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AI-Generated Content: Transparency, Accountability, and Ethical Challenges in Journalism – A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

The ethical implications of AI-generated content in journalism are systematically discussed in the current debate, with a focus on the opportunities and challenges that accompany automated writing and artificial media. The core issues, which include transparency, accountability, truth, and harm, fall within the scope of examination, and the necessity of an immediate policy response is underlined. In this regard, a multimethod approach will be employed, involving case-study analysis and surveys of the audience among the general population. The field of research is organized around live cases of AI applications in sports and financial reporting, and incorporates topical cases, such as deception related to deepfakes. The surveys reveal the importance of the audience as they reflect on the views of the people on ethical requirements. This discourse assesses ethical disclosure behaviors and bias in artificial-intelligence (AI) systems in the context of proven normative constructs of newsrooms and journalists, namely, honesty, autonomy, and accountability, to provide the best ways in which AI can be used responsibly, but under the principles of journalism. Suggestions would enable the creation of ethical codes and best practices in the industry, and more specifically, encourage the audience to trust the industry, given its modern digital environment.

Keywords: AI-generated content, Journalism ethics, Transparency and accountability, Synthetic media, Journalistic integrity

INTRODUCTION

In the years 2023-2024, AI has undergone an unprecedented surge in growth, with many tools and applications quickly rising to prominence, demonstrating how quickly technology has advanced. Interestingly, the phrase "AI" has been in use since the 1950s, and its founder is often referred to as the "father of AI." The desire to have machines execute things that humans have always done stems from a deep passion for efficiency and productivity.

With the progress of AI, using it in journalism represents a significant shift in how news is made and distributed. Starting as a new tool in the journalistic machine, AI quickly advanced from experimentation to become an essential component of modern media. AI applications have grown beyond the imagination; they are currently utilized to analyze data for journalists, allowing them to handle massive volumes of information in extremely short periods. AI also improves the user experience by tailoring content and targeting news based on individual reader interests. Additional AI capabilities aid investigative journalism by classifying and analyzing data that would otherwise be too large for human reporters to handle on their own. Such a skill increases reporting quality and encourages more in-depth study of complicated stories.

Actually, AI's effect extends to editorial decisions, offering knowledge that can help news companies decide which stories to cover and how to approach them. The introduction of AI in journalism runs counter to the trend of pervasive digital transformation. As technology advances, strategies for obtaining, reporting, and consuming

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news evolve. The emergence of AI reflects not just technological advancement but also changes in demand and dynamism in news consumption in the digital age. The importance of AI in journalism merely signals a watershed moment in terms of how much these advancements will count and be perceived in comprehending the needs of today's audience (Fabia Ioscote et al., 2024). The primary goal of AI research is to create machines capable of doing tasks that are traditionally associated with human intelligence. This exploration is represented in the study of how robots can understand and learn in the same way that people do. Finally, this understanding is limited to the general spectrum of AI study known as machine learning. This subgroup of AI research concentrates on the development of algorithms that allow computers to evolve behaviors based on empirical data. The theoretical approaches of media ethics and communication research inform this study by putting the ethical issues of AI in journalism into context. The Social Responsibility Theory of the press offers the normative basis of judging how the automated systems should be involved in content creation based on the truth, accountability, and public welfare. Also, Media Systems Dependency Theory aids in explaining the situation when viewers become more dependent on the use of technologies to mediate the flow of news, and the significance of ethical AI governance to form the perception of credibility and trust increases. To be added to these views, the algorithmic accountability paradigm highlights the need to have transparency, explainability, and human control over the use of AI tools in newsrooms. These theoretical models altogether provide conceptual framework with the help of which the empirical data of this research can be understood and related to the larger questions of media governance in the digital era.

Journalism, Law, Transparency, and Accountability

Journalism in an AI environment will need to adapt to AI-related technology in order to be efficient while also keeping ethical standards. AI has revolutionized journalism. Automation, data analysis, and other technologies enable new ways to personalize information while also raising concerns about bias, transparency, and job displacement. For example, journalism content automation frees up journalists' time to focus on investigative reporting. Still, it also puts them at risk of being reliant on algorithms, which can lead to biases in sharing, mainly due to flaws in an insufficient data set or an unclear mechanism for making decisions. At the same time, as journalists increasingly employ AI to fact-check, the fight against disinformation becomes more complicated when synthetic media, such as deepfakes, enter the scene (Wang, 2021). Journalists must make AI-led reporting as transparent as feasible and ensure that algorithmic biases do not corrupt public discourse.

The law's involvement in disciplining AI includes ensuring that AI is used ethically and appropriately. Proper legal frameworks must be updated to address issues such as privacy, bias, liability, and so on after an AI system has caused harm. Given that technology occurs in a variety of domains, regulations must account for the rapidly changing content production coming from AI discoveries concerning intellectual property rights and personal data protection against AI monitoring (Lutz, 2019). For example, in predictive policing or the criminal justice system, algorithms must work in accordance with other rules to ensure fairness and equity in decision-making; hence, they will not perpetuate biases in their operations that will hurt portions of society (García-Aviles 2014). International cooperation is also required to set standardized norms across borders to ensure responsible AI use around the world with no loopholes.

AI tools provide answers and hazards for trust and safety, mostly in online situations. Most AI tools are employed for content filtering when hate speech or misinformation is discovered. However, the algorithms are not perfect. Teams responsible for trust and safety must constantly improve their algorithms to reduce the likelihood of errors or bias. Another issue AI raises is the establishment of "echo chambers," in which individuals are only exposed to content perspectives and feeds that reflect their current opinions, resulting in polarization in public discussion (Verma, 2024). AI moderation struggles to perceive sophisticated human communication, such as sarcasm or cultural nuances, resulting in over-censorship and the failure to remove damaging information (Nurelmadina et al., 2021).

