

The Credibility of Citizen Journalism and Traditional TV Journalism among Emirati Youth: Comparative Study

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Abstract

This exploratory study investigates the issue of credibility of traditional TV journalism and citizen journalism. A survey of 298 of Emirati social media users and 93 citizen journalists was conducted in December 2012. Respondents evaluated the credibility of traditional TV journalism and Citizen Journalism using a credibility scale which is comprised of 12 items . The results of the study confirmed the high credibility of CJ reporters compared to credibility of traditional TV reporters. Meanwhile, the credibility of traditional media increases at the expense of the credibility of the new media. Young Emiratis along with media practitioners and citizen journalists agreed that the credibility of traditional journalism stems from experience of highly skilled correspondents and editors as well as the depth of news coverage offered through analyses on the events. However, the credibility of CJ stems from the lack of control in the news, and speed in reporting news as well as objectivity and comprehensiveness.

Keywords: Credibility, Citizen Journalism, Traditional TV Journalism, Mutual influence

1. Introduction

The Media coverage of the recent Arab revolutions, as borne out of social networking websites, has significantly changed the Arab media standards especially after the emergence of "Citizen Journalism". The idea behind citizen journalism is that individuals who have not been trained as journalists can use the tools of modern technology and the Internet to cover or verify news stories either individually or in the form of groups. (Glaser, 2006). Citizen Journalism has proved to be an important tool for communicating information in light of the media blackout and the prohibition of some traditional media and journalists to cover the details of revolutions. Furthermore; Citizen Journalism is increasingly becoming a source of major news for traditional media.

In fact, Citizen Journalism was able to change the face of journalism. For example, many television channels such as CNN, Fox News and the Canadian CTV Canada have adopted citizen journalism's news. Soon after, YouTube hopped on board awhile ago. It should be noted that the *Washington Times* newspaper devotes an entire section for the materials they receive from citizen journalists. According to John Solomon, executive editor of *The Times* magazine, many newspapers and magazines use citizens within different countries to provide them with news stories about the various and interesting issues to readers for not being able to afford the costs of media coverage from all over the world (Hogg, 2009).

Despite the many benefits of citizen journalism, critics point to the many negative aspects of this rising trend as it is seen by some journalists as a source that lacks credibility. Several accusations were made against citizen journalism by Jack Kabeca, former reporter for the *Globe and Mail*, that it must be looking for new stories and not redrafting and editing of news published by traditional media (Hogg, 2009).

According to a survey conducted by students of the Polytechnic University in Singapore on a sample of 801 young people aged between 15 and 35 years, it was found that 80% of them believe that the traditional media is still seen as more credible than the Citizen Journalism. The young people confirmed that they could not trust the information that comes through social networks and are keen to verify if it comes from reliable sources (Fang, 2012).

Others accused Citizen Journalism as responsible for the spread of violence in the pictorial news (Lara, 2013). Some journalists say that this is a misconception and generalization which lacks equity. According to them, CJ may enjoy more credibility than the traditional media, as evidenced by the following:

- 1- The video images that were broadcast across television screens about the tsunami in Japan would never have been seen by the world if citizens at the scene had not filmed it (Abu AlFadel, 2011).
- 2- Young people believe that when information intersects on the pages of dozens or even hundreds of citizens participating in the site, it must then be gaining credibility that the traditional media may lack.
- 3- Human rights activists who are actually electronic activists became the faces we see or hear commenting on screens, and therefore bloggers and Twitter users are no longer virtual creatures who could not set the agendas.
- 4- With regard to questioning the credibility of “witnesses” who refuse to disclose their identities, Internet activists believe this as inaccurate. In a country where opponents are prone to violence like detention, torture or murder, one naturally fears for his life, and therefore it becomes his right to remain anonymous to the public. The citizen journalist verifies callers’ credibility and also ensures a range of factors including the presence of a person in the place, and the coherence of the story (Citizen Journalist Symposium, 2012).

Following the same path, one study experienced the impact of the information about a writer and hyperlinks on a citizen journalism Web site on the perceived credibility of stories and results showed that credibility is enhanced most greatly when both hyperlink and writer information are included and, to a lesser extent, when just hyperlink or writer information is present. (Johnson and Wiedenbeck, 2009)

According to Johnson, *et. al* (2007), while the studies conducted on traditional media reflect that the biased writing reduce the level of credibility of news blogs, the bloggers, on the other side, see that blogging, includes thoughtful analysis of current events and that is something missing in the traditional media. (Johnson,*et-al* ,2007 & Neuman (2011) support the view that the in-depth coverage of the events comes from blogs and social networking. The problem here is the weakness of skills of citizen journalists compared to traditional journalists.

