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Adoption of Information and Communication Technologies in Modern Journalism Practice Among Practitioners in Abuja (FCT) and Nasarawa State

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Abstract

This study examines the adoption of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in modern journalism practice among practitioners in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja and Nasarawa State, against the backdrop of journalism's global transformation from manual to machine-assisted processes. Anchored in Technological Determinism Theory, the research employed a descriptive survey design, with data collected through questionnaires administered to practitioners. The findings reveal that respondents possess only moderate familiarity with ICTs for journalism, with their understanding rated as "good," reflecting an average level of knowledge. Furthermore, the adoption and utilization of ICTs in journalism practice within the study areas remain below average, limiting efficiency in news sourcing, processing, and dissemination. The study concludes that inadequate knowledge and low adoption hinder the full benefits of ICT in journalism. It recommends sustained orientation programs and digital innovation campaigns to improve journalists' awareness and competencies, as well as stronger government support to accelerate the transition from analogue to digital journalism. Enhanced

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adoption of ICTs will ultimately reduce production costs and time while improving the quality and speed of news delivery.

Keywords: Information and Communication Technology; Modern Journalism; Adoption; Digital Transition; Practitioners

INTRODUCTION

Journalism is concerned with the art of gathering, processing and disseminating information and other media products through the various mass media. It is the practice of writing, editing and publishing information of broad interest to the target audience via the mass media. Several events and activities that are worthy of public attention do occur on daily basis unrecorded. Journalism provides the avenue through which professionals scout for these news worthy events, filter them and report through different channels to the general public so as to keep them abreast with latest development within their environments. Several processes are involved in gathering, processing and dissemination of information to the public. In the traditional setting, journalists hold board meeting where beats are been assigned to reporters and from there the reporters go out to rove for news. After gathering the information from the field, the reporter and the camera would have to compile and edit their stories before filing it to the editor where the final draft is ascertained before it gets to the press or is being air. These processes could take several hours and much time and energy among other resources before it gets completed.

With the advancement in technology today, the narrative has changed dramatically. The adoption of information and communication technology for journalism has revolutionised the practice of journalism from manual to machine assisted journalism particularly in developed nations. Journalists these days use sophisticated technologies to facilitate newsgathering using devices like mobile phones, midget recorders, ENG camera, drone camera, camcorder. Other technological tools like laptops and smart phones are also used for news processing with the aid of different softwires like Grammarly, Auris, Canva, Restream, HubSpot CRM, Hootsuite insight, Persado, Buszzsumo, Otterai (Ijidola, 2024).News dissemination today has also advanced to the use of satellite broadcasting, creating of online presence for both broadcast and print media outfits. No doubt, these developments are disrupting the narrative in modern journalism practice globally.

Adigwe (2010) opined that ICT not only facilitates and enhances the creation, processing, sharing, production and dissemination of information in the media industry but it also enhances the immediacy and timeliness of news is of a high priority. With ICT news gathering has become faster, cheaper and readily available to anyone connected to the internet using any devices such as mobile phones, laptops, tabs, Palm tops etc. For the journalist the laborious and cumbersome nature of their work has been simplified as time demanding task could be completed within split of seconds with less energy involved.

Due to the many potentials of the information and communication technologies, nations all over the world are switching over from analogue to technology based and or hybrid journalism to harness the nuanced opportunities of these new technologies. While the rate of adoption of information and communication technologies in developed nations is appreciably high, many developing nations are still grappling to adopt these technologies owing to several challenges. In spite of the advantages that adopting ICT portends, much is required to successfully adopt these tools for journalism like every other endeavour; ranging from literacy, procurement capital, steady electricity. These challenges serve as inhibitions to the adoption of ICTs in Nigeria among other developing nations. Although a good number of modern technologies have been adopted for journalism, studies have shown that the level of adoption is still at an evolving stage.

