

Appendix B: Research and Resources

The Decline of Local News

Many local news organizations have vanished and those that remain face plummeting advertising revenues and changes in ownership. Regulatory changes also have exacerbated the trend toward national ownership and a move away from local news reporting. The following resources discuss the decline of local news and various policy proposals to address this decline.

Aaron, C., & Turner, S. D. (2020, May). [What a Journalism-Recovery Package Should Look Like During the COVID-19 Crisis](#). Free Press Action. Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Abernathy, P. M. (2014). *Saving community journalism: The path to profitability*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press.

Abernathy, P. M. (2016). [The rise of a new media baron and the emerging threat of news deserts](#). UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

Abernathy, P. M. (2017). [Thwarting the Emergence of News Deserts](#). UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

Abernathy, P. M. (2018). [The Expanding News Desert](#). UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

Abernathy, P. M. (2020). [News deserts and ghost newspapers: Will local news survive?](#) UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

Brietzke, P.H. (1997). [How and Why the Marketplace of Ideas Fails](#). *Valparaiso University Law Review*, 31(3), 951–969.

Darr, J. P., Hitt, M. P., & Dunaway, J. L. (2018). [Newspaper closures polarize voting behavior](#). *Journal of Communication*, 68(6), 1007–1028.

Downie, L., Jr., & Schudson, M. (2009, November/December). [The Reconstruction of American Journalism](#). *Columbia Journalism Review*. Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Filla, J., and Johnson, M. (2010). [Local news outlets and political participation](#). *Urban Affairs Review* 45, 679–92.

- Gavil, A.I. (2020), [Can Antitrust Protect the Fourth Estate from the Fourth Industrial Revolution?](#) *First Amendment Law Review*, 18(2), 25-59.
- Grieco, E. (2020, May 31). [U.S. newspapers have shed half of their newsroom employees since 2008](#). Pew Research Center. Retrieved October 07, 2020.
- Hendrickson, C. (2020). [Critical in a public health crisis, COVID-19 has hit local newsrooms hard](#). Brookings Institute.
- Jennings, J., and Rubado, M. (2019). [Newspaper decline and the effect on local government coverage](#). Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life.
- Mahone, J., and Napoli, P.M. (July 13, 2020). [Hundreds of hyperpartisan sites are masquerading as local news. This map shows if there's one near you](#). Neiman Lab.
- Martin, G. J., and McCrain, J. (2019). [Local news and national politics](#). *American Political Science Review*, 113(2), 372–384.
- Murschetz, P.C. (2020). [State Aid for Independent News Journalism in the Public Interest? A Critical Debate of Government Funding Models and Principles, the Market Failure Paradigm, and Policy Efficacy](#). *Digital Journalism*, 8(6), 720–739.
- Napoli, P. M. (2018). [Assessing local journalism: News deserts, journalism divides, and the determinants of the robustness of local news](#). Dewitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy.
- Pickard, V. (2020). [Journalism's Market Failure is a Crisis for Democracy](#). Harvard Business Review.
- Waldman, S. (2020, March). [Curing local news for good](#). Columbia Journalism Review. Retrieved October 07, 2020.
- Wenger, D. and Papper, B. (2018) [Local TV news and the new media landscape: The future of local TV news](#). Knight Foundation.

Platform Economics

Knowledge of the economics of platforms is critical to understanding how they operate. Facebook, Google, and other online platforms operate what economists call a “multi-sided platform” by providing services to users (generally without charge) and advertisers (for a fee). While platforms can provide benefits to both ends of this two-sided market,

they also use their structure to create asymmetries that can be difficult for regulators to identify and control. Today's dominant platforms are also characterized by strong network effects, which increase as their number of users increases. The following resources discuss the business model and economics of platforms.

Carriere-Swallow, Y., & Haksar, V. (2019). [The Economics and Implications of Data](#). *International Monetary Fund Departmental Paper No. 19/16*, 18(12). doi:10.5089/9781513511436.087

Committee for the Study of Digital Platforms. (2019). [Market structure and antitrust subcommittee](#). George J. Stigler Center for the Study of the Economy and the State.