In that respect, six bloggers were trained on news writing as part of a case study by (Coates-Nee et-al) in 2009. They wrote a collection of articles that were posted on one of the public television stations' websites. It turns out that the most important elements to strengthen their skills are success in motivating them to accept the idea of training. No doubt, the nature of the training and its content is an important element too, but trying to bridge the gap between professional journalists and citizen journalists is not an easy matter. In an attempt to study bloggers' perception of the difference between blogging and journalism using news framing theory, Sheehy & Ji, (2009) revealed that bloggers do not consider blogging a form of journalism, while many believe that the relationship between the two is very strong. On the other hand, they feel there is higher credibility to their news than the news of traditional media (Cassidy,2007)

We therefore contend that the issue of traditional media credibility and Citizen Journalism is a controversial subject that has not yet been decided. It is an area where points of view have differed between “supporters” and “opponents”, and between “citizens” and “professional journalists”. The questions raised here could be phrased as follows: Is it possible for citizen journalism to affect the status of traditional media in the future to the level of abolishing the latter? Can it change the news values and rules of practicing journalism due to its rising credibility in front of traditional television journalism? How do the young Emiratis and Emirati journalists see the credibility of both types of journalism and the future of both?

2. Research Questions

- 1- What is the extent of reliance of young Emiratis on new and traditional media as the main source of news?
- 2- How credible are the new and traditional media for young Emiratis and Emirati journalists?
- 3- What is the relationship between the credibility of citizen journalism and the nature of topics that are delivered by citizens?
- 4- What is the influence of citizen journalism and traditional television journalism over each other?
- 5- Can Citizen Journalism change the news values, and rules of practicing journalism and its ethics?

3. Research Methodology

This study is based on both the survey method and the comparative approach to compare the credibility of citizen journalism and traditional journalism among the Emirati youth who belong to three different categories:

- 1- The citizens who engage in and practice citizen journalism.
- 2- The young journalists in newspapers, radio and TV.
- 3- The Emirati youth using social networking.

A national probability sample from the 7 Emirates of the UAE was selected, and a total of 298 interviews with Emirati social media users (18-35) and 93 citizen journalists were completed in December 2012. In addition, three discussion groups (8 participants per group) for young journalists in traditional media, citizen journalists and new media young users were conducted to know their views on the phenomenon of citizen journalism and the reasons beyond its widespread.

3.1. Data Collection

The study will depend on the methods below to gather information and answer the questions of the study:

- 1- Designing a questionnaire to be distributed to youth groups who are targeted in this study to identify the credibility of traditional media and citizen journalism by all of them.
- 2- Holding three discussion groups for young journalists in traditional media, journalists of new media and citizens of new media users to know their views on the phenomenon of citizen journalism and the reasons for its wide spread against the traditional media, to interpret the results of the survey and to get a deeper analysis of the results.
- 3- Visiting various media organizations in the state to monitor the ways of dealing with citizen journalism as a source of news. It is worth mentioning that the researchers have paid visits to Dubai Media Organization and Fujairah TV.

3.2. The scale of the study

In developing the scale of this study, the authors were guided by two scales: (Gaziano and McGrath (1986) and Meyer (1988)). The scale consists of 12 components: Timeliness, Bias, Concern for public needs, Balance, Accuracy, Objectivity, Up to date, Comprehensiveness, Expertise, Censorship, and Depth to measure the credibility of both citizen journalism and traditional journalism. Likert scale, which consists of five items, has been used to measure the degree of agreement or disagreement with the statements scale. The degrees of the scale ranged from 1-5.

Another scale which comprises 20 statements was used to measure the mutual influence between citizen journalism and traditional journalism.

4. Research Findings

4.1. Characteristics of the study sample

Youth Sample

Percentage of male respondents amounted to (42.7%) versus (57.3%) for females. As for the representation of different age groups in the sample, the sample was equally distributed to three age groups: (18-25), (25-30) and (30-35) and by 33.3% for each age group.

In terms of the education variable, undergraduate students constitute (71.7%) of the total sample, followed by a bachelor's holders by (16.1%), then Master degree holders (7.2%) and finally Doctorates holders by (5%).

The representation of the various Emirates in the sample came as follows:

Abu Dhabi (17.9%), Dubai (16.1%), Ras Al Khaimah (14.3%), Fujairah (13.6%), Ajman (14.3%), Sharjah (14%), and Umm al-Quwain (9.7%).

