the following organizations for possible publication: Southeast Asian Press Alliance, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

Appendix Three: Modification of Original Proposal

No modifications were made in my original proposal.

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Endnotes

[i] See the About page of the Investigative Reporting Workshop's website. Retrieved from http://investigativereportingworkshop.org/about/

[ii] See Freedom House's Freedom on the Net 2015 report, specifically the reports on Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea. Retrieved from https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FOTN%202015%20Full%20Report.pdf

[iii] See Freedom House's Freedom on the Press 2015 report, specifically the section on the Asia-Pacific region. Retrieved from https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FOTN%202015%20Full%20Report.pdf

[iv] See list of signatories to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Retrieved from https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?chapter=4&src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iv-4&lang=en

[v] See Freedom House's Freedom on the Net 2015 report, specifically the findings on the Asia-Pacific region. Retrieved from https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FOTN%202015%20Full%20Report.pdf

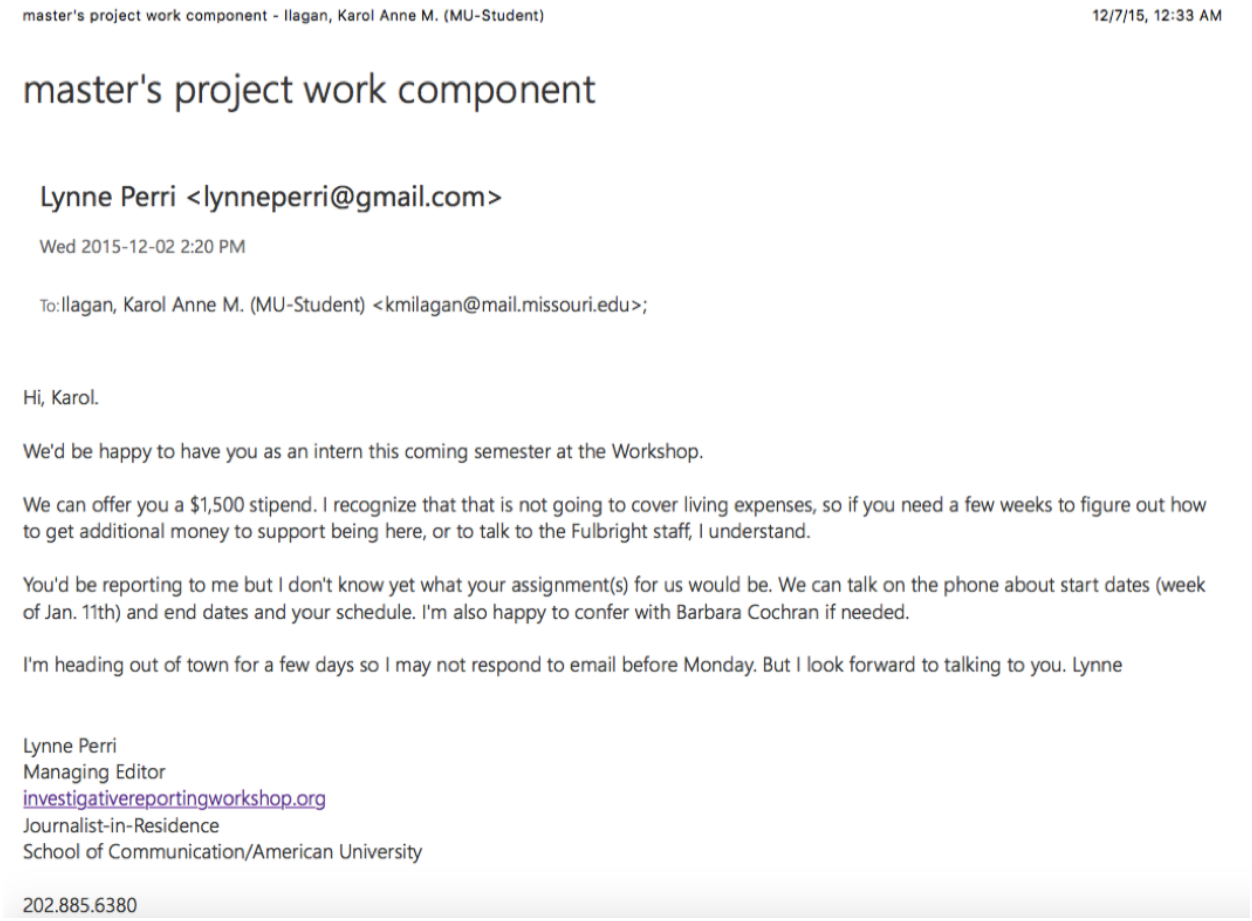
[vi] See Chapter XA of the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Retrieved from http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---ilo_aids/documents/legaldocument/wcms_174556.pdf