This is consequent upon reluctance and or hesitance in the adoption of technologies generally. As posited by diffusion of innovation theorists, certain categories of users referred to as laggards are always reluctant in adopting new technologies. This is often true with Nigerians as users are mostly sceptical during the early days of any technological innovation. Laggards would always wait until the innovation is being adopted, tested and commended by others before they adopt same. This often characterise most technological innovations in Nigeria particularly when the innovation is such that would require huge capital for procurement. This is with most Nigerians as they would always give time to allow for the ascertaining of the veracity and reliability of the technological innovation before its subsequent adoption. Laggards are very resistant to change and slow to adopt new ideas. They often prefer to stick to the status quo and resist change, making it difficult for organisations to introduce new innovations successfully.

Journalism is not an exception to this reluctance in adoption of new technologies as seen in the hesitance in the switch over from analogue to digital transmission and

broadcasting in spite of the deadline by the international telecommunication Union. Journalists are often sceptical in adopting new technologies most particularly when they feel threatened by the adoption of those technologies. As a result, some journalists feel that modern technologies are an attempt to replace them and or make them redundant in discharging their responsibilities. Okon and Eleba (2011) stated that since these technologies and media forms are alien to the Nigerian society, in particular, media houses and journalists should try as much as possible to acquire the required skills while adopting and adapting to state-of-the-art equipment in gathering, packaging and disseminating news and other relevant information to the public.

Statement of the Problem

The adoption of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Nigeria has been a subject of increasing interest, particularly as digital technologies continue to reshape the media industry. Recent studies highlight both the progress made and the challenges faced by journalists in Nigeria as they integrate these technologies into their work (Udoh et al., 2021). Technological advancement is revolutionising every facet of human endeavour and journalism is not an exception to this. Recent developments in ICTs have ushered in an era of machine assistance in virtually every task and profession. In journalism, the use of modern technologies has become a common phenomenon in the order of the day particularly among the western world. This has consequently boosted the quality of journalism practice among such nations owing to the many potentials use of ICT portend for journalist practice. Be that as it may, the rate of adoption of information and communication technologies in Nigeria is still low compared to developed nations and even among African nations. The situation is even more worrisome in the northern part of the country as some studies have shown that the rate of adoption of ICTs for journalism in the south is higher than the north. It is against this premise that this study seeks to examine the adoption of information and communication technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in FCT-Abuja and Nasarawa State.

Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this study was to assess the adoption of Information and Communication Technology in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State. However, the specific objectives include:

1. To assess the knowledge of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State.

2. To ascertain the level of adoption of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State

3. To identify the various Information and Communication Technologies used in modern journalism practice by practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State.

Review of Concepts

The main concepts that constitute this study were reviewed to create a sound footing at the same time provide a contextual explanation for the concepts in line with the perspectives of other scholars.

Information Communication Technology

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) encompass a broad range of technological tools and resources utilized to transmit, store, create, share, or exchange information. These include computers, the internet, broadcasting technologies (radio and television), and telephony. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO] (2009) defines ICT as a diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate, create, disseminate, store, and manage information. The evolution of ICT has been marked by rapid advancements, leading to the integration of various components such as hardware (computers, mobile devices), software applications, networks (internet, intranet), and communication channels (emails, social media). These components work synergistically to facilitate seamless information flow and connectivity across the globe.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) encompass a broad range of technologies that facilitate the creation, storage, retrieval, transmission, and manipulation of information. ICTs have revolutionized modern society by enhancing communication, improving access to information, and transforming economic, educational, and social structures (Bresciani et al., 2021). This essay provides a conceptual review of ICTs, discussing their evolution, key components, societal impact, challenges, and future trends.

The development of ICTs can be traced through several technological revolutions, beginning with the invention of the telegraph and telephone in the 19th century, followed by radio, television, and computers in the 20th century. The advent of the internet in the

late 20th century marked a significant leap, enabling global connectivity and digital information exchange (Castells, 2020).