Enberg, J. (2019). [Global Digital Ad Spending 2019](#). eMarketer. Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Evans, D. S. (2016). [Multisided Platforms, Dynamic Competition, and the Assessment of Market Power for Internet-Based Firms](#). *University of Chicago Coase-Sandor Institute for Law & Economics Research Paper No. 753*. doi:10.2139/ssrn.2746095

Furman, J. et al. (2019, March). [Unlocking digital competition: Report of the Digital Competition Expert Panel](#). Open Government License. Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Graef, I. (2015). [Market Definition and Market Power in Data: The Case of Online Platforms](#). *Law and Economics Review*, 38(4), 473–506.

Katz, M. L. (2019). [Platform economics and antitrust enforcement: A little knowledge is a dangerous thing](#). *Journal of Economics & Management Strategy*, 28(1), 138–152. doi:10.1111/jems.12304

Kenney, M., & Zysman, J. (2016). [The Rise of the Platform Economy](#). *Issues in Science & Technology*, 32(3), 61–69.

Picard, R.G. (2020), [Limits of the First Amendment and Antitrust Law in Platform Governance and Media Reform](#), *First Amendment Law Review*, 18(2), 94-122.

Pickard, V. (2014). [The Great Evasion: Confronting Market Failure in American Media Policy](#). *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 31(2), 153–159.

PricewaterhouseCoopers. (2020). [Global Top 100 companies - June 2020 update](#). PricewaterhouseCoopers. Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Shy, O. (2011). [A Short Survey of Network Economics](#). *Review of Industrial Organization*, 38, 119-149. doi:10.2139/ssrn.1600783

Platforms and the Moderated Public Sphere

Platforms play an increasingly important role in providing a space for public discourse and democratic participation. Due in part to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, 47 USC § 230 (2018), online platforms have wide latitude to decide what content to allow on their services. The following resources examine the role that platforms play in moderating the public sphere.

Ardia, D. S. (2010). Free Speech Savior or Shield for Scoundrels: An Empirical Study of Intermediary Immunity Under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. *Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review*, 43(2), 373–506.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. (2019, June). [Digital platforms inquiry](#).

Auxier, B., Rainie, L., Anderson, M., Perrin, A., Kumar, M., & Turner, E. (2020, August 17). [Americans and Privacy: Concerned, Confused and Feeling Lack of Control Over Their Personal Information](#). Pew Research Center. Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Barrett, B., & Kreiss, D. (2019). [Platform transience: Changes in Facebook's policies, procedures, and affordances in global electoral politics](#). *Internet Policy Review*, 8(4). doi:10.14763/2019.4.1446

Denardis, L. (2020). *The Internet in Everything: Freedom and Security in a World with No Off Switch*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Gallup (2020, October 02). [Media Use and Evaluation](#). Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Gillespie, T. (2018). *Custodians of the internet: Platforms, content moderation, and the hidden decisions that shape social media*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Klonick, K. (2017). [The New Governors: The People, Rules and Processes Governing Online Speech](#). *Harvard Law Review* 131, 1598–1670.

Mullin, J., Harmon, E., & Mackey, A. [Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act](#). Electronic Frontier Foundation. Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Pasquale, F. A. (2017). [The Automated Public Sphere](#). *University of Maryland Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2017-31*.

Powers, E. (2017). [My News Feed is Filtered?](#) *Digital Journalism*, 5(10), 1315–1335. doi:10.1080/21670811.2017.1286943.

Roberts, S. T. (2019). *Behind the screen: Content moderation in the shadows of social media*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Taylor, E. & Hoffmann, S. (2019). [Industry responses to computational propaganda and social media manipulation](#). Computational Propaganda Research Project.

Tufekci, Z. (2014). [Engineering the Public: Big Data, Surveillance and Computational Politics](#). *First Monday* 19(7).

Weber, M., Andringa, P., & Napoli, P. M. (2019, September). [Local News on Facebook](#). Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Retrieved October 07, 2020.

