

## Local Media Verification Discipline Practices in the Era of Information Overload

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### **Abstract**

*The mass media is in the midst of an era of digital information flood. The concept of information flood was put forward in the 19th century. Over time, the concept has merged with the development of internet technology. The internet connects information globally. Access to information is becoming so easy and cheap. But the effect, a flood or an information tsunami, can be disruptive, extending the pattern of thought to human behavior. So from that some experts offer a predictive strategy, dealing with the disaster. One of the public instruments that has an important role to play is the journalist. Journalists become information gatekeepers from the public to the public. Because of its crucial role in the circulation of information, in the conduct of the profession, journalists have guidelines set out in UU no. 40 of 1999 and the Journalism Code of Ethics (KEJ). Verification discipline becomes the essence of journalistic activity. Conducting a disciplinary verification, will greatly determine the quality, validity, and credibility of the information presented. Unfortunately, disciplinary practice verification is sometimes not fully carried out. Including journalists from the area. Using the Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel disciplinary verification concepts outlined in the Journalistic Ethics Code (KEJ), as well as the Cyber Media Reporting Guidelines (PPMS) on this study will look at how the coverage process, the treatment of sources, up to the practice of the disciplinary verification of local print and cyber media journalists. Using methods of case study research and comparative studies can deepen and compare journalists of print and cyber media of the region namely Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com practice the discipline of verification. But not entirely practiced well, more specifically in treating the source. This is due to factors of online media development, corporate operations and leadership policies*

**Keywords:** *Information Overload , Verification Discipline, Local Media, Local Journalists .*

## INTRODUCTION

Journalists have been in the public spotlight from year to year. This is because reports of complaints about news cases are increasing. As reported by the Head of the Press Ethics Complaints and Enforcement Commission, Arif Zulkifli, Press Council, complaints in 2022 increased from 2020 because one person can report ten media with three news items on one media. (Anugrahadi, 2022) . The Press Council's release for the 2019-2022 management year reported data on complaint reporting cases reaching 774 cases in 2021. In the report release, there are important things to note during this period, such as the influence of the political year on mass media coverage, pandemics and hoaxes, ethics in publishing releases, concerning figures considered controversial, collective errors, and violations of the code of ethics related to plagiarism ( Press Council, 2022) . The most reports were made for violations of Articles 1 and 3 of Law Number 40 of 1999 concerning the press. The title used in the news is considered judgmental, journalists do not confirm and do not re-check *the* results of the confirmation activities (Anugrahadi, 2022).

News published in the media sometimes only contains opinions and is not balanced. Like the news about Raul Lemos and Krisdiyanti reported by tribunnews.com with the title "Raul Lemos Consults with the South Jakarta PA" which was uploaded on Monday, February 17, 2020, was considered by the press council as a violation of the journalistic code of ethics because the news presented did

not go through information testing, resulting in inaccuracy, did not meet balance and contained opinions that seemed judgmental. In addition, on August 30, 2019, Director Livi Zheng through his attorney reported the media assumption.co.tirto.id, and geotimes.co.id because they were considered to have defamed Livi Zheng. This resulted in a press dispute that was brought to the plenary session of the Press Council to obtain a decision on the Statement of Assessment and Recommendation (Press Council, 2022) .

In relation to these cases, Paul Johnson (1998) argued that there are seven *deadly sins of journalism* that can potentially be committed by journalists. Among them are dramatization of facts that are not appropriate (fake), distortion (deviation of meaning) of information, disturbing privacy, exploitation of sex, character assassination, poisoning the minds of children to abuse of power. In line with that, Altschull in McQuail (2007) also argued that there are seven principles in journalism that sometimes apply in each country. First, press practices and theories are always different. Second, the mass media are not independent actors, even though they can exercise independent power because they are the ones who control economic and political power. Third, the content of the news is a representation of the interests of the funding holders. Fourth, all humans are adherents of freedom, but their practices can vary. Fifth, the press system states that it serves the interests of society. Sixth, one press model with another views it as a deviation. Seventh, journalism schools have difficulty in freeing themselves from the influence and control of those in power. (Nurhajati, Lestari,

Artini, 2018) . Therefore, it can be said that in practice, the independence of journalists in processing information into news that is disseminated to the public can still be questioned.

