

## **Utilisation of Social Media for News Gathering and Dissemination by Journalists in Edo State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

The study sought to ascertain the place of social media in modern day reporting. Questionnaire and interview schedule were used to generate data from respondents drawn from different media houses across Edo state in South-South Nigeria. The results show that majority of journalists now accept the use of social media as an integral tool for news gathering and dissemination, with the acceptance extending from individual journalists to institutional levels. Furthermore, social media exert immense influence on several aspects of journalism like aiding wider coverage and increasing the audience base. The study shows that social media do invade privacy and violate copyright laws primarily due to dearth of legislation and regulatory frameworks. It was also observed that social media tools do struggle with credibility issues due to their anonymous nature whereby some sources use pseudo names. Based on the findings of this study, it is expected media outfits would maximise the use of social media for news gathering and dissemination. It is also hoped the outcome of this study will stir up the discourse on the need to develop platforms on social media where credibility of content can be verified.

**Keywords:** Social Media Networks, Assessment, Journalists, Newsgathering, Nigeria