A Systematic Survey of Mobile Journalism Literature

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Abstract*: The advent of mobile media has revolutionized the convergence of communications. In recent years, research into mobile communications has become an increasingly vital field of study. This expansion is attributable to the rise in content accessibility via new devices. There has been a notable surge in advancements in mobile technology over the past decade. The pinnacle of this emerging situation has been the scholarly community's fascination with examining the correlation between these innovations and the dissemination of informative materials. This article provides an analysis of studies that examine the correlation between journalism and mobile devices in the context of communication. The principal aim of this endeavor is to elucidate the present condition of these investigations and establish their importance in the context of the present convergence scenario. To accomplish these aims, a systematic review of the literature (SLR) was undertaken. The authors conducted an analysis of 199 research articles that were published in the Web of Science database between January 2008 and May 2018. According to the results, the United States possesses the greatest quantity of research pertaining to this subject matter. The year 2013 witnessed the most substantial surge in scientific publications pertaining to journalism and mobile communications. Moreover, articles pertaining to actors or audiences are considerably less prevalent than those concerning actors.*

Keywords: Mobile journalism, digital media, multimedia reporting, news production.

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of powerful, often affordable devices with improved connection and a wider range of goods and services has made the media sector more digital during the last two decades. Academic research on newsroom innovation and digitalization is rich. From Castells (1996), who analyzed the network society's technical reach, to Boczkowski (2004), who studied news digitalization and transformation. Research on new media usage covers mobility, memory, documentation, convergence, interactivity, and participation. The importance of information and automation technologies has been clear since Manovich (2013) emphasized software's rise. The tendency has grown in content search, production, and dissemination. Mobile content generation, especially mobile journalism (MOJO), and mobile engagement in newsroom innovation processes are prioritized.

Many writers have studied how media technologies integrate into routines, social contexts, and everyday living in recent years. Mobile gadgets have been studied as social agents that may affect our everyday lives since their creation. Mobile customers' growth presents a challenge to the media business (GSMA, 2018). Priority one is to adapt to a mobile audience that likes mobile content (Reuters Institute, 2018). This requires expertise with the characteristics and nuances of this developing communication platform.

Mobile communication involves accessing material and staying in touch via mobile devices. Castells (2006) says ubiquity and permanence help explain this phenomena. Mobile phones have become portable gadgets and personal workstations in the past decade. This trait improves interpersonal communication, according to most experts.

Mobile devices are essential for navigating the evolving social structure that affects people and higher education institutions and society (Geser, 2004). The 2007 release of the Apple iPhone changes digitization and sets a new standard for understanding mobile communications and the media.

While historically "mobile" (Bruhn, 2013), these fundamentally change conventional media (Westlund, 2011) by introducing novel synchronized, localized, and personalized formats and changing social contexts and content production, distribution, and reception.

WEI (2013) defines mobile media as user-controlled, Internet-enabled, personal, interactive portable platforms. Mobile devices are individualized (Soletic, 2008), personalized (Martin, 2009), and mobile (Lorente, 2002).

Aguado and Martínez (2006) ascribe the success of telephony to its adhering properties, such as ubiquity, personal nature, translocality, and continual connectedness. Mobile journalism is not yet widely accepted in academia. The notion was once seen as a successor to multimedia journalism, however it is a new field with its own characteristics. Mobility underpins the difference, allowing several interpretations in this unusual setting. Some scholars have labeled this emerging journalistic phenomenon mobile digital journalism (Campbell, 2007), mobile news journalism (Forsberg, 2001), mobile journalism, and mobile journalism. According to Goggin and Hjorth (2009) and Virpi (2010), media should be used to understand the notion. This suggests that two separate ideas help define this new academic field. One involves distributing and receiving mobile-optimized information, while the other involves creating it.

As we saw, mobile journalism research is lacking despite the presence of scholarly literature on mobile communication. Pearce (2013) found knowledge gaps in the scientific literature, emphasizing the need for rigorous methods and theoretical commitment in research. Research in this field explores device technicalities and the challenges journalism organizations face in a mobile society, emphasizing the need to adapt to public segmentation and constant connectivity. Scholars agree that this unique environment fosters innovative business structures and distribution tactics. It also simplifies original concept expression (Sánchez & Aguado, 2010). Cebrián and Flores-Vivar (2011) say mobile news distribution has three stages: adaptation, autonomy, and emancipation. The main scholarly publications in this field focus on the social effects of mobile device use, including changes in organization and communication protocols, as well as standard values like time and space, solitude and security, and public and private matters.