In addition to cyber media, regional print media also have their own challenges. Advertising as an operational income for print media is being eroded by television and cyber media. Nielsen data for the first semester of 2022 shows that the advertising market share in print media and radio has decreased drastically. Radio advertising has decreased by 13% and now only 0.3% remains, while print media has decreased by 6%, leaving 4.8% (Pahlevi, 2022) . With such circumstances, print media will adapt by using cyber media as well. So the media convergence process is also a challenge for management and the editorial room. Including in the process of reporting and presenting news.

In Indonesia since the reform era around July 1999 where press freedom was guaranteed by the state, the number of print media in the form of newspapers, magazines or tabloids is at least 1,500 media. Around 70 percent of the number of print media are in the capital city of Jakarta and the rest are spread throughout the archipelago. (Wahjuwibowo, 2015) .

Basically, print media has its own characteristics as mass media. Print media is the first mass communication media used from the Greek era until now. According to the basic characteristics of print media, print media uses paper media as a medium for

delivering messages, delivered in written form and printed, but sometimes it is now rarely found or only in special places that sell it, it takes a long time to produce until its distribution, and the content of the news is limited by space ( Hidayatullah , 2016) .

has also experienced convergence from print media to new media. The term new media is also commonly referred to as *cybermedia* , or internet media . Which is then interpreted as a website-based news site. Cyber media is the third generation in its development which started from print media, electronic media and then became cyber media. In the communication paradigm, cyber media is included in the study of new media. Therefore, it refers to the basis of use that can be accessed content anytime, anywhere, from any device, interactive user feedback participation, creative participation, and the formation of a content community which is a real-time generation (Romli, 2018) .

According to Ward (2002) in the book *on cyber journalism* , there are five characteristics that are formed from cyber media. First, *immediacy* or can be interpreted as immediacy, meaning there is speed or immediacy in publishing news or information. Second, *Multiple Pagenation, in a news page can be composed of several other connected pages*. Third, *multimedia* whose news presentation in the form of not only text, but also images, audio, video, or graphics at once. Fourth, *archiving* or archiving by providing categories that can be adjusted according to the rubric or keywords that can be accessed at any time. Fifth, *relationship with reader, interactivity* , namely

the existence of reciprocity in the form of interaction from with the reader (Cholis, 2018).

Presentation of news on cyber media is certainly important to pay attention to objectivity, avoid professional bias of news makers and remain within the corridor according to the journalistic code of ethics (KEJ) and in accordance with public expectations. Even in the midst of the issue of presenting news that requires speed and management (Mangunsong et al., 2024) .

Through the development of the times, journalists are required to carry out a verification process in every coverage and presentation of their news to the public. Because according to Effendy (1994) mass media has a great influence with the term bullet theory. This means that as explained by Melvin Defleur (1975) that messages conveyed by mass media have a direct and immediate impact on individuals. (Habibie, 2018) . The issue of verifying information in journalistic activities is an important thing to pay attention to. By verifying, the news produced will be more accurate and credible in its truth.

Especially in the era of the presence of artificial intelligence ( *Artificial Intelligence*) in the world of journalism. The practice of production and distribution carried out by online media is a necessity to meet the needs of the audience. Both at the local level and with national reach. Mass media that enter the digital world are increasingly competing in the speed and quantity of news. The use of

artificial intelligence (AI) tools has been considered the main way to meet these needs.

As a supporter, the algorithm factor in the information dissemination process is also important to be considered by the mass media, especially those operating in the online realm. Algorithms help facilitate information searches by the audience. Because the algorithm refers to the content preferences that are in great demand by users (*filter bubble effect algorithms* ).

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) and technology algorithm models in local media will greatly assist in the production and distribution of news. There are no more limitations on media locality. One of them is done by Media Siber Asia Federation (Afederasi.com) and Jawa Pos Radar Tulungagung. Both media utilize the opportunities of renewable technology to support the company's performance as mass media.

However, it is very unfortunate if the use of artificial intelligence technology and in the context of algorithms is not balanced with ethics to produce news. One of them is the process of verifying information as the core of journalistic work. The impact, if not verified properly, it is possible that the information produced and disseminated is still doubtful of its truth.

