Journalistic Activities

Rodrigo Zamith

University of Massachusetts Amherst





Journalistic activities are the <u>routinized</u> practices that influence news production, distribution, and consumption

Journalistic Activities and Routines



While journalistic activities are influenced by the past, they change in response to new developments

Activities and History



We can categorize most activities into:

access and observation selection and filtering processing and editing distribution interpretation

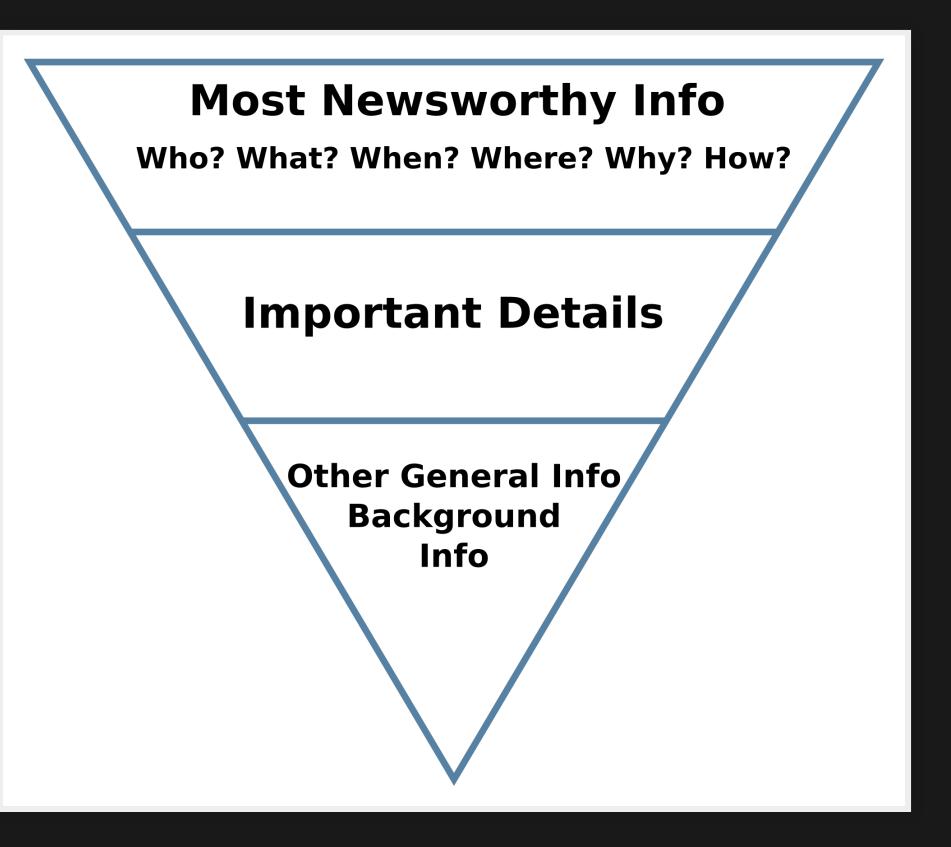
Access and Observation



Selection and Filtering

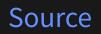


Processing and Editing

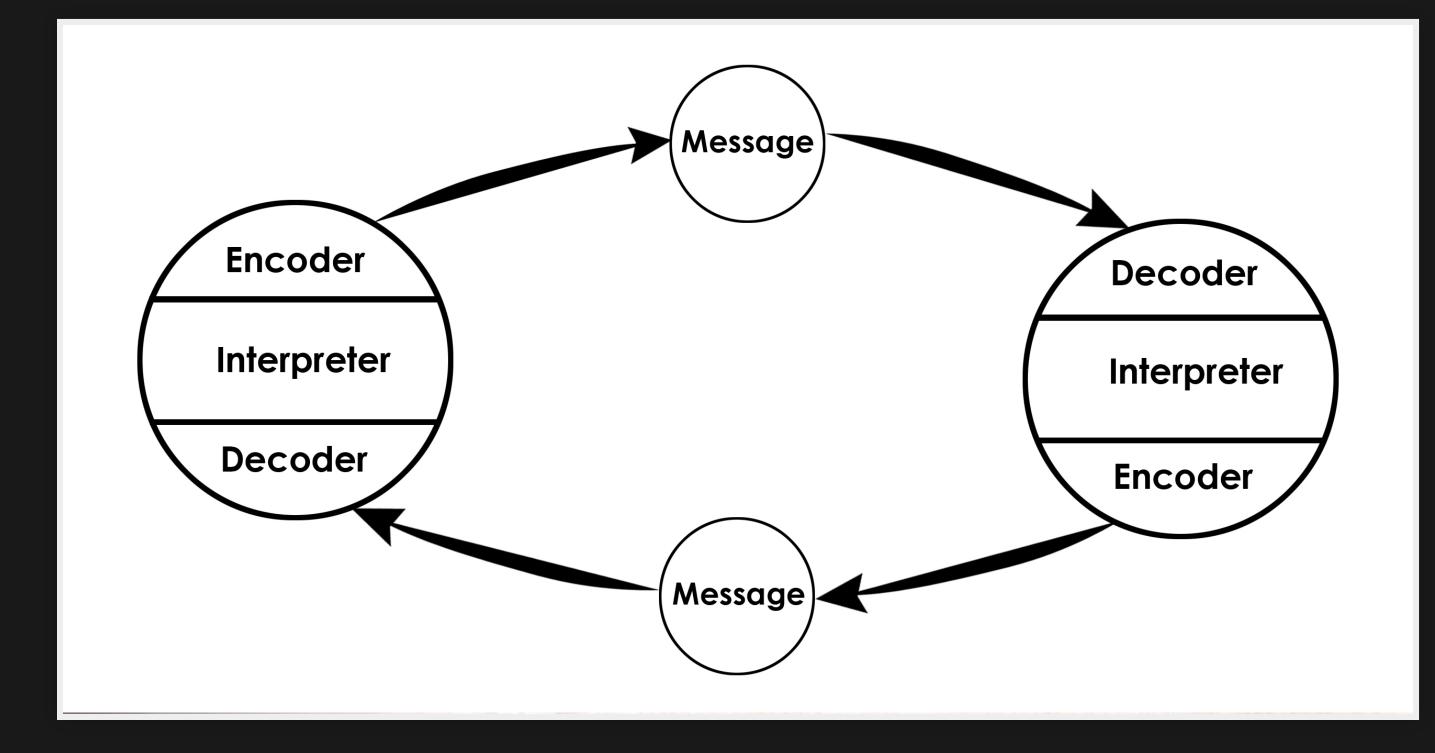


Distribution





Interpretation



Changing Nature of Activities

- Journalism no longer just a human-driven endeavor
 - Technological actants performing more and more activities independently from human social actors
 - Example: Associated Press publishes tens of thousands of stories written by algorithms each year
 - However, these are *currently* restricted to certain domains, like financial reports
- We can see journalism iterating before our eyes every day



Key Takeways

- Journalistic activities are the routinized practices that influence news production, distribution, and consumption
- Activities are governed by long-standing logics and principles, but they adapt to changing conditions
- We can place most activities within five stages: access and observation, selection and filtering, processing and editing, distribution, and interpretation
- In some cases, technological actants now operate independently from human actors