However, they are descriptive works without theoretical analysis. There is little analytical and practical study on mobile journalism's three main aspects—content reception, distribution, and broadcasting. To address these information gaps, this paper reviews current mobile journalism articulation research (2008-2018). The analysis will establish the nature of this study, the circumstances in which these practices arose, and the problems discovered. The main goal is to provide knowledge about the mobile ecosystem, which is becoming more important in communication in the second decade of the 21st century.

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Methodological design begins with a rigorous scientific literature review to comprehend emerging mobile media in media convergence. The RSL protocol developed by Kitchenham (2004) has had increased influence in the previous ten years (January 2008–April 2018). A systematic review, part of secondary research, with strict openness and systematization (Codina, 2017), tells us the important contributions to the state of the art. Our method is to locate, examine, and interpret data within a given study subject over a ten-year period, reflecting the cyclical shift in mobile communication.

We used keywords for mobile journalism, the research topic, published in English between 2008-18 as inclusion criteria. Articles on device technology and media literacy were eliminated since they were not about mobile journalism. The review used Web of Science to find social science papers. This option is acceptable since the goal is to evaluate publications from top international journals. Table 1 (next page) categories were used to get the results:

This procedure followed these steps:

1) Research topic and period: mobile journalism (2008-18).

2) Source selection: Social Sciences Citation Index research articles.

3) Use the final descriptions to search WoS.

4. Results management and filtering.

5) Determine variables to study: descriptive data (year of publication, journal name, title, keywords, and number of authors); type of study (quantitative, qualitative, descriptive-explanatory, transversal, and non-specified); techniques (observation, survey, interviews, content analysis, case study, experimental, and non-specified); main contribution; DOI; and institution of origin.

| Table 1. Selected descriptors for the search in the Web of Science	
Descriptor	**Nº of articles**
TS=mobile journalism	5
TS=mojo	5
TS=mobile news	18
TS=journalism AND mobile	53
TS=locative AND mobile	40
TS=mobile and social media	6
TS=mobile media	132
Total	259
Matches	60
Total without matches	199

III. RESULTS

This segment assesses the essential findings of the systematic literature review in light of recent mobile journalism research utilizing the aforementioned attributes. Following a series of searches utilizing seven keywords and exclusion criteria for matches, 199 publications were reviewed. This segment examines the primary research patterns in the discipline, incorporating metrics such as paper topic, publication count (including number and titles), and signatures. The mobile journalism articles were classified according to actors, audiences, activities, and actors using the theme categorization algorithm developed by Lewis and Westlund (2015).

Distribution of labor time was our primary concern. The output of mobile communication content has increased consistently over the past decade, reaching its highest point in 2013 with 38 messages that were pertinent to the selected descriptors (Figure 1). Subsequent years witnessed a decline in contributions, culminating in a mere 30 in 2017. In 2018, this analysis uncovered 23 mobile journalism texts.

A total of 31 publications specializing in scholarly papers on mobile journalism were identified. In the past decade, journals that have published 100 or more papers on the subject are enumerated in Table 2. This explains how specific journals have developed expertise in this field. "Mobile Media & Communication" contains 55 texts, while "New Media & Society" contains 21. Only "Journalism Studies" and "Convergence," with eleven and twelve articles, respectively, surpass the ten descriptor-related texts. For the analyzed keywords, four publications comprise more than fifty percent of the output.

Figure 1. Annual production of studies on mobile journalism
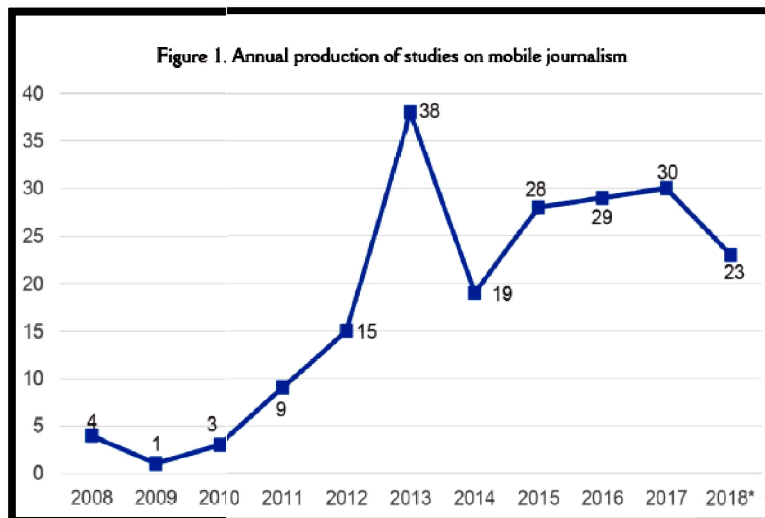
We investigate the authorship of Web of Science-indexed mobile journalism research from the previous decade. A single author appears in a majority of instances (51.25%) (102 out of 199 texts assessed). 54 two-author papers and 28 three-author articles are present. The nine-author maximum is reached twice.