Ethical Challenges

Publishing using AI raises problems about the availability of transparency and where accountability will sit. The

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scope of material created by AI is frequently indistinguishable from material produced by people, with the source of information blurring or becoming blurred, making it difficult for consumers to identify between AI-provided content and what was created by a human. According to Abuhamad (2024), "the use of AI in journalism, particularly visual content, raises concerns about the authenticity and validity of AI-generated media, as well as a decrease in public trust." According to Illia (2022), the directness of AI-mediated communication reduces moral ambiguity and makes responsibility more difficult (Al-Zoubi et al., 2024).

Another significant ethical concern in AI systems is prejudice amplification. AI relies mainly on the data on which it is trained, and if that data represents societal biases, whether race, gender, or other forms of bias, AI will replay and reinforce those biases. Illia (2022) argues that if AI systems are not monitored and managed, they can reproduce and amplify society's biases, leading to discriminatory outcomes (Illia et al., 2022). These biases might manifest themselves in AI-generated reporting and writing, among other disciplines, and impair the objectivity and fairness of the content delivered by AI systems.

To close the gap between theoretical ethics and newsroom practice, it is critical to put normative concepts like fairness, autonomy, and accountability into practice standards that will guide the application of AI. In deontological media ethics, the safeguarding of the truth and avoiding harm are the most critical; when extended to AI systems, it would mean that the algorithmic engagement is disclosed completely, biases are thoroughly tested, and the means of automated decisions are documented. Concrete solutions such as algorithmic audits, transparency labels and organized human oversight of the AI outputs are crucial tools of undertaking to make sure that AI produced material complies with the journalism requirements. These models are also useful in reducing the risks linked to synthetic media, data commodification, and the lack of transparency in algorithmic operations to strengthen the ethical dimension of an increasingly automated newsroom setting.

Another ethical issue related to AI is data commodification. AI learns from vast volumes of user data without their awareness or agreement, raising a number of privacy and data ownership concerns. As Labajová (2023) argues, there is an increasing use of AI-generated material on social media, raising ethical concerns about the use of data, mainly when an AI system creates media content after collecting and analyzing personal information (Labajová, n.d.).

AI use in journalism raises problems about reporting values. Traditionally, journalism has been based on truth and authenticity, but the introduction of AI into the newsroom threatens those ideals. According to Abuhamad (2024), journalists may become more like "gatekeepers" in the future, overcoming ethical challenges given by AI-generated content (Al-Zoubi et al., 2024). There should be ethical practice requirements since journalistic integrity is maintained even as AI tools become more widely used.

This increases the risk of propagating erroneous information. According to Illia (2022), AI-generated content can lead to "mass manipulation" by creating credible but deceptive material and testing people's trust in media sources (Illia et al., 2022). The dangers of "deepfakes" and other AI-generated media are particularly relevant in an age of enormous audience manipulation.

Journalists in an AI-driven newsroom

AI-powered tools are more advanced in writing news pieces, performing data analysis, and automating factchecking, among other things. The question of whether AI will replace human journalists is contentious; nonetheless, many experts believe that journalism should primarily serve as an extension of journalists rather than a replacement (Lewis et al., 2021). The collaborative approach would have AI do mundane tasks like summarizing data, scanning for sources of information, and using templates in reporting, freeing up journalists to focus on investigation, interpretation, and editorial work that required variation in comprehension and ethical sense-making (Carlson, 2020).

In light of AI's growing role in the newsroom, it's critical to recall the distinct human characteristics that journalists contribute to their work. While AI can manage large amounts of data to uncover patterns, journalists are responsible for verifying and interpreting these findings for the public (Thurman et al., 2019). Journalists





must develop new skills as AI takes a leading role in the newsroom. While conventional journalistic skills, such as interviewing and narrative, are essential, journalists must also be technically savvy in order to work effectively with AI tools. As previously said, digital literacy-data processing skills and familiarity with AI tools have become an absolute requirement for journalists to comprehend the processes by which AI generates output and to evaluate AI output so that coverage remains accurate (Beckett, 2021).

The ethics of data and algorithmic accountability developments will prevent a news environment from becoming opaque, with accompanying factual compromises under the influence of AI. Training in computational journalism, as well as programming and data analytics for news production, emerged as critical skill areas. For example, The Washington Post's journalists employ the AI system "Heliograf" to automatically write stories on athletic events or election coverage, allowing them to have control over the production process rather than creating the content themselves (Anderson, 2020). In such an AI-driven situation, a newsroom's strength is in journalists who excel at data analysis, coding, and analyzing AI machine output (Beckett, 2021).

The ethical responsibility of journalists in an AI-powered newsroom cuts to the heart of several crucial issues, including bias, transparency, and accountability in AI-generated material. An essential ethical challenge emerges whenever AI is trained on biased data or when it is unclear how the decision-making process is carried out. Journalists working with AI should guarantee that AI-driven outputs, like other kinds of AI-driven knowledge production, do not promote harmful biases or misinformation that might lead to public distrust of the media (Diakopoulos, 2019). Journalists are responsible for fact-checking AI stories, revising AI's work, and being upfront with the public when using AI to create material. Transparency regarding AI's role in reporting may help alleviate concerns about authenticity and accuracy, making it more straightforward for consumers to trust reporters. (Carlson, 2020).