[vii] See Article III, Section IV of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, Retrieved from http://www.gov.ph/constitutions/1987-constitution/#article-iii

[viii] See Article 21 of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, Retrieved from http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_protect/@protrav/@ilo_aids/documents/legaldocument/wcms_117333.pdf

Appendix A

Appended below is the letter I received from Prof. Lynne Perri of the Investigative Reporting Workshop. The letter confirms my internship with the Workshop in the Spring 2016 semester. Prof. Perri is the Workshop's managing editor; she will also be my supervisor.



master's project work component - Ilagan, Karol Anne M. (MU-Student) 12/7/15, 12:33 AM

master's project work component

Lynne Perri <lynneperri@gmail.com>

Wed 2015-12-02 2:20 PM

To: Ilagan, Karol Anne M. (MU-Student) <kmilagan@mail.missouri.edu>;

Hi, Karol.

We'd be happy to have you as an intern this coming semester at the Workshop.

We can offer you a $1,500 stipend. I recognize that that is not going to cover living expenses, so if you need a few weeks to figure out how to get additional money to support being here, or to talk to the Fulbright staff, I understand.

You'd be reporting to me but I don't know yet what your assignment(s) for us would be. We can talk on the phone about start dates (week of Jan. 11th) and end dates and your schedule. I'm also happy to confer with Barbara Cochran if needed.

I'm heading out of town for a few days so I may not respond to email before Monday. But I look forward to talking to you. Lynne

Lynne Perri
Managing Editor
investigativereportingworkshop.org
Journalist-in-Residence
School of Communication/American University

202.885.6380

Appendix B

Prof. Lynne Perri, the Investigative Reporting Workshop's managing editor, will be my supervisor. Her profile on the Workshop's website is attached below.

SCHOOL *of* COMMUNICATION
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Lynne Perri
Journalist in Residence
School of Communication

Additional Positions at AU
Managing Editor/Investigative Reporting Workshop

Lynne Perri is a full-time professor of Journalism and managing editor of the Investigative Reporting Workshop, a professional news organization focusing on corporate and government accountability. She is teaching The Fundamentals of News Design and Understanding Media in the Spring 2014 and previously has taught Digital News and Social Media, Reporting and Feature Writing. She is a former deputy managing editor for Graphics and Photography at *USA TODAY*, where she conceptualized illustrations, graphics, maps and photo packages for all sections of the newspaper and website, and wrote occasional features and book reviews. She was a reporter and editor at The Tampa Tribune, the Tallahassee Democrat and the Clearwater Sun. She has been an adjunct professor at Syracuse, Northwestern, the University of Maryland and the University of South Florida, and a visiting lecturer at the University of Iowa, Ohio University and the University of Nebraska. She has led workshops for The Washington Post, the Knight Center for International Journalists, the American Press Institute and the Society for News Design.

Degrees
Bachelor of Arts, University of South Carolina; Master's degree, Medill School of Journalism

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CONTACT INFO
(202) 885-6380 (Mobile)
lynne.perri@american.edu

FOR THE MEDIA
To request an interview for a news story, call AU Communications at 202-885-5950 or submit a request.

SEE ALSO
Interviewing: A Practical Guide for Citizen Journalists
2012 Election Day Coverage
The News on Display
Arts criticism class' Web site
Team-teaching: Its own reward