

The Past, Present and Future of Visual Journalism in Television News Reporting in Nigeria

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Abstract

Visual journalism encompasses the broadcast and print media, where sounds (words), images (pictures) are deployed to convey information in resolving visual noise. Visual noise is the physically seen or interpreted tangibles, meant to distort meaning in a visual message. However, the visual relevance of sounds and images in TV news report is a departure from those of the print media which are static and fixed. With technological advancement, information via these sounds and images in TV news reporting is conveyed with immediacy and accuracy. Findings show that in developed countries, raw visual journalism is being applied in TV news more than what obtains in Nigeria's news reporting. This is an aftermath of political, economic, technological and even cultural challenges. Based on the findings, it is recommended that more individuals should be encouraged to invest in the TV broadcast industry to create the needed healthy competition between government own-media outfits and that of private sector. The expectation is that this kind of competition will help break monopoly and brings about checks and balances.

Keywords: Visual journalism, Conflict reporting, TV news, Competition, Private sector, Broadcast media, Print media.