With regard to the researchers affiliated with the 199 articles that were examined, it is evident that they are affiliated with universities situated in thirty distinct nations. The United States is the nation that is most prevalent across the entire revised corpus. Australia accommodates the second most numerous researchers specializing in mobile journalism, with the United Kingdom occupying the third position. Additionally, it is feasible to discern that 26.13 percent of the articles under review bear the signatures of authors affiliated with multiple universities, whereas 11.55 percent are international research articles, denoting articles authored by individuals from more than one country. Our approach for the thematic revision of titles that were reviewed was based on the proposal put forth by Lewis and Westlund (2015). The classification system proposed by these authors categorizes articles that are situated within the same reality but examined from distinct perspectives: activities—routines and tasks performed by media professionals and users of new devices; audiences—recipients of messages produced and communicated through mobile devices; and actors—media professionals themselves.Consequently, each thematic line's presence in the corpus of reviewed literature will be identified.

Table 2. Assessed publications with 5 or more articles on communication and mobile journalism	
Journal	**N° of articles**
Mobile Media & Communication	55
New Media & Society	21
Convergence	12
Journalism Studies	11
International Journal of Communication	9
Media International Australia	9
Continuum	8
Journalism	8
Journalism Practice	7
Information, Communication & Society	6
Media Culture & Society	6
African Journalism Studies	5
Comunicar	5
International Journal of Mobile Communications	5

Actors

This segment is situated within research on the production of news content, which considers the reassessment of conventional journalistic theories in light of the emerging digital environment (Loffelholz, 2008). The production of news is a generalized process comprised of the following five phases, according to Domingo (2008): 1) access and observation; 2) selection and filtering; 3) processing and edition; 4) distribution; and 5) interpretation. This definition functions as a solid foundation for examining the notion of actors in the broader context of news production.

Actor-related papers comprise the smallest number of references, seventeen. These scholars examine the matter of mobile journalism by analyzing how journalists utilize emerging technologies. Additionally, they draw a comparison between traditional journalists and mobile journalists (Blankenship, 2016). Additionally, there are scholarly articles that examine the utilization of mobile technologies by individuals assuming the role of citizen journalists (Ataman & Çoban, 2018) in contrast to articles that adopt an actor-centric perspective. These papers also investigate how communication professionals execute the initiatives of activist journalists.

Actants

Our investigation centred on the smartphone's status as a meta-media, which emerged within the framework of cyberculture (Levy, 2007). This classification referred to a device housing both traditional and contemporary media, thereby providing an extensive array of opportunities (Madianou & Miller, 2012). Mobile news applications are a prime example of technological actors, according to this theory.

The approach we adopted was comprehensive in nature, considering the smartphone as a device that embodies "the instrumental hyper-multifunctionality and the complexity of the new techno-social scenario".

Our research uncovered articles concerning the intrinsic qualities of smartphones and the efficacy of devices, a notion popularized by Gibson in 1979. With respect to this matter, the pervasiveness and persuasiveness of the Internet, the simplicity of compressing text, images, and video, and the recording, editing, and distribution processes—all of which facilitated the emergence of novel avenues for citizen expression—fell into focus.

Languages and the construction of messages via mobile devices have unquestionably been the subject of the most scholarly attention in mobile journalism research in recent years. Consequently, 58 percent of the articles that were examined centered on the linguistic and technical attributes of this novel technology.

Additionally, we identified various research avenues associated with the following: the impact of integrating location and GPS services into news the application of tools for receiving and publishing news via mobile devices the relationship between communication structures and news dissemination via mobile devices; and the necessary process of adaptation for the aforementioned aspects.

Further analytical approaches exist, which scrutinize the description and analysis of messages generated in relation to a particular event (Mudhai, 2011). Additionally, there are more technical approaches, which involve examining the functionalities of particular mobile applications (Verhoeff, 2017).