It is therefore important to examine more deeply the process of information verification discipline as the core work of journalism by local media. Both with a print base that has transformed into online media, and online media itself which is based on the use of internet technology as its main platform.

Research on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to produce news, Algorithms, and juxtaposed with journalistic ethics through verification discipline has not been widely conducted. Especially if making the object of local media which is considered to experience several constraints in the management process compared to the capital city media. So this study will review many perspectives on the verification discipline of local media Afederasi.com and Radar Tulungagung with their respective characteristics in the era of information overload, one of which is with the latest technology approach.

Discipline of verification will distinguish journalism from entertainment, propaganda, fiction and art. Kovach and Rosenthal provide a way to verify the truth of a news, namely: 1) do not add or fabricate anything; 2) do not deceive or mislead readers, viewers, or listeners; 3) be as transparent and honest as possible about your methods and motivations in reporting; 4) rely primarily on your own reporting; 5) be humble (Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel, 2014) .

## METHOD

In this study , to dig deeper into the data, a case study by Robert K Yin was used. Yin himself defines a case study as appropriate if used to answer or find out how or why questions. The use of case studies is also intended to help researchers who still do not control events in the study because the phenomena that move are quite dynamic. (Robert K. Yin & translator, 2006) .

However, research using this method also has limitations. Yin said that the limitations were made by deepening its identity which could include research targets in the form of humans, events, incidents, situations, conditions and documentation. These targets can be analyzed in detail and in depth, but cannot be separated from the purpose of interpretation or analysis of data related to one variable with another. Thus, if viewed on the topic of this research, a point of view can be taken to deepen the target, namely journalists, situations, conditions and results of the coverage process. (Robert K. Yin & translator, 2006) .

Then interviews ( *depth interviews* ), observation, and documentation were chosen to explore or collect research data. In-depth interviews were conducted with several informants from print and cyber media journalists who have offices in Tulungagung. With this method, researchers can obtain detailed data information about reasons, opinions, motivations, values, experiences and so on. In addition, the non-participant observation method is used to add research data . This means that researchers make observations without becoming part of the research object. (Kriyanto, 2006) . Researchers use documentation techniques to complement interview and observation data. Research results can also be more credible and trusted if supported by research object documents. As supporting data and triangulation testing, supporting documents for primary data in the form of writings, news or other works (Sugiyono, 2014) .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Information that becomes news is very important to be processed through the verification process. The work of confirming sources, looking for competent sources, looking for other sources comprehensively, not rushing in broadcasting the news is one of the things to verify the news which can also be said as verification discipline.

Journalism was born in the United States, giving birth to a phenomenal guideline written by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel entitled *The Elements of Journalism*. Not only that, they more specifically detail how journalists should respond to information that is easily circulated in the era of information flooding in their book *BLUR: How To Know What's True In The Age of Information Overload*. The guideline has been widely adopted by various countries, one of which is Indonesia. Precisely at the beginning of independence, the Journalistic Code of Ethics (KEJ) was initiated as a guideline for journalists in carrying out their profession.

The Journalist Code of Ethics makes journalists more professional and measurable in covering news, including the implementation of verification discipline. The verification discipline itself is contained in article 3 which states that *Indonesian journalists always test information, report in a balanced manner, do not mix facts and judgmental opinions, and apply the principle of presumption of innocence*. Then how the implementation of the verification discipline of Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com

journalists can be seen from a theoretical perspective to the technical verification discipline offered by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel and the Journalistic Code of Ethics that must be obeyed by professional journalists.

Table 4.3 Summary of Comparison of Disciplinary Verification Practices of Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com Journalists