ICT plays a pivotal role in modern society by enhancing economic development, education, and social interactions. It has revolutionized business operations through e-commerce, digital marketing, and global trade facilitation. In education, ICT has transformed traditional teaching methodologies, enabling e-learning and access to vast information resources. Socially, it has bridged communication gaps, fostering global connectivity and cultural exchange (Ameen et al., 2024).

Modern Journalism

The practice of journalism has undergone profound changes in recent decades, reshaped by digital innovation, shifting audience habits, and economic pressures. Traditional print media has declined, while digital platforms, social media, and artificial intelligence (AI) have revolutionized how news is produced, disseminated, and consumed (Newman, 2023). This study examines the defining characteristics of modern journalism, exploring its digital transformation, the influence of social media, challenges to credibility, the growing role of data and AI, and the future of the industry. The transition from print to digital has been the most significant shift in modern journalism. Newspapers and magazines have seen circulation decline by over 50% since 2000, while online news consumption has surged, with 72% of U.S. adults now accessing news via smartphones (Pew Research Center, 2023). This shift has led to an emphasis on multimedia storytelling, where traditional text is augmented with video, podcasts, and interactive graphics (Pavlik, 2022). Major outlets like The New York Times and BBC have pioneered immersive formats, such as 360-degree videos and data visualizations, to enhance audience engagement (Reuters Institute, 2023).

However, the digital era has brought severe financial challenges. Advertising revenues for U.S. newspapers fell from 49*billionin*2005*to*9.6 billion in 2022 (Pew Research Center, 2023), forcing media organizations to explore alternative revenue models. The most successful adaptations include; Paywalls and subscriptions (e.g., The Washington Post's digital subscription growth), Sponsored content and native advertising and Membership programs (e.g., The Guardian's supporter model). Social media platforms have become central to news distribution, with 48% of U.S. adults regularly getting news from these platforms (Shearer, 2023). Twitter (now X), Facebook, and TikTok serve as

real-time news wires, but also contribute to misinformation spread - a study found false stories reach 100 times more people than factual reporting (Vosoughi et al., 2018). The rise of citizen journalism has further complicated the media landscape. While enabling immediate coverage of breaking events, research shows user-generated content often lacks verification, with only 38% of major news organizations having formal verification protocols (Hermida et al., 2022).

Review of Related Literature

Extant literatures relevant to the current study were reviewed to consolidate the intellectual discourse on the subject under investigation.

Knowledge of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Nigeria

The integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has profoundly transformed modern journalism, reshaping news gathering, production, and dissemination processes. In Nigeria, this evolution has presented both opportunities and challenges for practitioners. This literature review examines the current state of ICT knowledge among Nigerian journalists, exploring the extent of ICT adoption, the benefits realized, and the obstacles encountered.

Several studies have investigated the extent to which Nigerian journalists have embraced ICT tools in their professional activities. A survey conducted among journalists in Ekiti State revealed that while 97% acknowledged the importance of ICT in enhancing communication efficiency, the actual utilization of modern ICT tools remained limited. Notably, only 24% reported having access to internet facilities provided by their organizations, though 64.7% utilized personal devices for internet access (Obajuluwa et al., 2020). Similarly, research in Port Harcourt indicated that 67% of journalists employed IT facilities daily; however, many of these tools were outdated and insufficient. Challenges identified included limited access to emerging technologies and a lack of structured training programs (Okon, 2014).

The adoption of ICTs has introduced significant benefits to journalism practice in Nigeria. Journalists have reported that digital technologies streamline news gathering, production, and dissemination, leading to more efficient workflows. For instance, a study

in Imo State found that 66% of journalists had substantial access to digital technologies, which they used frequently, resulting in a positive perception of these tools as enhancements to their profession (Alaekwe, 2023). Additionally, the proliferation of smart devices has enabled journalists to connect with audiences in real-time, facilitating instant feedback and engagement (Abdullahi & Mary, 2023).

Adoption of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State

The integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has significantly transformed journalism practices globally, including in Nigeria.This literature review examines the extent to which Nigerian journalists have adopted ICTs, highlighting the current state, benefits, challenges, and perceptions associated with this integration.