Audiences

With 42 references to audiences, this thematic approach ranked as the second most prevalent. Various research methodologies were identified, including but not limited to: investigations into audience reactions to new communication environments (Kim, Lee, 2016); analyses of the relationship between the media and their audiences via the utilization of novel devices and information consumption capabilities enabled by these devices (Peters, 2012); and studies examining user engagement and mobilization (Mudliar & Donner, 2015).

With audiences in mind, the conclusions drawn from the reviewed studies are primarily concerned with aspects such as the potential for audience engagement in mobile-device-disseminated content as opposed to more conventional media, and the significance of factors including parental involvement and school training when it comes to integrating news consumption among young people. When considering the relationship between the media and its citizens, mobile devices are identified as instruments that require modifications to news production processes through the incorporation of audience-provided materials and testimonials. In the contemporary news production process, these contributions, which are increasingly prevalent via exchange channels and social networks, serve to unite the media and the public in a more collaborative manner (Soep, 2012).

Engaging in activities

We categorized as activities everything associated with the production and consumption habits of the media and its consumers. Twenty-four of the 199 texts that were analyzed employed this thematic approach, which focused on the actions performed throughout communication processes.

This is exemplified by scholarly articles and publications from other industries that examine the implementation of novel communication processes and experimentation activities on mobile devices (Carah, 2017); the implementation of

privacy protection strategies and measures (Vickery, 2015); and the utilization of specific mobile device tools and services in the everyday lives of citizens (Frith, 2017).

IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The present text indicates that, in recent years, mobile device impact studies on communication processes in general and news production processes in particular have been the subject of extensive research. Therefore, the cited literature in this study builds upon the investigations initiated by theorists including Castells (1996) and Fidler (1997), who were forerunners in establishing the extent to which mobile technologies would influence the development of communication in its various modalities and platforms.

Based on an examination of the research output pertaining to mobile journalism, as determined by utilizing various descriptors in the Web of Science database, it was discovered that the number of papers addressing the subject has increased gradually over the past decade. The data demonstrate a progression: by mid-2018, the total number of references had decreased from four in 2008 to twenty-three.

Over the course of the ten-year investigation, articles pertaining to communication and mobile journalism that satisfied the specified search criteria were published in 31 journals. Nevertheless, a notable pattern in this field is the consolidation of research output into four journals, which collectively publish nearly half of the studies. Hence, a discernible pattern or tendency exists among authors to publish their discoveries in journals such as Journalism Studies, Mobile Media & Communication, New Media & Society, and Convergence, which are all intricately connected to the investigation of the influence of technology on communication processes.

In regard to the attributes of authorship, a predominant occurrence is the presence of a singular author, a circumstance that transpires in over 50% of the papers that were examined. Additionally, it is noteworthy that co-authored papers contain two signatures. Concerning the countries of origin of the authors, we identified thirty distinct nations. Nevertheless, scholars hailing from the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom emerge as standouts. The English-speaking countries are therefore the epicenter of academic output on the subject. In accordance with prevailing patterns in the topical organization of articles, we ultimately adopted the approach suggested by Lewis and Westlund (2015). This involved categorizing texts pertaining to mobile journalism into four distinct viewpoints: actors, actants, audiences, and activities. The categorization is noteworthy due to its establishment of four distinct approaches to the mobile journalism phenomenon. The technological mediation made possible by mobile devices creates novel avenues for interaction among journalist-media, user-media, and journalist-media groups, encompassing news consumption as well as production and communication. In recent years, however, the majority of research on mobile communication has been devoted to technology, including an examination of its peculiarities and the impact of innovation on news production.

The selection of descriptors and the determination of the research period (2008-2018) constitute the study's limitations. The proposed timeframe aligns with the phase of smartphone proliferation as news content platforms, which commenced with the introduction of the iPhone in 2007. In respect to the descriptors employed in the Web of Science inquiry, they were chosen through an initial examination of a corpus of literature published within the last few years, utilizing the terms and keywords specified by the authors of those articles. In a similar vein, the selection of English as the language for search descriptors in Web of Science restricts and obstructs access to those papers that were composed in languages other than English, including Spanish and Portuguese.

In conclusion, there is potential for further investigation in this field to undertake comparable studies that seek to ascertain the intricacies and research patterns surrounding the integration of mobile devices into the daily lives of individuals and the processes of news production. Analogous revisions may yield a more comprehensive understanding of prevalent methodologies and thematic developments, thereby benefiting research institutions and scholars who advocate for mobile journalism.

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DOI: 10.48175/568

ISSN
2581-9429
IJARSCT

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