| Aspect              | Radar Tulungagung   | Afederasi.com  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Data interpretation | Addition & reduction of data in interpretation can be done for the sake of data validity. There is data that cannot be added or reduced, namely that related to the value and transparency of the coverage process. | The more data, the more valid or meaningful the news is. There is additional data if it is deemed insufficient. There is no reduction in data, but only a data matching/checking process |
| Coverage Motivation | Journalism is indeed a need of society and is a science that has been empirically tested, different from citizen journalism.  | Seeking facts and truth so that the public knows the truth by using competent sources, knowing how the government works or its regulations. Quickly inform the public                    |
| Originality of News | Do not share news with fellow journalists, because it conflicts with  | Not sharing news, but only sharing information using WA groups formed  |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | moral values and independence. share news with other media as a form of business to business cooperation to form horizontal and vertical media syndication  | by journalist organizations or other agencies. Journalists do not have the intention of being the fastest in reporting, so there is the potential for sharing news with other media. Establishing cooperation between other cyber media to share news and journalists from various regions |
| Intervention from sources or other parties in the coverage process | Press freedom in Tulungagung is still good, there is only a lack of understanding if someone makes a complaint from a resource person or related party. There is intervention from the resource person by giving an 'envelope' but the journalist will refuse and continue to write the existing facts.   | There was once a case of intervention in coverage of regional journalists, but because there were protests from journalists, the policy was changed again to ensure press freedom. There is no need to accept money as a form of intervention.   |
| Understanding of verification discipline                           | Verification discipline is contained in the journalistic code of ethics which   | Journalists must be able to show evidence of the coverage process, whether photos, audio or video,   |
|  | differentiates between factual, opinion or advertising writing. The technique at the editor level is to pay attention to editing news: data, and the source's intent. Verification is broadly related to verification of data, sources or events. Verification as a form of the main component of journalists and refers to the journalistic code of ethics | to the editor. Perform verification using photo, video or audio file metadata Verification discipline is included in the journalistic code of ethics which includes holding editorial meetings, determining issues, understanding the news, and presenting the news.                       |
| Understanding the journalistic code of ethics                      | KEJ is a pillar of journalist professionalism. Its practice is less than optimal, because it only accepts one source, does not criticize information and is rude Coupled with the use of codes of conduct from journalist organizations   | KEJ to protect the press from press disputes. if journalists comply, security will be guaranteed. By complying with KEJ, journalists can provide evidence showing the reporting process to balanced news results.  |
| Leadership policy in the verification process                      | The verification process must be carried out in a truly long, balanced  | Journalists collect evidence of coverage, must comply with KEJ, journalists are  |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p>manner, requiring a different angle from other media.</p> <p>The principle is based on public trust which is taken into account in the quality of news reporting.</p> <p>Digital transformation continues to be implemented to meet the needs of era adaptation</p> <p>Not all printed news makes it to the online section.</p> <p>Selection of different angles, writing, news</p> <p>Not giving journalists direction to focus on the digital part</p> | <p>required to go directly to the field, create balanced news.</p> |
|--|---|--|

Radar Tulungagung begins its news compilation process by conducting a series of coverage from morning to night. Then looking for sources from several sides ( *cover both sides* ) and paying attention to the search process using social media which is only as initial information ( *issues* ). Furthermore, information in the editorial room , data interpretation is carried out several times to see the validity of the data. They conduct several checks on the data obtained from interviews or statements from sources. Data addition and

reduction techniques are carried out on the grounds of ensuring that the data released to the public can be accounted for.

Thus, the principle used by Radar Tulungagung journalists is to add or reduce data that does not correspond to the facts, after checking the synchronization of data findings between one and another.

When asked about the motivation of Radar Tulungagung journalists to do a report, it is none other than because they believe that journalism is a science that has been empirically tested. Journalism is a community need. Information processed by a journalist will certainly be different from citizen journalism . Professional journalists will learn how to construct sentences, select and sort sources of information, carry out strict curation as a form of accountability to the community. Although freedom has been guaranteed by law, a journalist is still bound by a code of ethics as a form of professionalism and responsibility. If there are no rules, it will greatly affect the chaos of the dissemination of information.

One of the principles of information verification is the originality of a journalist's work. Radar Tulungagung journalists said they did not plagiarize by asking for news from other journalists. Independence is the main reason for implementing the principle of news originality. In practice, they will cover the news independently or not rely on other journalists. However, it does not rule out the possibility of sharing the results of the news with other journalists, if the news coverage has been published.



The phenomenon of sharing Radar Tulungagung news from a business perspective has also not had a significant impact. However, morally, the phenomenon of sharing news can be said to be inappropriate to practice. Therefore, journalists have spent a lot of energy, money, and time to find news. So it requires appreciation for this. If you are doing business, then the ethics of taking or sharing news need to be considered, namely by including a written note of where the news was taken from, how the process of taking it was, or not just copying and *pasting* without prior approval. Ultimately, it is detrimental to the moral side of journalist professionalism and the business side of the company.