Sample of professional Journalists and citizen journalists:

The males represented 62.5% of the participants in the focus group discussions versus (37.5%) for females. In relation to the nature of jobs of the participants in the discussions, it included editors-in-chief of newspapers and newscasts on television (12.5%). It also included TV programs presenters (20.8%), editors (29.2%), news directors and producers (12.5%), and administrators in newspapers and Television stations (25%).

The media institutions that participants in the discussions work with are as follows: Abu Dhabi Media (41.7%), Dubai Media (37.5%) and Fujairah TV (20.8%).

As for the age variable, the sample was divided as follows:

(18-25) (12.5%)

(25-30) (25%)

(30 – 35) (62.5%)

As for the level of education, (62.5%) of the participants of a bachelor's degree holders, compared to (25%) for holders of a master's degree and (12.5%) of the holders of a diploma.

It is worth noting that the participants in the focus group discussions covered the emirates of Abu Dhabi, Fujairah, Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah.

4.2 Key Findings

1- What is the extent of reliance of young Emiratis on new and traditional media as the main source of news?

The results of our study agreed with the results of previous studies (El Semary & Al Khaja 2012) that young Emirati depends on the new media more than traditional media. The details are as follows:

- A. 96.7% of the respondents use social networking compared to 87.8% watching TV.
- B. 46.2% use electronic journalism sites and (39.8%) use print newspapers.

Those results indicate that young people are exposed heavily to various media, new and traditional, and the differences between them are not statistical. This result comes in conflict with the results of other studies (Ito, *et al*, 2008) (Abdulla , *et al*, 2002) (Flanagin & Metzger, 2001) (Johnson, & Kaye, 1997) that proved that young people in these countries used heavily new media at the expense of traditional media.

Although young Emirati have been found to be using almost both traditional and new media equally, with regard to intensity of use, the results confirm that usage of new media is more intensive than traditional media. This may be due to the absence of censorship for the new media while the flow of information through traditional media is exposed to a lot of gatekeepers in addition to political and ethical constraints which hinder access of the media message to the public (Neuman, 2011). Intensive use of social networking (more than once a day) came in the first place by (56.3%), followed by online journalism sites in second place by (36.2%), then TV came in third place by (30.8%), printed newspapers by (4.7%) and radio came last by (0.7%).

As for the adoption of media by young Emiratis as the main source of news, the percentage of young people's dependence on new media as the main source of news is (76%) versus (66.3%) for traditional media. Social networking came in the forefront of new media which the youth use as a major source of news at (44.4%), followed by electronic journalism sites at (31.5%), in spite of all what is being said about the lack of credibility of social networking. As for the traditional media, TV surpassed the rest of the traditional media channels, where dependency ratio as the main source of news was (53.8%), and (8.6%) for the radio, which came in second place, followed by newspapers in third place by (3.9%).

This result is expected and logical, because the TV transmits news instantly via the Internet and mobile phones in special news services provided by television networks such as Al Jazeera service on mobile phones.

As for the means of confirming the credibility of news, the traditional media deservedly exceeded new media, particularly television by (62.7%). As for the new media, the percentage of people relying on social networks to confirm the news did not exceed (21.1%), followed by online journalism sites (11.1%). All of this indicates that young Emiratis use new media heavily, as a primary source of news, but they often turn to traditional media to confirm the news. The previous results confirm that young Emiratis depend heavily on both new and traditional media in their lives, where (72.6%) confirmed their inability to leave traditional media and (67%) cannot spare the new media.

2- How credible is the new and traditional media for young Emiratis and Emirati Journalists?

In terms of credibility, final results showed the superiority of traditional media over new media by (70%) versus (30%) of new media for the sample of young people. The results were similar for media practitioners, as the percentage of the credibility of traditional media amounted to (100%) and of the new media to (40%). The following offer details.: Despite the agreement between the youth and the media practitioners samples on TV as more credible than the rest of the media, (it ranked first for both groups), the ratio of credibility given to TV by media practitioners largely exceeded that given by the youth sample, as the figure was (80%) for media practitioners and (69.3 %) for young people.

Johnson & Kaye (2004) justify the weakness of the credibility of the new media compared to traditional ones by relating it to the fact that anyone can share any piece of information on the Internet. It is also worth mentioning that sites designed by individuals express their personal views, lacks editorial oversight, and are not subject to professional and social pressure to provide accurate and impartial information. In addition, rumors and misinformation are widespread in the Internet.