Newspaper and magazine views also provide a broader understanding of the ethical situation with AI-assisted reporting. Studies indicate that the newsroom professionals tend to view AI as a support system as opposed to substituting human judgement, mostly in routine and data-driven endeavours (Grimme & Zabel, 2025; Xiao et al., 2025). Nevertheless, they raise long-term doubts about the undermining of editorial independence and the lack of transparency in the work of algorithmic systems that can affect the selection of news and news framing without being interpretable in a direct manner (Diakopoulos, 2019; Petre Breazu and Katson, 2024). News reporters underline that such basic functions of their work as investigative journalism, making ethical choices, and situational interpretation are essentially human processes, which cannot be reproduced by AI because of their lack of sociocultural and moral awareness (Carlson, 2020; Illia et al., 2022). The editors also emphasize that human intervention is essential in the last phases of publishing, as AI will never be able to assess the cultural nuances of the situation, the effect it has on listeners, or the overall implications of the news stories on society (Gotfredsen, 2023; Abuhamad and Andersson, 2024). These professional perspectives are essential as they offer an equal perspective on ethical demands of AI-assisted journalism and emphasize the need to maintain the human-focused control over the newsroom powered by AI (Porlezza and Schapals, 2024).

Review Of Literature

The development of the AI (AI) in newsrooms around the world has completely changed the nature of news content production, distribution, and consumption. Since learners of AI make more advanced strides in creating human-like texts, images, and even videos, journalism is challenged more than ever with concerns of transparency, accountability, and ethics. The change brings important questions to the integrity of the information at the time when the boundary separating the human and machine-made content is still waning.

The Transformation of Modern Journalism Through AI Integration

The use of AI technologies in journalism can be described as one of the most crucial technological changes in the sphere of media production since the introduction of digital publishing. There is a growing variety of AI products being used in contemporary newsrooms to assist in automated data analysis and content generation, personalized news curation, and real-time fact-checking. Studies show that about 73 percent of news houses



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have embraced the use of AI to automate news writing, 68 percent to analyze data and 62 percent to personalize their contents. Such a wide-scale implementation shows the increasing centrality of AI in the everyday work of journalism (Piasecki et al., 2024).

Use of AI in journalism can go much further than mere automation. News houses are currently using advanced language models to create first-time drafts of stories, write headlines and summaries of complex datasets and even translate multilingual content. Also, AI systems can help in investigative reporting as they can analyze large volumes of data, examine trends on the data available to the populace, and even potential leads that would not be easy to notice by doing so manually. These features have greatly boosted the efficiency of journalism and the number of stories that can be undertaken by the newsrooms with limited resources (Sinclair, 2025). Such technological integration has brought about what is called, by researchers, algorithmic gatekeeping - a hybrid process in which AI systems are getting greater and greater control over editorial choices regarding what stories are published, how they are packaged and to whom they are shared. This change is a paradigm shift concerning the traditional human-based editorial judgment, and it is questionable as to whether journalistic values will be preserved in the media environment of AI algorithms (Voinea, 2025).

The Transparency Imperative: Regulatory Frameworks and Industry Standards

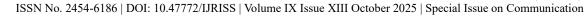
AI Act of the European Union especially Article 50 has become a key regulatory framework in the context of responding to transparency needs of AI-based generated content in the media. This bill requires AI applications generating or tampering with content to make clear to end users that they are artificially generated. Nevertheless, studies indicate that there is a substantial disconnect between the regulatory intent and the realization, especially when it comes to how the transparency requirements are operationalized within the complex newsroom setting context within the feasibility (Ramos and Ellul, 2024).

The openness issues are not confined to mere disclosure laws. Research proves that simply stating that content is AI-generated can become a self-contradictory way to achieve the opposite in terms of trust when that content is correct or useful. People are prone to thinking that AI-labeled content is a completely automated production with no human supervision, which results in a higher level of skepticism irrespective of whether there was genuinely any editorial intervention. This effect reveals the intricacy related to the establishment of efficient transparency protocols that would actually inform audiences without unintentionally hurting credibility (Altay and Gilardi, 2024).

To solve these transparency issues, media organizations have started to create internal AI governance. Thematic review of 37 AI guidelines in 17 countries demonstrates that such areas as transparency, accountability, fairness, privacy and the maintenance of journalistic values are repeated. These principles focus on the role of human control, the explanation of AI systems, and the publication of automated content and the security of user information. Nonetheless, the geographical distribution of these standards indicates that there are considerable disparities, where the establishment of AI ethics standards is led by the Western organizations and does not cover all of the world (deLimaSantos, Yeung and Dodds, 2025).

Accountability Challenges in AI-Assisted Journalism

The adoption of AI systems into the production of news has raised new levels of accountability that cannot be addressed under the conventional journalistic models. The problem is that it is still necessary to decide who is to be held accountable when AI systems cause editorial mistakes, one-sided coverage, or misinformation distribution. This is an especially pressing problem in light of the fact that many AI systems are black box, so the drivers of these decisions are obscured even to those that run them (Qingtao Liu, 2025). There are three dilemmas in AI journalism research that are critical. First, the probabilistic character of AI-generated content contradicts the very principle of journalism as accurate, since the language models can exhibit fabricated information as true or false using the so-called hallucination phenomena. Second, the uncertainty of the responsibility allocation of human-AI collaborative work processes complicates the process of establishing accountability in the spread of misinformation. Third, media businesses encounter a paradox of transparency in





which under-the-radar AI deployment compromises social confidence but complete disclosure may provoke unnecessary mistrust in the quality of content (Qingtao Liu, 2025).

The problem of accountability is also complicated by the fact that AI development and implementation are global. Because most news organizations use the AI systems that are built by third-party technology companies, they establish complex chains of responsibility that transcend jurisdictions and regulation models. This state of affairs concerns the question of whether the conventional journalistic mechanisms of accountability, created in human-focused newsrooms, are sufficient in the age of AI-assisted content creation (Diaz-Rodriguez et al., 2023).