However, responding to the current media syndication phenomenon, Radar Tulungagung under the auspices of the Jawa Pos Group is directed to collaborate with fellow Jawa Pos Group networks. In addition, the Jawa Pos Group also works together on a business-to-business basis to share news, photos or other content as a form of collaboration with the ANTARA news agency to support the development and dissemination of news.

Discipline verification according to Radar Tulungagung journalists is very important in the reporting process. Therefore, it is also contained in the journalistic code of ethics that distinguishes between journalists' writings as facts or mere opinions or even as advertisements. The practice is reflected in the editorial managerial process, especially in editors who must have the insight to see the

writings of journalists. Sometimes there is a chance of miscommunication *between* the two or other members in the editorial room.

Understanding the essence of journalistic coverage as a practice of verification discipline is seen as requiring journalists to be independent, obliged to go directly to the field, verify data, sources, and events with the facts.

Journalistic code of ethics is an important pillar for a journalist. Journalism itself stands on three pillars, namely press freedom, professionalism, and welfare. The code of ethics is included in the pillars of journalistic professionalism. Sometimes journalists are said to not fulfill their journalistic code of ethics by not prioritizing the data as facts or mere opinions, whoever the sources are interviewed, and being rude, intimidating, and using their journalistic status for their personal interests.

In addition, the code of ethics understood and practiced by Radar Tulungagung journalists is to be independent. This means that even if there is intervention, whether it is intimidation, persecution or accepting money as a bribe, so that the writing of the news tends to be in accordance with what the giver of the money expects. For journalists who do this, it is usually called *envelope journalism*. Because closeness to the source according to them, can affect the quality of the news written.

Freedom of the press in the region, especially Tulungagung, can be said to be still good. The intervention from parties who disagree with the results of the news is because they have not been well educated about the world of journalism, what are the rights and

obligations if the news is not in accordance with or does not agree with the news. However, cases like that are very minimal in areas like Tulungagung until now.

The editor-in-chief has the most influential position in editorial management. The editor-in-chief of Radar Tulungagung has a policy on the coverage process, including implementing verification discipline. First, the verification instructed by the editor-in-chief to journalists must carry out a long verification, not just covering and publishing it. The journalist leader will be very influential in the verification process. The editor-in-chief and editor will provide direction, one of which is not to accept envelopes (bribes). Journalists honestly report if they receive envelopes when covering, then how to manage the envelopes. The leader will ask whether you accept them or not.

As in the study of Harian Bhirawa, the determining factor for the media to continue to exist is in the hands of editorial policy. Internal and external factors according to the concept of the Media Influence Hierarchy of J Shoemaker and Stephen D. Reese are very influential. There are five levels of influence in the editorial policy of news reporting: individual workers, habits (routines), organizations, factors outside the media, and ideologies built within media companies (Kuncoro, 2022).

Second, we must choose the angle differently from other media. Because it is related to readers who buy newspaper circulation or cannot access it for free. Radar

Tulungagung will try to maximize its performance to gain readers' trust. Basically, mass media works with public trust that influences business sustainability. Unlike online media, print media in the regions are considered to directly generate profits compared to regional cyber media.



Gambar 4.1 Example of Afederasi.com used Asas Praduga tak Bersalah

However, Radar Tulungagung does not close the opportunities in the digital world. They continue to carry out digital transformation because they consider that the world of journalism is everywhere, the difference lies in the way it is presented. However, Radar Tulungagung still maintains its image as a media that operates in print media. Both media bases will complement each other. The difference lies in the use of titles, news angles, language, publication speed and not all printed news is included in the online realm.

Meanwhile, Afederasi.com journalists argue that in interpreting data, the more data there is, the more valid and meaningful the news is. This means that additional data is needed to support the need for information presentation. Data deepening is done by looking for other comparative data. For example, in a corruption

case, a journalist obtains information that corruption has occurred, then it can be accompanied by a complete data search regarding the budget first, then confirming with competent sources, whether it is appropriate to use the funds for funding a project. Furthermore, at the presentation stage, journalists use the term alleged perpetrator initially lowered. After going through the legal process, journalists can increase the status of the perpetrator as a suspect, defendant, or convict depending on the decision of the police or court authorities.