Several studies have investigated the level of ICT adoption among Nigerian journalists. A survey conducted in Ekiti Metropolis revealed that while 97% of journalists acknowledged the importance of ICT in enhancing communication efficiency, only 24% had access to organizational internet facilities, with 64.7% relying on personal devices for internet access (Obajuluwa et al., 2020).Similarly, research in Port Harcourt indicated that 67% of journalists utilized ICT tools in their daily operations; however, many of these tools were outdated and inadequate, hindering effective journalism practice (Okon, 2013).

The adoption of ICTs has introduced significant benefits to journalism in Nigeria. Journalists have reported that digital technologies facilitate easier and faster news gathering, processing, and dissemination, leading to improved productivity and audience engagement. For instance, the use of smart devices has become integral in news gathering, with journalists leveraging these tools to enhance efficiency and streamline tasks (Abdullahi & Mary, 2023).Additionally, social media platforms have been incorporated into newsroom operations, serving as sources for news and facilitating audience interaction (Inobemhe& Santas, 2021).

Despite these advantages, Nigerian journalists face considerable challenges in adopting ICTs. Financial constraints pose a significant barrier, as the high cost of acquiring and maintaining modern ICT equipment is often prohibitive, especially given the relatively low income levels of many journalists (UKEssays, 2018).Moreover, inadequate infrastructure, such as inconsistent electricity supply and limited internet access, further impedes effective ICT utilization (Okon, 2013).The lack of formal training and retraining

programs on emerging ICT tools also hampers journalists' ability to fully leverage these technologies (Obajuluwa et al., 2020).

Theoretical Framework

Technological determinism theory was selected to serve as the theoretical underpinning for the study owing to its suitability with the current study.

Technological Determinism Theory

The theory revolves around the proposition that technology in any given society defines its nature. Technology is viewed as the driving force of culture in a society and it determines its course of history (Oladele &Asemah, 2022). Mediawiki.edu (2008), as cited in Aboh, Amah &Asemah (2021) notes that technological determinism is the theory that says a society's technology determines its cultural values, social structure and history. Technological development has changed the face of communication to the point that citizen journalists have emerged. The act of news reporting has been democratised worldwide and social media are now being used as platforms to influence people (Ajibulu&Asemah, 2021).

The term "technological determinism" was coined by Thorstein Veblen (1857–1929), an American sociologist and economist. The most radical technological determinist in the United States in the 20th century was most likely Clarence Ayres, who was a follower of Thorstein Veblen & John Dewey. William Ogburn was also known for his radical technological determinism (Technological Determinism, 2016).

The theory revolves around the proposition that technology in any given society defines its nature; technology is viewed as the driving force of culture in a society and it determines its course of history. Karl Marx believed that technological progress leads to newer ways of production in a society and this ultimately influences the cultural, political and economic aspects of a society, thereby inevitably changing society itself. He explained this statement with the example of how a feudal society that used a hand mill slowly changed into an industrial capitalist society with the introduction of the steam mill (Communication Theory, 2016). Technological determinism manifests itself at various levels; it starts with the introduction of newer technologies, introduces various changes and at times, these changes can also lead to a loss of existing knowledge as well. For example, the introduction of newer agricultural tools and methods has seen the gradual loss of

knowledge of traditional means of farming. Therefore, technology is also influencing the level of knowledge in a society (Communication Theory, 2016).

Thus, it is relevant to the current study in that the adoption and utilisation of information and communication technologies by journalists has become a game changer for the practitioners as it is revolutionising the practice of journalism entirely. Journalists are using different technological devices for news sourcing, news processing and news dissemination today.

METHODS

Descriptive Survey research design method will be adopted for this study using a questionnaire to solicit responses from a cross-section of a group of people where data will be retrieved; this design was appropriate because the focus of this study was assessing the adoption of information and communication technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State The population of this study therefore, shall be the staff, practicing journalists and experts in the fields of journalism in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and Nasarawa State. The total number of registered journalists in Nasarawa State is 436, while the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja has the total number of registered journalists to be 846 (NUJ, 2024). This sums up the total number of journalists in the study area to be 1,282. The researcher used questionnaire for the purpose of primary data collection.