Algorithmic Bias and Editorial Independence

Among the most important ethical issues with AI journalism, there is algorithmic bias and the effect it has on editorial autonomy. The AI systems that have been trained on historical data risks spreading the same biases that exist in society resulting in biased coverage of minority communities, perpetuation of stereotypes, or the systematic exclusion of other worldviews. This bias may occur in a variety of forms: in terms of the sources used, the perspective of the reporting, the language of the report, and even the criteria by which events should be covered (Petre Breazu and Katson, 2024).

The studies of journalistic performance of ChatGPT-4 show worrying trends of reproducing the perspectives, especially in sensitive issues like the coverage of immigration. The researchers discovered that AI systems reproduce the prevailing narratives in their training data, which can even increase media bias instead of delivering an impartial report. This result poses some fundamental questions regarding the existence of AI systems that can preserve the editorial variety and critical outlook needed in quality journalism (Petre Breazu and Katson, 2024).

The bias issue is also applied to automated news curation and recommendation tools that decide what news audiences watch. Such algorithms can also form filter bubbles that only reinforce what people already believe, and lessen exposure to different opinions. In the case of journalism, where the democratic role of informing the discourse is traditionally played, the information flow is mediated algorithmically, which, in comparison with the principles of the profession of complete and balanced coverage of such information, is a very big change (Voinea, 2025).

The Crisis of Authenticity and Detection Challenges

Development of AI-generated content has posed authenticity crisis that poses a threat to the essential epistemological principles of journalism. The Deepfake technology has made it possible to produce highly convincing fake images, audio, and video materials which are now indistinguishable to genuine media. This feature presents an existential problem to journalism, whose reliability is determined by providing the audience with checked, authentic information (Anandhasivam et al., 2024).

The issue of AI-created content being detected has now become a serious issue in the newsrooms that want to preserve editorial integrity. Studies indicate that although detection technologies are getting advanced, they have enormous constraints in the practical world. Research on journalists working with AI verification software shows worrying trends in the number of false positives and their negative results, and shows that the existing detection mechanisms are not reliable. This technological cat and mouse game among generation and detection technology imposes a persistent uncertainty on news organisations that seek to confirm the authenticity of the content (Saniat Javid Sohrawardi et al., 2024). This issue of detection is especially severe in the context of breaking news when the responsibility of journalists is to make quick editorial judgments and have little time to check the facts. The studies conducted with journalists show that in case of unreliable mechanisms of deep fake detection, the result may be making bad decisions, which may lead to the publication of fake content or refusal to publish legitimate content. These dynamic studies the importance of applying thorough verification frameworks that integrate both technological applications with conventional journalistic verification systems (Saniat Javid Sohrawardi et al., 2024).

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Human-AI Collaboration and the Future of Journalistic Roles

The implementation of AI in newsrooms is transforming the old role of journalism and developing new ways of human-machine collaboration. One study found the rise of hybrid journalist-programmer roles in 52 per cent of organizations examined, and also found that 38 per cent of examined organizations indicated the necessity of journalists to develop AI literacy. This development indicates that the art of successful journalism in AI will demand additional skills in the field that will merge classic editorial discretion with the technical knowledge of AI possibilities and restrictions (Sonni et al., 2024).

Research into the implementation of AI in newsroom shows that different models of human-AI collaboration exist, including fully automated systems that need only human intervention to those that are AI-assisted workflows that complement human abilities. The most appropriate ones seem to be the ones that maintain human control and use the benefits of AI computations in processing data, forming initial content, and in routine chores (Grimme and Zabel, 2025). There is a high barrier to cross-functional cooperation between AI technologists and journalists. A study of Chinese news agencies revealed that there was considerable hindrance to successful cooperation, such as the lack of communication between the technical and editorial personnel, divergence of priorities and schedule, and insufficient knowledge of the professional needs of the other party. These results indicate that the effective implementation of AI may presuppose technological implementation, as well as organizational change and cultural shift in newsrooms (Xiao et al., 2025).

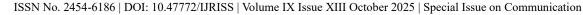
Regulatory Response and Policy Implications

Regulatory environment of AI journalism is still developing because legislators struggle with the dilemma of prioritizing the incentives of innovation over the protection of the public interests. The EU AI Act is the most detailed regulatory framework to date encompassing transparency requirements of AI systems used in the production of content. Nevertheless, it is not implemented, and the key issues concerning implementation relate to enforcement procedures, applicability across borders, and technical viability (Ramos and Ellul, 2024b).

Published studies on the issues of transparency in the AI Act indicate that the existing requirements might not be adequate to deal with the reality of AI journalism. Disclosure requirements as the key part of the legislation fail to address the problem of algorithmic responsibility, reduction of bias, or quality control. The universal quality of news delivery concerns the fact that the information generated in one regulatory framework can be disseminated to the jurisdictions with different levels of protection standards (Busuioc, Curtin and Almada, 2022). Policy scholars propose more sophisticated approach of regulation which should take into account the peculiarities of journalism as democratic institution. Suggested frameworks underline that specific sectoral rules are necessary to maintain the editorial autonomy and at the same time accountability towards society. These guidelines involve the need to audit algorithms, test bias, and perform frequent evaluation of the effects of the AI systems on the quality and diversity of journalism (Gao et al., 2025).

