

# JOURNALISM

2009

Through detailed description and critical analysis journalists have helped to transform the world. But do they still deserve to be known as the fourth branch of government? Do they still mold public opinion? The journalistic profession is in a state of flux. Many of the young people entering the profession today still dream of becoming the witnesses and tribunes of their time, or the great investigative reporters who shape upset the established order through their words and images. Yet in France, as elsewhere, print journalism is in crisis. With the depoliticization of the French press, the leading newspapers have lost some of their former influence and prestige. After losing ground to television, print journalism (like television) is now yielding to the Web, where bloggers are challenging what they see as the monopoly of professional journalists over news and information. Meanwhile, free publications, supported by advertising, have sapped the revenues of the traditional press. The result is that today's journalism graduates may have better luck hunting for jobs in the digital arena, at professional and technical publications, or in the regional press than in the august organs of the national press. Students of journalism are likely to have had prior academic training in another discipline (such as political science, foreign languages, or even medicine) and to be very comfortable with information technology. They become journalists in professional schools or in specialized university departments.

## SUBFIELDS:

Audiovisual arts, Library science, Information and communication, Journalism, Multimedia

Also see the following subject profiles: New technologies 1 - film and audiovisual arts; New technologies 2 - interactive digital arts; Library science, Humanities and social sciences, Communication – public relations.

## ORGANIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Within the universities, formal studies of journalism do not begin until the third year. Available programs range from 2 years to 6 years:

- 2-year DUT degrees (diplôme universitaire de technologie) in journalism
- 3-year programs leading to the licence professionnelle
- professionally oriented master's programs

In 2008, a dozen institutions offered programs that were widely recognized among journalists:

### 4 private programs:

- CFJ, the Centre de Formation des journalistes (center for the training of journalists), Paris
- EJT, Ecole de Journalisme, Toulouse (the Toulouse school of journalism)
- ESJ, Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme (school of journalism), Lille
- IPJ, Institut pratique de Journalisme (professional school of journalism), Paris

### 8 public programs:

- CELSA, Paris (Paris 4)
- CUEJ, Centre universitaire d'enseignement du journalisme (university center for education in journalism), at Université Robert Schuman in Strasbourg
- EJCM, Ecole de Journalisme et communication de Marseille (Marseille school of journalism and communication) at Université Aix-Marseille 2
- ICM, Institut de communication et des médias (institute for communication and media) at Université Stendhal – Grenoble 3
- IFP, Institut français de Presse (French press institute) at Université Paris 2
- IJBA, Institut de journalisme Bordeaux Aquitaine (Bordeaux Aquitaine institute of journalism) at Université Bordeaux 3
- IUT Information-Communication (university technology institutes for information and communication) in Tours (Université François Rabelais) and Lannion (Université Rennes 1)

France's IEPs, or institutes of political studies, also offer training in journalism:

- master in journalism at Sciences Po Paris
- double degree programs offered jointly by the 8 regional IEPs and 3 schools of journalism

The institutions listed above also offer continuing education programs designed for practicing journalists and other professionals.

## MAJOR RESEARCH THEMES

Over the past two decades French research on journalism has focused on:

- the demographics of the profession (background, education, employment, etc.);
- the characteristics of the profession (history, legal status, ethical codes, unionization, etc.) ;
- professional practices (relations with sources, fellow reporters, and the public; how information is sifted and reproduced; the effects of economic constraints and competition).

For a glimpse at research on these issues, you may want to visit a multilingual site devoted to journalism research, with posts in French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese: <http://www.surlejournalisme.com>

## INTERNATIONAL STANDING

Agence France-Presse (with AP and Reuters) is one of the top three global news services. Working in German, English, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, and French, AFP has a presence in 165 countries.

Journalistic training in France is known for its strength in teaching:

- professional techniques as practiced in various media, imparted to students through internships with editorial units
- the history, rules, and legal bases of the profession
- awareness of journalism as a profession that contributes to the healthy functioning of democratic political systems.

## USEFUL WEB SITES

- AFP, Agence France-Presse  
<http://www.afp.com/francais/home/>
- association of professionals in journalism and business news  
<http://www.ujjef.com>
- commission on press credentials  
<http://www.ccjip.net>
- French federation of news services  
<http://www.ffap.fr>
- Programs in France recognized by the journalism profession (another tab details the criteria for recognition)  
[http://www.snj.fr/rubrique.php3?id\\_rubrique=18](http://www.snj.fr/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=18)
- General information on French programs in journalism  
<http://www.onisep.fr>
- A Web site for French journalists and their French-speaking colleagues elsewhere in the world  
<http://www.cyberjournalisme.net>
- French press portal  
<http://www.portail-presse.com>
- Reporters sans frontières (reporters without borders),  
<http://www.rsf.org>
- daily and regional press syndicate  
<http://www.spqr.fr>
- national union of journalists  
<http://www.snj.fr>
- List of 2-year preparatory programs in journalism  
<http://www.synergieprepa.com/fr>
- Union des journalistes de sport en France (French sports reporters' union)  
<http://www.ujsf.fr/>

## KEYWORDS FOR INTERNET SEARCHES

animation – art – audience – audiovisual – book – chronicler – communication – content – culture – daily – designer – diffusion – digital – dissemination – documentary – economics – editor – editorial – electronic media – entertainment – freelancer – history – humanities – image – industry – information – intercultural – Internet – journalism – language – literature – book – magazine – management – media – multimedia – news – news service – print press – producer – production – public – publishing – radio – regional – reporter – sociology – sound – stringer – technology – television – weekly