The multi-stage sampling technique was used to get respondents for the study. Afterwards, the convenient sampling was also used to select participants who were willing to participate in the study and were practicing journalists within the select media outfits. The sample of this research is calculated using Krejcie and Morgan sampling table. According to Krejcie and Morgan sampling table, a research population of 1,292 respondents will require 291 as the appropriate sample size (evidence attached to appendix)

Data Presentation and Analysis

The presentation and Analysis is based on the data obtained from the questionnaire administered from the field work through the instrument of questionnaire. The researcher administered 291 copies of the instrument to respondents. However, only 285 copies were completed and returned useable.

Table 1 Showing respondents' level of familiarity with the concept of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in journalism

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Very familiar	65	22.8%
Moderately familiar	163	57.1%
Slightly familiar	39	13.7%
Not too familiar	18	6.4%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Table 1 above shows respondents level of familiarity with the concept of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in journalism. This implies that majority of respondents are Moderately familiar with the concept of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in journalism as shown by 163 respondents represented by (57.1%) of the entire population.

Table 2 Showing respondent's understanding of the rate of how ICTs have transformed news gathering and dissemination.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage%
Excellent	89	31.2%
Good	153	53.7 %
Fair	43	15.0%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Table 2 above shows respondents' understanding of the rate of how ICTs have transformed news gathering and dissemination. This implies that majority of respondents say that their understanding of how ICTs have transformed news gathering and dissemination with the concept of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in journalism is Good as shown by 153 respondents represented by (53.7%) of the entire population.

Table 3 Showing respondent's level of formal training on the use of ICTs in journalism practice.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage%
Advanced	56	19.7%
Intermediary	186	65.2 %
Basic	21	7.3%
Poor	22	7.8%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Table 3 above shows respondent's level of formal training on the use of ICTs in journalism practice. This implies that majority of respondents say that they have Intermediary formal training on the use of ICT's in journalism practice as shown by 186 respondents represented by (65.2%) of the entire population.

Table 4 Showing the extent to which respondents' use ICT tools in their daily journalism activities.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Very frequently	115	40.3%
Occasionally	92	32.2 %
Rarely	65	22.9%
Never	13	4.6%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Data on table 4 above shows the extent to which respondent's use ICT tools in their daily journalism activities. This implies that a majority of respondents have used ICT tools in their daily journalism activitiesVery frequently, as shown by 115 respondents represented by (40.3%) of the entire population.

Table 5 Showing the ICT tools utilise most often in respondents' journalism practice.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook)	63	22.1%
Blogs and CMS (e.g., WordPress)	35	12.2%
Video and audio editing apps (e.g., Adobe Premiere, Audacity)	164	57.6%
Data journalism software (e.g., Tableau, Excel)	23	8.1%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Data on table 5 above shows the ICT tools utilise most often in respondents' journalism practice. This implies that majority of the respondents say that Video and audio editing apps (e.g., Adobe Premiere, Audacity) are the ICT tools utilise most often as shown by 164 respondents represented by (57.6%) of the entire population.

Table 6 Showing the assurances of personal believe of respondents in adoption of ICTs and its improved quality of respondent's journalism output.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly agree	176	61.8 %
Agree	32	11.2%
Neutral	34	11.9%
Disagree	25	8.8%
Strongly disagree	18	6.3%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Data on table 6 above shows the assurances of personal believe of the respondents in adoption of ICTs and its improved quality of respondent's journalism output. This implies that majority of the respondents Strongly agree that adoption of ICTs has improved quality of respondent's journalism output as shown by 176 respondents represented by (61.8%) of the entire population.