Case Study 1: ChatGPT in newsrooms: Adherence of AI-generated content to journalism standards and prospects for its implementation in digital media

Zagorulko researched the compliance of the press machine called ChatGPT with journalistic standards. Several axes of judgment were employed during the analysis, such as balance, reliability, and accuracy. In fact, the author concluded that the press machine is often unable to provide neutrality while writing texts, mainly if it acts based on questions that use an inner tone. Out of 60 questions pertaining to public figures and presented with positive and negative tones and neutral ones, ChatGPT was able to produce responses that complied with the rules of balanced reporting only 48% of the time. This is noticeable with political leaders as the model tends to discover either the good or the bad depending on the tone of the question asked (Zagorulko, 2023). This example illustrates that AI can help very quickly produce content, but human editing is still necessary to ensure journalistic standards. Associated Press and Automated Financial Reporting with Wordsmith The AP is also another example of how AI is integrated into their news service as they utilize Automated Insights' Wordsmith platform in the production of their financial reports. In this aspect, they were able to produce coverage increased from then 300 to almost 3700 per quarter without affecting accuracy and efficiency negatively through





automated routine earnings reportage work. This work illustrates how AI augments journalistic output in data-intensive tasks and makes human journalists available to present more in-depth analysis or even more substantial work, such as that of investigative reporting, according to what was discovered by Zagorulko (2023). Microsoft's AI Editor Replacement Mishap Microsoft has relied on AI to substitute its human editors who oversee news on its MSN website, which has led to unanticipated editorial blunders. One of the most shocking examples of this is how AI appended a photo to a completely irrelevant news post, causing a huge public outcry over the insensitivity of the mismatching (Zagorulko, 2023). This makes it clear that, at the moment, AI still fails to understand content or context; hence, some things would take too much time to understand and need human input in their comprehension as far as culture and context are concerned. Heliograf at The Washington Post: AI for Political and Sports Reporting To demonstrate AI's potential in meeting the fast-paced requirements of newsrooms, The Washington Post leveraged the Heliograf AI for producing political and sports content. Heliograf applies automation to specific event coverage by processing structured data, freeing human reporters

to focus on more complex and interpretative work (Zagorulko, 2023). This application of AI thus demonstrates the strategic use of automation towards delivering real-time content updates while not diminishing quality journalistic output. It is through these case studies that the evolution of AI in journalism- from both the positive and negative dimensions- will obviously be present in every current AI tool. Clearly, while AI supports efficiency

and scalability, the reliability and ethical standards of journalistic content remain human-dependent.

The Path Forward: Toward Ethical AI Journalism

The problems of the AI journalism demand all-inclusive answers that will address technological, regulatory, ethical, and organizational aspects. Studies have consistently highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation that engages journalists, technologists, policymakers, and civil society groups to come up with governance frameworks that are effective (Samson et al., 2024). The takeaways based on the existing studies are development of industry-wide ethical guidelines on the use of AI in journalism, investment in AI literacy among journalists and the establishment of transparent audit procedures on AI systems employed to produce news. Moreover, researchers encourage keeping human editorial judgment on important aspects such as the choice of stories, the verification of sources, and ethical decisions and apply AI features to the processing of data and the optimization of content (Porlezza and Schapals, 2024).

Given that the profession must continue to carry out its fundamental democratic roles, it is probable that the future of journalism in the AI era will be determined by how able the profession is to balance its existing technological realities. This will need not just technical answers but a reinvigoration of journalistic values, public service and editorial autonomy in an ever-more automated media environment. The ever-growing capabilities of AI will also demand the journalism profession to take a proactive role in determining how the technology is used to serve the interests of the people as opposed to its commercial effectiveness. The analysis of AI-created contents in journalism demonstrates that there is a multifaceted terrain of opportunities and challenges, which will keep on changing as technology develops. The only way to succeed through this change will be to remain focused on transparency, accountability, and ethical considerations as journalism remains a vital part of the democratic society.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Case Processing Summary

	Cases international journal of research and innovation in applied science (ijrias) Issn No. 2454-6194 Doi: 10.51584/Ijrias Volume X Issue Ix September 2025								
	Valid		Missing		Total				
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent			
AP	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%			



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EC	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%
PT	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%
PI	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%
DI	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%

Table 1, "Case Processing Summary," reveals that all four variables, AP, EC, PT, and PI, have 100% valid responses, indicating a high quality of data. This completeness allows for reliable and consistent results in further analysis, avoiding the risks of biases or inaccuracies due to incomplete records. The study includes specific items measuring public attitudes toward AI-generated journalism. Awareness and Perception of AI-generated journalism (AP) measures participants' understanding of AI-generated content in journalism, their trust in such content, their encounters with AI-generated news, and their preference for transparency around AI use. CEI challenges respondents to evaluate media outlets' accountability for AI-caused errors, anxiety about bias in AIdriven journalism, disclosure of AI usage, and whether principles like fairness and accuracy are prioritized above convenience.

PT (Public Trust and AI) gauges whether AI is impacting the way people view media institutions in terms of trust. It solicits opinions from the general public about whether AI is affecting the level of confidence that exists for media organizations, whether they would still

support news institutions releasing information that they are using AI, and whether there are any ethical issues with AI-generated journalism. This is important for determining how AI may be influencing the trustworthiness and credibility of media institutions.

The Perceived Impact of AI in Journalism (PI) measures opinions regarding potential positive impacts of AI journalism, such as speed and accuracy in journalistic work. This further reveals ethical concerns related to this new form. It records widespread acceptance of guidelines on using ethical AI, and other relevant thoughts people might have regarding AI impacting journalism.

The dataset is complete, with no gaps or inconsistencies, making it both reliable and unbiased. The coverage of the various variables and their items shows the spectrum of attitudes of the public, from being familiar to having faith and ethical concerns towards seeing what AI has or might have on the issues facing journalism. AP provides insight into public knowledge and acceptance of AI-generated journalism, while EC provides insight into accountability and ethical demands placed on AI-driven media processes. PI captures two sides of AI's roles: its promise and possible drawbacks, indicating a two-sided view concerning the influence of AI on journalism. The findings of this analysis can ultimately be used to support the responsible integration of AI in journalism, balancing technological advancement with ethical integrity and public trust.