This means that data addition or reduction can be done according to the needs of journalists. If there is a lack of data, it can be added. However, reduction is not done, replaced with a data matching process. Because according to the previous principle, the more data means the more valid the data, journalists are also required to continue looking for additional data.

Motivation to cover can affect how journalists cover their stories. Afederasi.com journalists revealed that they are motivated to provide the most complete and accurate information to the public. Finding facts and truth of information is considered important because journalistic coverage is based on data. Thus, journalists go to the field to dig up data and competent sources.

Although, there are other motivations besides those mentioned above, accompanied by the advantages obtained when becoming a journalist. The advantages include, a journalist can find out information quickly, directly in

real time, freedom in doing coverage, and getting to know the network that comes from officials, politicians, government and so on friends.

The process of reporting on the originality of news, according to Afederasi.com journalists, never asks or shares with other journalists. Because competition with competitors continues. In addition, if you cannot be responsible for what will be covered, because evidence of sound recordings, photos, and types of writing will be very influential. However, the practice of sharing news can still be found. According to Deny, the Editor of Afederasi.com, seeing the phenomenon of cyber media chasing speed between competitors, it is very unfortunate if journalists cannot follow this rhythm. Journalists emphasize more on simply fulfilling the obligation to submit news. Because cyber media assumes that searching for *traffic* (number of visitors) can be done when a news item is uploaded before another.

In practice, verification discipline, Afederasi.com journalists are followed by journalists who can do it by verifying coverage documents using metadata. For example, in the photo metadata there will be the device used, what time, the location where the photo was taken, it will be seen when entering the editing room. Therefore, it is recommended to report it to the office. This office will determine the change of raw data into news worthy of public consumption.

According to Afederasi.com journalists, the Journalistic Code of Ethics itself must be understood and obeyed by a journalist, editor,

editor-in-chief. Because it is very helpful in handling potential press disputes. As long as you obey the journalistic code of ethics by being able to prove, evidence of the coverage process starting from taking pictures, audio or video recordings and balanced reporting, you will avoid press disputes and legal entanglements.

The profession of journalists also cannot be used for personal interests. For example, to scare officials or someone, so that the person provides compensation so that the information covered is not widely spread. This is certainly said to be a violation of the journalist code of ethics.

Verification discipline is closely related to the coverage process from designing topics to how to present them to the public. As mentioned earlier, Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel formulated a methodology to verify the truth of information that is used as the main material for news reporting. Then in Indonesia, it was adopted by forming a Journalistic Code of Ethics. Furthermore, Indonesian journalists also have a journalist organization that was founded based on different interests and visions. In this organization, the Member Code of Conduct is enforced. Then, to respond to the era of cyber media, the Press Council adopted a policy as a foundation for cyber media journalists with the Cyber Media Reporting Guidelines (PPMS).

Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com journalists can be said to have implemented verification discipline practices in reporting. However, there is a separate discussion on the

stage of how to treat information sources. *First* in validating data or checking and rechecking information sources. In accordance with the Journalistic Code of Ethics article 3 concerning checking and rechecking information. Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com still use traditional methods. According to Brandtzaeg et al. *Traditional Journalist Methods* are the work carried out by journalists in general, namely looking for text, photos, videos and direct statements from sources either through direct interviews, telephone or e-mail (Rivaldi et al., 2022). *Skeptical editing techniques* are also still applied to both media. The editors-in-chief will reconfirm the information that has been submitted to journalists if there is writing or the intent of the news content is not understood. Because this approach involves the process of weighing and deciding a story, the results, each line by line, statement by statement in the news (Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel, 2014).

Issue taking is also important to discuss in the news coverage process. Therefore, issues become the initial foothold in composing news. Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com agree that as media located in the regions, their journalists will draw national issues into the domestic realm. Although cyber media cannot be said to use only regional issues, because accessibility can reach national and even international levels as done by Afederasi.com.