The findings of the study revealed a difference in the two samples with respect to the credibility of the media:

- *On the level of the youth sample, the social networks occupied the second place by (22.2%), followed by electronic journalism sites which marked a relative difference of (6.1%), while blogs came last by (1.8%).
- *While all media (social networking sites, online journalism and radio) mostly occupied the second place among media practitioners by (20%) for each of them, we did not find that they have any credibility in blogs.

The foregoing shows that between the traditional and new media an integration relationship, not a relationship that every party does negate the other. This was reflected through the respondents use of the two types of media (traditional and new), although ratios were different.

The results of the credibility of citizen journalism and traditional journalism according to the scale adopted by the study and as shown in table (1) clarify the following:

- A. The credibility of traditional journalism among young Emiratis originates from the experience, highly skilled correspondents and editors, confidence in the news, and the depth of news coverage offered by analysis, discussion and comment on the events.
- B. The credibility of citizen journalism stems from the speed of the news reporting and its continuous updating as well as the lack of control on the coverage of news and objectivity in the presentation of events.

As for credibility of Citizen Journalism and Traditional TV Journalism among Media practitioners and Citizen Journalists, the results show the following (Table 2):

- A. The agreement among Emirati youth, the media practitioners and citizen journalists on the fact that the credibility of traditional journalism originated from the experience, highly skilled correspondents and editors, confidence in the news, and the depth of news coverage offered by analysis, discussion and comment on the events.
- B. The credibility of citizen journalism stems from the speed of the news reporting and its continuous updating, and the difference between the young Emiratis and media practitioners and citizen journalists is not statistical.

3- What is the relationship between the credibility of citizen journalism and the nature of topics that are delivered by citizens?

It was clear from the results of the study that the percentage of citizens practicing journalism is small, especially if we compare them with the results of other studies conducted on western youth (Fang, 2012), as the percentage of the Emirati youth who are covering events by audio and video via mobile phones did not exceed (14.3%).

The small proportion of young people who engage in citizen journalism does not care about publishing what they cover through media (67.5%). Even those who are interested in publishing their reports through the media, they are publishing it through new media such as YouTube, blogs and others.

As for the topics/issues that are conveyed by the citizens, the two parties (Emirati youth and Emirati media practitioners) agreed that social issues came in the first place, but with a relatively large difference between them amounted to (67%). The percentage of youth coverage of these topics was (13 %), (against 80% for the media practitioners).

The two samples of the study have differed in the arrangement of the covered topics as follows:

- Young people covered their activities, and their personal achievements came in the second place with (9.3%), while journalists were keen to cover cultural issues by (50%).
- Cultural issues ranked third place by a meager (9.1%) among young people. On the other hand, media practitioners rated all political, scientific topics, personal achievements and activities third with (20%) for each .

The quick reading of the results reveals that the strong relationship is not between credibility and topics, but between credibility and the type of media. Where the traditional media enjoy less freedom, their credibility rises, while new media enjoy more freedom and less credibility.

4- What is the mutual influence of both citizen journalism and traditional television journalism over the other?

It was observed through conducting this study that many young people do not know anything about the concept of citizen journalism, which necessitated to explain this concept for many of the respondents, and perhaps this is the reason for the high proportion of those who did not answer a definite answer about citizen journalism and its impact on traditional journalism and vice versa. What confirms this interpretation is the high number of media practitioners and citizen journalists answering the same questions.

This study shows that citizen journalism and traditional journalism has affected each other, although which has the largest impact on the other is not known, nor whether their relationship is competitive or complementary. These are what the views of young Emiratis, media practitioners and citizen journalists differed around:

1. Young Emiratis disagreed with media practitioners that citizen journalism pulled the rug from under the traditional press's feet (50.2% support that view compared to only 25% of journalists). They, however, agreed that traditional journalism began relying on citizen journalism as a source of news (52% of youth and 75% of the media practitioners), especially in dangerous locations. (55.2% of the young people and 62.5% of the media practitioners).
2. Young Emiratis, media practitioners and citizen journalists agreed that the relationship between citizen journalism and traditional journalism is a complementary rather than competitive: more than 60% of all young Emiratis and media practitioners see it as complementary, while less than half consider it to be competitive. Media practitioners confirmed during focus discussions that the relationship is complementary where citizen journalism has become a source of news for the traditional media, especially for the events and places that are difficult for traditional media to access. Thus, citizen journalism is considered as a complement to a missing part in traditional media. On the other hand, citizen journalism reporters see that the traditional media could achieve more reach for their information message as it gets to a wide audience of those who do not use the new media.
3. Citizen journalism has its own personality and is not affected by traditional journalism as confirmed by the youth, media practitioners and citizen journalists :
 - A. Citizen journalism doesn't care about news values when choosing news (51.6% of the young people and 62.5% of the media).
 - B. Citizen journalism doesn't take into account media ethics when covering news (80.6% of youth and 50% of the media practitioners). Citizen journalism gave the television image a value greater than the accompanying audio (60.6% of youth and 50% of the media), and this was confirmed by journalists, who mentioned videos where often unwanted sounds accompany the photographic coverage of citizen journalism. Also, citizen journalists confirmed through focus discussions that those sounds are difficult for them to get rid of, especially since many of them are not specialists in television montage. Some citizen journalists believe that the idea of CJ based on publishing the truth as it is, without any montage, and anything else, is distorting the truth..
 - D. CJ has a different way of providing news. The results indicate that 56.3% of the young people and 100% of the media practitioners believe that citizen journalists do not care much about the presentation; not caring about the inverted pyramid nor about providing a personal introduction or conclusion for the news, which leaves the audience to draw conclusions by themselves after watching news events.

At the same time, CJ affected traditional journalism positively and negatively as detailed below:

- A. It helped to raise the ceiling of freedom available to the traditional press (71.7% of the young people and 87.5% of the media practitioners) where citizen journalists and media practitioners confirm that absolute freedom in reporting and coverage of events is the most important characteristic of CJ, and this is what raised the ceiling of freedom of the traditional media.
- B. CJ has made the press more interested in news analysis and opinion programs. They have grown to attach importance on everybody else's opinions more than the news itself (72.8% of youth and 75% of the media). This was an expected result due to the difficulty that faced traditional media to surpass Citizen Journalism in terms of speed in covering news and news control.

- C. CJ was able to change the rules of journalism in news reporting and editing (60.6% of youth and 75% of the media practitioners)

In turn, traditional journalism influenced CJ from several aspects:

- A. CJ has reporters now like the traditional press (56.3% of the young people and 87.5% of the media practitioners). A lot of citizen journalists have confirmed that they are keen to develop their journalistic skills by attending workshops and training courses.
- B. CJ takes into account journalism rules when editing the news, which was approved by 62.5% of the media practitioners.

All this shows that the influence is mutual between CJ and traditional press, although the impact of CJ on traditional journalism has been much more, especially in terms of freedoms ceiling ; CJ has managed to impose its presence on the media scene as a major source of news for new media and traditional journalism. Perhaps due to the high demand from young people on the new media, traditional journalism started to promote its news through new media (87.5% of media practitioners and 48.9% of young people).

5. Can CJ change the news values and rules of practicing journalism and its ethics?

Respondents said that each of the CJ and traditional journalism have their pros and cons.

First: Citizen Journalism:

1- Advantages

- A. Speed in reporting news stories (88.9% of the young people and 100% of the media practitioners).
- B. Higher credibility of CJ reporters than the traditional TV journalism (84.2% of the young people and only 37.5% of the media practitioners).
- C. More honesty in the news reporting than traditional media (48.7% of youth and 50% of the media practitioners).
- D. Covering of events which are not permitted to be covered by the traditional media coverage (100% of media practitioners and 86% of young people).
- E. Covering events of sites linking traditional media reporters (96.4% of the young people and 100% of the media practitioners)

2- Disadvantages

- A. News of CJ is superficial and lacks depth. This was supported by 75.6% of the young people and only 37.5% of the media practitioners.
- B. News of CJ needs to be verified (62.5% of media practitioners and 51.9% of young people).
- C. CJ may seek to spread rumors (49.8% of the young people and 62.5% of the media practitioners).
- D. CJ may lose honesty because it serves special interests (35.8% of youth and 75% of the media practitioners).
- E. CJ does not take the public taste into account. It may contain scenes of violence or X-rated scenes that offend public decency (62.4% of youth and 75% of the media practitioners).