Table 2 - Descriptives

		AP		EC		PT		PI		DI	
		Statisti c	Std. Error								
Mean		3.3050	.08100	2.9675	.07758	2.3433	.06001	1.8650	.07346	1.8260	.04364
95% Confidence	Lower Bound	3.1443 3.4657		2.8136 3.1214		2.2243 2.4624		1.7192 2.0108		1.7394 1.9126	
Interval for Mean	Upper Bound										
5% Trimmed Mean		3.3250		2.9833		2.3593		1.8278		1.8133	

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Median	3.3750		3.0000		2.3333		2.0000		1.8000	
Variance	.656		.602		.360		.540		.190	
Std. Deviation	.80996		.77578		.60014		.73462		.43638	
Minimum	1.25		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.20	
Maximum	4.75		4.75		3.67		3.50		3.00	
Range	3.50		3.75		2.67		2.50		1.80	
Interquarti le Range	1.25		1.00		.67		1.50		.80	
Skewness	354	.241	327	.241	427	.241	.325	.241	.318	.241
Kurtosis	527	.478	087	.478	114	.478	893	.478	834	.478

Table 2 focuses on the perception of AI-generated journalism in the context of journalism. It includes measures of central tendency and dispersion, with a measure for the shape of the distribution of each: Awareness and Perception of AI-Generated Journalism (AP), Ethical Considerations (EC), Public Trust and AI (PT), and Perceived Impact of AI in Journalism (PI).

The mean score for AP is 3.3050, indicating a moderate to high level of familiarity with and positive perception of AI-generated journalism. A weak negative skew indicates that respondents assigned above-average ratings regarding awareness and perception, relatively more on the comparison side than the lower side of ratings. This suggests that the sample is aware of or open to AI-generated journalism. Ethical considerations (EC) have a mean score of 2.9675, indicating a balanced concern regarding the moral aspects of AI in journalism. However, responses remain concentrated around the central values, suggesting that ethical concerns exist but are not polarized. This may indicate an expectation from the public side that AI should be responsibly used in journalism without excessive distrust.

PT has a mean score of 2.3433, meaning participants stand at a middle to a higher level of trust in applications of AI in journalism, although slightly below the middle value. A moderate negative skew of (-0.427) indicates that responses seem to be skewing more on the lower side, possibly due to skepticism on the participants' side about the increased influence of AI on the veracity of media. This finding may call for an area of vulnerability for AI journalism: its need for media organizations to build transparency and accountability toward gaining people's trust. The perceived impact of AI in journalism (PI) scored an average of 1.8650, indicating a relatively low perception regarding the positive impact of AI or at least a rather conservative view of the potential advantages AI may bring to journalism. A slight positive skew and flatter than normal distribution suggest that although some participants do foresee benefits, a more significant percentage remains cautious or uncertain.

The study highlights the need to educate the public about the practical advantages of AI for journalism while clearing out misconceptions. The results highlight the importance of understanding the perceptions of AIgenerated journalists and their potential benefits, as well as the need for media organizations to build transparency and accountability.

Table 3 - Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
AP	.095	100	.026	.972	100	.029
EC	.107	100	.007	.981	100	.149

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PT	.173	100	.000	.946	100	.000
PI	.180	100	.000	.887	100	.000
DI	.178	100	.000	.920	100	.000
a. Lilliefor	s Significance C	orrection				

Table 3 Tests of Normality. In addition, the following list the Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests of normality for each of the variables: AP= Awareness and Perception of AI-generated journalism; EC = Ethical Considerations; PT = Public Trust and AI; PI = Perceived Impact of AI in Journalism. For all these variables, we assessed whether the data follows an appropriate normal distribution.

AP: The K-S test has a statistic of 0.095 with a p-value of 0.026, and the S-W test shows a statistic of 0.972 with a p-value of 0.029. Both tests are at the 0.05 level, which may indicate that the AP was taken from a nonnormal distribution.

EC: The K-S test value is 0.107 with a p-value of 0.007, and the S-W test value is 0.981 with a p-value of 0.149. Here, the K-S test suggests a statistically significant departure from normality, p< 0.05, whereas the S-W test does not, p= 0.149. This mixed result seems to indicate a slight deviation from normality in the distribution of EC, which may still approximate normality.

PT: The K-S test statistic for PT is 0.173 with an associated p-value of 0.000, and the S-W test statistic is 0.946 with a p-value of 0.000. The two tests are highly significant, p< 0.001, meaning a marked deviation from normality for PT.

PI: For PI, the statistic for the K-S test was 0.180, while the p-value was 0.000, and for the S-W test, it was 0.887, and the p-value was also 0.000. Both tests have a substantial significance value with a p-value

The results of the normality tests show that the four variables are deviating to different extents from the normal distribution. Normality has long been an assumption that often underlies many types of statistical analyses, specifically most parametric tests. A departure from normality for these variables implies the applicability of non-parametric tests when the goals of further study and the assumptions subsequent tests require are met.

For AP, both Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests are significant; the distribution of AP does not follow a perfectly standard curve. However, based on the descriptive statistics, skewness and kurtosis are close to zero. Considering this, AP's distribution may be close enough to expect to be treated as approximately usual, especially for larger sample sizes where the Central Limit Theorem mitigates the impact of mild non-normality.

The variable EC gives a mixed result. On one hand, the K-S test shows an extreme deviation from normality, while the Shapiro-Wilk test does not. Given the fact that the descriptive statistics report a slight skewness of 0.327 and kurtosis of -0.087, the distribution for EC is apparently mildly non-normal. In this sense, the distribution of EC might be treated as approximately usual for some parametric analysis. Yet, researchers may prefer carrying out non-parametric tests if stricter normality is demanded.