The difference lies in the coverage process, cyber media is considered to have flexibility. Including in working. Cyber media journalists are very fortunate not to have to be in the office. They can send their news anywhere

and anytime just through a smartphone. Mike Ward calls it in accordance with the form of cyber media which has the characteristic of *Flexibility Delivery Platform* (Romli, 2018) . With this, there is a shift in the coverage method mentioned above which prioritizes speed and flexibility. Meanwhile, Radar Tulungagung has several times implemented information confirmation via social media by sending *Direct Messages* (DM) via Instagram social media. Then followed up by going into the field.

In addition , *the second* is balance. In the era of floods, some even say that with a tsunami, information comes through social media. Journalists can use social media to do their jobs. So it can be said that social media has changed how news media obtain, search for sources of information, and distribute it. (Brooks, 2011) . Because social media has become part of the media company itself, starting from the news coverage process ( *news gathering* ), producing ( *news production* ) to distributing news (news distribution). At the *news gathering stage* , according to Ehrlich (2010), journalists use social media to find issues and contact sources. (Rivaldi et al., 2022) as practiced by Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com.

In terms of percentage, research from Tri Utami R and Lisa Lindawati (2019) found that the number of news media that positioned social media as a secondary source (supporting source) was 77.5% and the remaining 15.5% made it the main source (as a source). Among those who entered the 15.5% figure were

journalists from the Jawa Pos Group (2 out of 12 respondents). The motive of 15.5% of journalists was none other than to pursue speed, ease of accessing information and quantity of production. However, when compared to other news sources, social media (19.7%) is still inferior to sources from interviews (39.4%) and observations (35.2%). Thus, journalists with information originating from going into the field are still considered to have the most credible and reliable information. (Rosemarwati & Lindawati, 2018) .

Seeing the concept of transparency in the verification discipline of Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel, Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com journalists have fulfilled it to seek the truth. This transparency makes them honest about their sources of information and how to obtain it. In the reporting process, Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com believe that the more sources in one news report, the more valid and reliable the news is. The inclusion of news sources will affect verification in the field. According to Mencher, what the source said is not necessarily true, although there is a statement "it becomes true if there is a reference to who said it" (Hidayat, 2017) . So it is important to see the truth of information using many sources. When viewed from the perspective of the Journalistic Code of Ethics, the value of balance contained in Article 3 has also been practiced by Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com journalists.

However, there is a tendency to use only one source. A journalist from the print media Radar Tulungagung stated that the use of one

source was done in straight news reporting . It has nothing to do with company operations (salary). Because in company management there is a division that handles advertorials, advertisements, etc. So that journalists are not tendentious about it. However, for journalists of Afederasi.com media, the company's operations greatly affect the performance of journalists in covering . The news produced also tends to be one source or can be said to be news that only generates income. Here it is important that the welfare pillar must also be fulfilled to support other pillars. On the other hand, the digital media Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com also tend to only use one source influenced by the character of the media they carry.

There is a shift in its presentation in online media. Cyber media presents its news sometimes using only one source angle because it has a *multiple pagination character* . Then in other uploads with the same topic can use other sources. And so on. The website algorithm will provide recommendations for news topics that are appropriate to the page that is currently being opened. Or using news presentation that uses a specific topic focus ( *Archiving* ). Once again, this is based on the characteristics of cyber media which is fast, immediacy in delivering ( *immediacy* ) (Romli, 2018) .

*Third*, journalists' interpretation is related to the opinion that is built, whether the opinion is judgmental or the result of facts. Interpretation will also be related to how journalists test the accuracy of a news.

Accuracy is a basic value that must be applied from journalists to the editing stage by editors ( Ishwara, 2011) . Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com media have both practiced how to test the accuracy of news. Radar Tulungagung requires its journalists to be present in the office every day. The editor controls this process by reconfirming if there is any information that is not yet clear. Likewise, the editor of Afederasi.com will contact journalists directly if there is information that still needs clarification. It is acknowledged that this accuracy process will take time, so it will be a nuisance if journalists work under pressure due to deadlines ( Ishwara, 2011 ) .