Table 7 Showing which of the following devices respondents commonly used for journalism activities? (Tick all that apply)

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Smartphone	43	15.1%
Laptop	169	59.2%
Tablet	23	8.1%
Digital camera	50	17.5%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

The data on the table revealed that 169 respondents representing 59.2% of the entire respondents stated that Laptop is the foremost device commonly used for journalism activities among several other devices that abound today.

Table 8 Showing the platforms that respondents predominantly use to disseminate news content.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
News websites	68	23.9%
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	125	43.9%
YouTube channels	60	21.0%
Podcasts	32	11.2%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Data on table 8 above shows the platforms that respondents predominantly use to disseminate news content. This implies that majority of the respondents say that social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) are the platforms that respondents predominantly use to disseminate news content as shown by 125 respondents represented by (43.9%) of the entire population.

Table 9 Showing software or applications that respondents use for multimedia content production.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Video editing software (e.g., Capcut, Final Cut Pro, Premiere Pro)	179	62.9%
Graphic design tools (e.g., Canva, Photoshop)	35	12.2%
Audio editing tools (e.g., Adobe audition, Audacity)	42	14.8%
Data visualization tools (e.g., Flourish, Infogram)	29	10.1%
Total	**285**	**100 %**

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Data on table 9 above shows software or applications that respondents use for multimedia content production. This implies that majority of the respondents said video editing software (e.g., Capcut, Final Cut Pro, Premiere Proare the software or applications that respondents use for multimedia content production as shown by 179 respondents represented by (62.9%) of the entire population.

DISCUSSION

Sub-themes were generated from the objectives of the study in order to guide the discussion of findings for this study. In line with that, the findings of this study were discussed here thematically to answer the research questions towards meeting the overarching objective of the study.

Assessing the knowledge of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State

This question sought to assess the knowledge of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State. The study revealed that majority of the respondents are moderately familiar with the concept of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in journalism as shown by 163 respondents represented by (57.1%) of the entire population, additionally majority of respondents also said that their understanding of how ICTs have transformed news gathering and dissemination with the concept of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in journalism is Good as shown by 153 respondents represented by

(53.7%) of the entire population and 186 respondents represented by (65.2%) of the entire population said that they have Intermediary formal training on the use of ICTs in journalism practice. It could be deduced that the respondents' level of knowledge of Information and Communication Technologies for journalism is low as they affirmed being moderately familiar with the concept and their understanding of the ICTs for journalism practice was also rated to be "Good" which is just an indication of having average understanding.

This aligns with the findings of Ifeanyi et al (2016) who revealed that 41% of broadcast media practitioners in Imo State were moderately knowledgeable about ICT tool used in broadcasting. It was also revealed that 64% of the broadcast media practitioners moderately use ICT in their broadcast assignments. This shows that the knowledge of journalists across media stations in Nigeria is still moderate for many as evidenced in the data of the study. This poor knowledge of the ICT is caused and worsened largely by poor funding, poor training of broadcast personnel, poor power supply, high cost of ICT tools, and internet aided plagiarism on the part of practitioners.

Level of adoption of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State

The crux of the research question here is to ascertain the level of adoption of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State. Findings from the study revealed that majority of respondents as shown by 115 respondents represented by (40.3%) of the entire population said they use ICT tools in their daily journalism activities Very frequently, 164 respondents represented by (57.6%) of the entire population said that video and audio editing apps (e.g., Adobe Premiere, Audacity) are the ICT tools they utilise most often and 176 respondents represented by (61.8%) of the entire population Strongly agreed that adoption of ICTs has improved quality of respondents' journalism. Apparently, it is evident from the findings of the study that the level of adoption and utilisation of Information and Communication Technologies in modern journalism practice among practitioners in Abuja is still below average as only 40% of the respondents are using ICTs on regular basis. Be that as it may, an average percentage of the respondents are using video and audio editing apps (e.g., Adobe Premiere, Audacity) and that the adoption of ICTs has improved quality of their journalism practice.