For Public Trust and AI (PT), the normality tests are significant, so PT is not normally distributed. Descriptive statistics for PT show a moderate left skewness and a slightly flattened distribution, which supports the result further. Therefore, it also suggests the appropriateness of using PT if non-parametric tests are inevitable because normality being crucially assumed tends to hamper the test validity by the deviation caused in it for the specific variable.

The PI variable of the impact of AI in journalism comes out with the most robust departures from normality at both tests being highly significant (p< 0.001). The skewness value is at 0.325, and the Kurtosis value is at 0.893,

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meaning positive skewness and flattened at the center, so it may not normally be distributed. So, in this case, non-parametric methods need to be used in this analysis, which is sensitive to normality assumptions.

Tests indicate that the distributions for AP and EC are nearly normal but have some mild deviations, so it can be allowed to analyze them with some flexibility. PT and PI, however, show more pronounced non-normality, so in analyses involving these variables, it would be better to use non-parametric methods, such as the Mann-Whitney U test or the Kruskal-Wallis test. Understanding these distributional characteristics can help in the proper selection of a test, thereby providing more reliable and valid findings in any research conducted on public perceptions, ethical concerns, trust, and perceived impacts of AI in journalism.

Table 4 Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
AP	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%
EC	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%
PT	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%
PI	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%

The Case Processing Summary table reveals the quality of data for four key variables: Awareness and Perception of AI-generated journalism (AP), Ethical Considerations (EC), Public Trust and AI (PT), and Perceived Impact of AI in Journalism (PI). All 100 valid cases have no missing value (100% complete), ensuring 100% completeness. This whole data set provides a robust basis for sound analysis, preventing bias and reducing statistical power.

Due to the high-quality data, researchers can now conduct detailed statistical analyses for each variable, such as descriptive statistics, inferential tests, or relationships among variables. This data supports findings regarding public awareness, ethical concerns, trust levels, and perceived impacts of AI in journalism without imputation or adjustment for missing data. The case processing summary reveals an excellent standard of data quality, strengthening the reliability of the study results and allowing for a full exploration of participants' attitudes toward AI in journalism.

Table 5 Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk					
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.			
AP	.095	100	.026	.972	100	.029			
EC	.107	100	.007	.981	100	.149			
PT	.173	100	.000	.946	100	.000			
PI	.180	100	.000	.887	100	.000			
a. Lilliefo	a. Lilliefors Significance Correction								

The Tests of Normality present the characteristics of the distribution of the four variables: AP, EC, PT, and PI.

From the Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests, it can be inferred that none of these variables are





perfectly normal because all of them have at least one statistically significant deviation from normality.

For AP, both tests are significant (Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic = 0.095, p = 0.026; Shapiro-Wilk statistic = 0.972, p = 0.029), which indicates that AP is not normally distributed. This means that participants' awareness and perception of AI-generated content in journalism vary and do not follow the standard normal distribution curve.

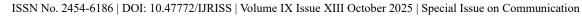
For EC, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was significant: statistic = 0.107, p= 0.007, Shapiro-Wilk test was nonsignificant: statistic = 0.981, p= 0.149. This gives a mixed result, so while the distribution of EC is nearly normal compared to the others, it can only be slightly due to skewness or outliers. Thus, EC is almost customarily distributed, but a parametric test should still be used with caution and selection.

For Public Trust and AI, both tests show significant deviation from normality (Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic = 0.173, p< 0.001; Shapiro-Wilk statistic = 0.946, p< 0.001). This result indicates that the responses regarding PT are generally not distributed, as the participants have held a wide range of opinions on the role of AI in journalism. The substantial deviation from normality means that perhaps PT has a more extreme response or a non-symmetrical distribution.

Finally, the variable Perceived Impact of AI in Journalism (PI) is also not normally distributed (KolmogorovSmirnov statistic = 0.180, p< 0.001; Shapiro-Wilk statistic = 0.887, p< 0.001). This shows that the participants who attended the survey perceived AI's impact on journalism in somewhat dissimilar ways. Some believe it has considerable influence, and others hold an opposite view, saying it barely affects journalism. Consequently, a high degree of non-normality may show the diversification of points of view and perhaps a polarization in views regarding how AI functions in journalism.

Table 6 - Correlations

		AP	EC	PT	PI	DI
AP	Pearson Correlation	1	.417**	.418**	.125	.002
	Sig. (1-tailed)		.000	.000	.108	.494
	N	100	100	100	100	100
EC	Pearson Correlation	.417**	1	.393**	.218*	.128
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.000		.000	.015	.102
	N	100	100	100	100	100
PT	Pearson Correlation	.418**	.393**	1	.186*	.058
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.000	.000		.032	.283
	N	100	100	100	100	100
PI	Pearson Correlation	.125	.218*	.186*	1	.065
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.108	.015	.032		.261
	N	100	100	100	100	100
DI	Pearson Correlation	.002	.128	.058	.065	1
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.494	.102	.283	.261	
	N	100	100	100	100	100
**. Co	rrelation is significant at the					
*. Con	relation is significant at the	0.05 level (1-t	ailed).			





The correlational analysis is employed to establish relationships between some of the critical variables in relation to AI journalism: awareness and perception of AI-generated journalism, ethical considerations, public trust in AI, perceived impact of AI in journalism, and demographic information. The results show moderate, statistically significant positive correlations between AP and EC (r = 0.417, p < 0.01) and AP and PT (r = 0.418, p < 0.01). In other words, those persons who are more aware of AI in journalism are the ones who have strong concerns regarding ethics and express their higher levels of trustfulness about the use of AI in the media. These relationships would imply that awareness of AI accompanies a better understanding of its ethics and a better score in the responsible use of AI.