*Fourth* , the principle of presumption of innocence has also been practiced by journalists from Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com. The principle of presumption of innocence is positioned in the Journalistic Code of Ethics with the aim that the mass media does not conduct *Trial by the press*. This means that the mass media should not be a judge who judges someone in the news. In practice, it does give rise to many variants and causes debate. Some say that the identity of the perpetrator must be kept secret, or it is allowed to be revealed because the public already knows a lot, for example a *public figure* . However, in essence, according to Loebby Loqman (2010), the press has an educational function to not easily justify someone committing a crime. And press freedom is not misused to violate the human rights of others. (Loqman, 2010) .

In general, journalists from print media Radar Tulungagung and Afederasi.com in terms

of understanding accompanied by practice have understood and practiced what verification discipline is. The verification discipline contained in article 3 of the Journalistic Code of Ethics, namely checking and rechecking information, reporting with balanced sources, not adding personal opinions and judging, and applying the principle of presumption of innocence. It can indeed be seen how the practice of verification discipline in print media that has transformed digitally [radartulungagung.jawapos.com](http://radartulungagung.jawapos.com) or cyber [Afederasi.com](http://Afederasi.com) when viewed from the perspective of KEJ verification has not been fully implemented. For example, the tendency to use only one source.

Therefore, cyber journalists, the creation of Cyber Media Reporting Guidelines (PPMS) on verification states that verification can be exempted on the condition that the news contains urgent public interest, the first source is clearly identified, is considered credible and competent, the subject of the news that must be confirmed is unknown, and provides information that the news is in the verification process. This means that there is a new rule used to adapt to the digital world.

News in the digital world has special treatment compared to traditional news in conventional media. In this era, related to the flood of information, one of which is through the internet. The practice of verification discipline is a solution to deal with it so that journalists continue to prioritize professionalism. If compared with the efforts offered by David Bawden and Lyn Robinson

(2020) on how to deal with the era of flooding information, it can certainly be practiced well (Bawden & Robinson, 2020) .

Efforts that can be done according to Bawden and Robinson are *First* , *filtering* information . With verification discipline, journalists can select, sort and prioritize information that can be published. Savolainen (2007) explains that filtering becomes a disciplined and systematic method by selecting relevant information. However, the discipline that journalists must do is also to measure the truth, validity and reliability of information as previously explained. *Second* , journalists can prevent and withdraw *from information* that does not enter the news value. (Savolainen, 2007) . According to Ashadi Siregar, the tendency of events to have important elements ( *significance* ), actuality ( *timeliness* ), and magnitude of the event ( *magnitude* ) is considered to be the main priority. While the elements of proximity, prominence , and human *interest* are only considered something interesting. (Darmanto, 2007) . *Third* , as a journalist, you can pay attention to information satisfaction ( *satisfying* ), of course accompanied by filtering and withdrawal so that the information obtained is not excessive. This is related to the *post-truth era* , alternative facts and hoaxes.

In the end, journalists who have implemented verification discipline, they indirectly practice prevention efforts in the era of information overload . Journalists remain at the forefront of guarding factual and actual information to realize a progressive nation. Even

in the midst of an era that has the potential to be swept away by the strong waves of the information tsunami.

## CONCLUSION

In the midst of a flood of information, journalists are faced with changes in the way, style, and place to obtain, process and present it to the public. At that time, journalists can choose to adhere to the guidelines that have been formulated methodologically and empirically by their predecessors (KEJ) or refiners (PPMS) as a form of adaptation. Radar Tulungagung journalists who basically still hold firmly to the principles of print media in the midst of convergence, and journalists from the Asian Cyber Media Federation (Afederasi.com) still adhere to the core of journalism, namely the discipline of verification. With practices that can be said to be less than optimal in several points of discussion such as the treatment of information sources. The causal factors for both can be identified from the policies of leaders in editorial management, company operations, and the development of the era of online news models.

## RECOMMENDATION

Regional journalists or those assigned in the regions, especially Tulungagung Regency, have practiced verification discipline or still adhere to journalistic principles, one of which is in the Journalistic Code of Ethics. However, it is very important to maintain the dignity of journalism in the current technological era.

Because journalists are someone who plays a role in building civilization. So that synergy between various parties including academics can be carried out to enrich the scientific treasury of journalism in the form of theories through literature studies and discussions can strengthen it theoretically which can later be implemented in practice. So that it can make it more qualified to build regions and nations.

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