The findings of the current study agree with Obajuluwa et al. (2020) revealed that while 97% of journalists acknowledged the importance of ICT in enhancing communication efficiency, only 24% had access to organizational internet facilities, with 64.7% relying on personal devices for internet access. This shows that even though the journalists know the important role ICTs play in their lives, their level of adoption of ICT devices is low due to poor access to technological devices. Similarly, Okon (2013) conducted a research in Port Harcourt which indicated that 67% of journalists utilized ICT tools in their daily operations; however, many of these tools were outdated and inadequate, hindering effective journalism practice. Suffice to say the level of adoption of modern ICT tools in Nigeria is generally low due to either lack of access to these tools or the availability of outdated tools that might not be too relevant and helpful. The adoption of ICTs has introduced significant benefits to journalism in Nigeria. Journalists have reported that digital technologies facilitate easier and faster news gathering, processing, and dissemination, leading to improved productivity and audience engagement.

Identifying the various Information and Communication Technologies used in modern journalism practice by practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State

This research question focused on identifying the various Information and Communication Technologies used in modern journalism practice by practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State. The study found out that 169 respondents representing 59.2% of the entire respondents stated that Laptop is the foremost device commonly used for journalism activities, 125 respondents represented by (43.9%) of the entire population said that social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) are the platforms that respondents predominantly use to disseminate news content by journalists, 184 respondents represented by (64.6%) of the entire population said they often employ mobile journalism (MoJo) techniques (e.g., using mobile apps for reporting) and 179 respondents represented by (62.9%) of the entire population said video editing software (e.g., Capcut, Final Cut Pro, Premiere Pro)are the software or applications that respondents use for multimedia content production. An analysis of the various Information and Communication Technologies used for modern journalism practice by practitioners in Abuja and Nasarawa State revealed that laptop is the foremost device used by journalists while mobile journalism (MoJo) techniques (e.g., using mobile apps for reporting) is fast gaining traction among journalists in Abuja and Nasarawa State.

This aligns with Abdullahi and Mary (2023) found out that the use of smart devices has become integral in news gathering, with journalists leveraging these tools to enhance efficiency and streamline tasks. Additionally, Inobemhe and Santas (2021) stated that social media platforms have been incorporated into newsroom operations, serving as sources for news and facilitating audience interaction. Obviously, social media platforms are the most utilised digital innovations today due to their accessibility and affordability to most journalists.

Social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube have revolutionized news sourcing and dissemination in Nigeria. Journalists utilize these platforms to gather information, engage with audiences, and distribute content. For instance, reporters can interact with newsmakers via Facebook or monitor trending topics on Twitter to identify potential stories. However, the reliance on social media also necessitates rigorous verification processes due to concerns about information credibility (Daily Trust, 2023).

CONCLUSION

Consequent upon the findings of this research, the study concludes that lack of access to modern journalism tools has affected the level of adoption of ICTs among journalists in Abuja and Nasarawa. Be that as it may the average population who are using their personal digital devices have formed that these technological tools have drastically improved their productivity from what it used to be when they were using manual and or outdated approach. This accentuates the fact that the use of information and communication technologies are revolutionizing the practice of journalism today just like every other profession where such tools are utilised. However, poor funding among other factors are inhibiting the adoption and utilisation of ICTs in Nigeria. There is therefore the need to improve in the funding of both private and public media establishments to enable them catch up with the current global trend of the use of ICT for journalism practice. This will indubitably improve the quality of journalism practice in the country when state of the art tools and technological devices are used.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion drawn from this study, the following recommendations were given;

1. There is the need for proper orientation and digital innovations campaign in order to enhance journalists' level of knowledge and awareness on modern ICTs and their multifarious benefits.

2. Government should insist and provide the necessary support for the switch over from analogue to digital journalism based on modern technologies. This adoption and utilisation of modern technologies will facilitate news sourcing, news processing and news dissemination in order to save time and cost of production.

3. There should be diversification in the various ICT tools and platform being adopted and utilised for modern journalism practice so as to maximize the manifold opportunities that abound.

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