Moreover, EC and PT are positively correlated with a value of r = 0.393, p < 0.01, suggesting that subjects who emphasized more ethical use of AI also had higher levels of trust in AI's involvement in news journalism. This could reflect the improvement of trust in AI when moral issues are given proper input. There are also weak but statistically significant correlations between EC and PI (r = 0.218, p < 0.05) and PT and PI (r = 0.186, p < 0.05). These suggest that ethical issues and trust are modestly related to the extent to which people consider AI's role in journalism to be impactful. This may imply that a modest base of trust and ethical standards increases perceptions of the value or effectiveness of AI in media.

Curiously, DI has no significant relationships with any of the other variables, as all p-values are more critical than 0.05. This suggests that demographic factors in terms of age, gender, education, occupation, and news usage are not statistically crucial to any of the levels mentioned above of awareness, considerations, trust, or impacts of AI in journalism. This may indicate independence of attitudes toward AI when considering the demographic background, which is a notion that opinions about AI in journalism are most probably the outcome of personal exposure or experience rather than the demographics.

Overall, the findings tend toward a nuanced relationship in which awareness, ethical considerations, and trust intertwine highly in forming attitudes toward AI in journalism. Interestingly, ethical frameworks appear more salient in promoting public trust, whereas the demographic factor has little significance in the perception. Results indicate that perhaps ethical standard promotion might be exactly what could help develop public trust in AI applications. Still, some perceptions related to AI are not as strongly associated with demographic or attitudinal factors.

When comparing AI-related and traditional journalism to each other, one will find that there are major discrepancies in the perception of the audience, ethical standards, and reliability. Although the AI-generated content was also perceived as efficient and able to provide quick updates, especially on data-intensive reporting, participants indicated a more positive reaction to the human-written news, with moderate awareness (M = 3.30) and low trust (M = 2.34) evaluations of AI-driven journalism. Such trends correspond with previous research on the issue of algorithmic biasness, situational misperceptions, and the lack of human editorial instincts. According to the respondents, AI-generated news must also have clear labels of transparency and editorial verification to ensure credibility. Unlike this, traditional journalism has always been linked with authenticity, accountability, and compliance with normative ethical constructs. This comparative observation is an example of the unending credibility hierarchy in support of human-written journalism, but at the same time acknowledging the increased usefulness of AI in reporting routine or structured chores. These results make sense of the necessity to use AI as a complementary tool, but not substitutes, in ethical newsroom practices.

The statistical outcome indicates significant relations between awareness, ethical concern, and trust that the public participation in AI in journalism takes places due to cognitive understanding and normative expectations. The close relationship between awareness of AI-generated content and consideration of ethical factors (r = .417) indicates the impact of the Social Responsibility Theory, in which audiences demand accountability and transparency of any system that is involved in the production of news. On the same note, the direct relationship between ethical issues and trust in the organization (r = .393) supports the assumption that the trust in automated journalism depends on the perceived compliance with the ethical standards including fairness, accuracy, and disclosure.



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These results provide an insight in the importance of the role of transparency as the primary means of reducing perceived risk when related to the algorithmic accountability framework. The main differences between normality of PT and PI distributions reveal a split in the outlook of the population, indicating that people are interested and doubtful at the same time about the growing impact of AI on journalism. Such ambivalent perceptions highlight the need to have governance systems in forms of audit, explainability protocols, and transparency labels, which translate the ethical values in real life newsroom operations. The discussion confirms that empirical attainment is reinforced not only by technological precision but also by observable, ethically valid practices by placing the results of the study within the constructs of theory.

CONCLUSION

It is revolutionary, unlocking new efficiencies and analytics capabilities in the news production chain. It also introduces complex ethical challenges connected to transparency, accountability, and sources that might go untraced, particularly synthetic media. This research underlines that AI in journalism is at once a precious resource and a great ethical responsibility, thus requiring a broad ethical framework that will guide its use responsibly.

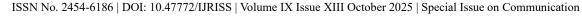
Our findings point, therefore, to the importance of clear and enforceable ethical standards and best practices in the application of AI within journalism standards that, by truthfulness, independence, and accountability, might enable media organizations to unlock the benefits of AI while retaining public trust. It will also help audiences better understand, critically assess, and actively participate in the journalistic process by raising more awareness about the role that AI plays in news production while reinforcing mutual accountability between news organizations and the public.

More importantly, as the uses of AI in journalism continue to evolve, it will be essential to maintain an open, collaborative dialogue about the same. This approach allows the field to adapt responsibly to rapid technological advancement and retains the core values of journalistic integrity. We call for a collective effort by journalists, technologists, policymakers, and the public to shape an ethical framework that balances innovation with principles of truth and transparency. Now, it becomes the responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure that the development of journalism driven by AI must have ethics at its core in enriching the quality and reliability of journalism and becoming a reliable pillar for the informed society of the digital age.

The future studies should combine comparative observations and multi-stakeholder views of journalists, editors, technologists and audiences to come up with a complete ethical framework of AI-driven journalism. Such a framework must bring normative standards of media ethics in line with the factual conditions surrounding newsroom automation and make sure that transparency, fairness and human control are both present in AIassisted practices. To ensure the protection of editorial independence and increase the level of public trust, it will be necessary to introduce cross-functional governance frameworks, regular algorithmic audits, and sector-wide disclosure guidelines. With the further development of AI, the journalism profession should go out of its way to influence its adoption positively by applying ethical reflexivity and collaborative governance, so that technological innovation reinforces, not weakens, the democratic and epistemic roles of the press.

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