Misinformation and Disinformation

One of the core challenges that platforms are dealing with is the presence of misinformation and disinformation on their sites. Misinformation (false or misleading information spread unknowingly or without regard to its veracity) and disinformation (false information spread intentionally to damage other people or organizations) have spread with assistance from foreign actors, platform users, and even the platforms themselves. The following resources examine the problems associated with the spread of misinformation and disinformation, what contributes to the spread, and how platforms can respond to this growing issue.

Bradshaw, S., Howard, P. N., Kollanyi, B. & Lisa-Maria Neudert, L. (Oct. 26, 2019). [Sourcing and Automation of Political News and Information over Social Media in the United States](#), *Political Communication* 37(2), 173–193.

Del Vicario, M., Bessi, A., Zollo, F., Petroni, F., Scala, A., Caldarelli, G., Stanley, H. E., & Quattrociocchi, W. (2016). [The spreading of misinformation online](#). *PNAS Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 113(3), 554–559.

DiResta, R. et al. (2017). [The Tactics and Tropes of the Internet Research Agency](#), New Knowledge.

- Garrett, R. K., Weeks, B. E., & Neo, R. L. (2016). [Driving a Wedge Between Evidence and Beliefs: How Online Ideological News Exposure Promotes Political Misperceptions](#). *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* 21(5), 331–348.
- Howard, P.N., Ganesh, B., Liotsiou, D., Kelly, J., & François, C. (2018). [The IRA, social media and political polarization in the United States, 2012-2018](#). Computational Propaganda Research Project.
- Karpf, D. (2020). [On Digital Disinformation and Democratic Myths](#). Social Science Research Council Media Well.
- Marwick, Alice E. (2018). [Why Do People Share Fake News? A Sociotechnical Model of Media Effects](#). *Georgetown Law Technology Review* 2(2) 474–512.
- Marwick, A. & Lewis, B. (2017) [Media Manipulation and Disinformation Online](#), Data & Society Research Institute.
- Napoli, P. M. (2018). [What if more speech is no longer the solution? First amendment theory meets fake news and the filter bubble](#). *Federal Communications Law Journal*, 70(1), 55–104
- Schmidt, A. L., Zollo, F., Del Vicario, M., Bessi, A., Scala, A., Caldarelli, G., Stanley, H. E., & Quattrociocchi, W. (2017). [Anatomy of news consumption on Facebook](#). *PNAS Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 114(12), 3035–3039.
- Shin, J., Jian, L., Driscoll, K., & Bar, F. (2018). [The diffusion of misinformation on social media: Temporal pattern, message, and source](#). *Computers in Human Behavior*, 83, 278–287.
- Silverman, C. (2019, May 14). [An Iranian Disinformation Operation Impersonated Dozens Of Media Outlets To Spread Fake Articles](#). BuzzFeed. Retrieved October 07, 2020.
- Southwell, B. G., Niederdeppe, J., Cappella, J. N., Gaysynsky, A., Kelley, D. E., Oh, A., Peterson, E. B., & Chou, W.-Y. S. (2019). [Misinformation as a misunderstood challenge to public health](#). *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 57(2), 282–285.
- Southwell, B. G., Thorson, E. A., & Sheble, L. (2017). [The persistence and peril of misinformation](#). *American Scientist*, 105(6), 372-375.
- Taylor, E. & Hoffman, S. (2019). [Industry Responses To Computational Propaganda and Social Media Manipulation](#). Computational Propaganda Research Project.

Vosoughi, S., Roy, D., & Aral, S. (2018). [The spread of true and false news online](#). *Science*, 359(6380), 1146–1151.

Platform Policies

The following resources provide links to various online platforms' policies and content moderation practices.

- Facebook's [Community Standards](#) and [Oversight Board Charter](#).
- Google's [Community Guideline's Enforcement Report](#)
- YouTube's [Community Guidelines](#)
- Twitter's [Rules and Policies](#)
- Instagram's [Platform Policy](#)