Second: traditional journalism

1- Advantages

- A. Traditional media meets needs of public opinion (62.5% of media practitioners and 39.4% of young people).
- B. Characterized by depth of news coverage (78.1% of the young people and 62.5% of the media practitioners).
- C. Hold a more balanced coverage than CJ (37.5% of the media practitioners and 33.7% of young people).
- D. The ability to verify news stories by CJ before broadcasting (87.5% of media practitioners and 71.7% of young people). The media practitioners confirm that the traditional media verify the stories from more than one source before broadcasting, especially if the news came through unreliable sources such as social media.
- E. More considerate to news values (100% of the media practitioners and 83.5% of young people)

2- Disadvantages

- A. More affected and biased by political systems and governments (87.5% of the media practitioners 86% of young people). A good number of journalists confirmed through panel discussions that the main disadvantage of the traditional media is its being influenced by political systems and governments, which greatly affects the impartiality and balance of news service that they provide.

B. Ignoring the political opponents' views (50% of the media practitioners and 83.5% of young people). A cross section of citizen journalists confirm that subordination of traditional media to governments, especially in the Arab countries, makes them lose objectivity because they only voice the government's point of view, thus reducing themselves to propaganda mouthpieces.

We conclude that in the eyes of the public and media practitioners, CJ has changed the recognized news values and has also changed the rules of journalism and news coverage, including the customary rules of editing the news stories according to the inverted pyramid model of introduction, body and conclusion.

As for the ethics of media work, the Emirati Youth and practitioners emphasizes that CJ does not care about the simplest of those ethics

All this confirms that CJ imposed its own rules only through the new media , but when it comes through the traditional media, it must be filtered/edited to meet the latter's rules.

5. Conclusion

The results of this study came to confirm the high credibility of CJ and the low credibility of the new media as follows:

1- The results of the study confirm the high credibility of CJ reporters compared to the credibility of traditional press reporters. On the other hand, the credibility of traditional media increases at the expense of the credibility of the new media. This clarifies that the public believe in content , but do not trust the medium whose content can be easily manipulated , as in the case of new media. As the use of the Internet and Web technology increases day by day, this engenders the increase in the credibility of CJ. The allocation of some newspapers (such as the Washington Post) a full page to articles by citizen journalists emphasizes the rising status of CJ to the public.

2- Results of the study proved that the relationship of CJ and the traditional press has two features:

- A. An integrative feature: CJ is considered a major source of traditional media sources, while traditional media heavily focuses on news analysis and different opinions programs that complete the news service provided by CJ.
- B. A competitive feature: traditional media seeks to compete with CJ by raising the roof of available freedoms in news coverage of the events and analyze them. In order not to be outdone, CJ seeks to prove itself by offering news service that does not mimic the recognized rules in the traditional media in terms of news editing and commitment to news values such as mentioning news sources or following the inverted pyramid model. The correspondents of CJ confirmed in panel discussions and in several other studies that what they do is not a form of journalism.

3- Some citizen journalists confirm that CJ is an autonomous media form that has rules and characteristics which are not linked in any way to the work of the traditional press. They assert that the main principle of CJ is to present the truth without any counterfeiting, so they refuse to do montage news videos so as not to interfere with their ultimate goal in providing the whole truth as it may be.

4- Young Emiratis agreed with media practitioners and citizen journalists that the credibility of traditional journalism stems from the established experience of highly skilled correspondents and editors as well as from the depth of news coverage offered through analysis, discussion and comment on the events. However, the credibility of CJ stems from the lack of control in the news, and speed in reporting news as well as objectivity and comprehensiveness, which shows great awareness among the youth that the role of the press in the development of news service is to meet the needs of the public. This emphasizes the future role to be played by CJ that perhaps could surpass the traditional press. We are definitely on the edge of a new era, where journalists lose their ability to manage the flow of information or determine what the public should know. The super communication technology has provided platforms for CJ on the Internet making it an important component to reckon with in the world of journalism.

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Appendix:**Table 1: The credibility of Citizen Journalism and Traditional TV Journalism among young Emiratis**

Elements of scale	Citizen Journalism	Traditional TV Journalism
Concern for Public Interest	92	110
Timeliness	248	8
Balance	94	118
Objectivity	102	39
Accuracy	56	132
Trustworthiness	136	233
Comprehensiveness	81	86
Depth	36	218
Expertise	96	233
Censorship	174	103
Up to date	228	39
Bias	240	10

Table 2: The credibility of Citizen Journalism and Traditional TV Journalism among Media practitioners and Citizen Journalists

Elements of scale	Citizen Journalism	Traditional Journalism
Concern for Public Interest	--	15
Timelines	24	---
Balance	12	6
Objectivity	12	9
Accuracy	6	12
Trustworthiness	3	18
Comprehensiveness	12	12
Depth	9	15
Expertise	3	21
Censorship	24	---
Up to date	15	9
Bias	3	21