Connections and collaborations:
Global journalism investigations in the digital age

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Resilience in investigative journalism
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Addressing the conference question

Is contemporary investigative journalism meant to matter and reinforce core values of democracy, accountability and equality?
Investigative journalism

accountability
democracy
equality
‘The ability or inability of societies to master technology largely shapes their destiny’ so that ‘technology (or lack of it) embodies the capacity of societies to transform’ (Castells 1996, 7).
... power structures have shifted so radically that the most crucial form of power in the present day is 'network-making' power - the ability to form networks to program and re-program the networks so they favour the interests of those who have formed the network (Castells 2011, 773).
Organisational power to conceal

Individual power to network
Waddington offences:

- London 1950s
- Australia 1960s
- Manchester 1980s
- York 1990s
A 'Bush Brother' in Australia who became a Canon of Carlisle Cathedral and then Dean of Manchester, the Very Reverend Robert Murray Waddington was 80 when he died.

A high church Anglo-Catholic of the old school, he was a quiet and deeply spiritual man who nevertheless made his mark in Carlisle where he was a canon residentiary at the cathedral and the bishop’s advisor for education.

He served in this capacity for five years and was then appointed a honorary canon of the cathedral, a position he held until 1984 when he became Dean of Manchester.

For 33 years he was a member and then Superior of the celibate Order of the Good Shepherd, he served as general secretary of the
I was the boyfriend of a monster... So what does that make me?

A former choirboy has never got over being abused by a cathedral dean 30 years ago, writes Sean O'Neill.

Robert Wadlow was 11 and a choirboy at Manchester Cathedral when he met Robert Wadlow. Thirty years on, he has been forced to confront his abuses.

A priest who abused children was jailed for 9 months for being a teacher and is now working at a girls' school.

Accused cleric built reputation at small school in Australia

The diocese of Bath, in the capital of Bath, is the smallest diocese in England. It was announced that the bishop of Bath had been arrested on suspicion of indecent assault.

The Archbishops of York and Canterbury have signed an open letter to all. They state that they will co-operate with any investigation and will provide any information that is necessary.

The Archbishops said that it was a sad and difficult period for the Church. They added that the Church must always be ready to listen to all allegations and to take any actions necessary to protect children.
accountability

Investigative journalism

democracy

equality
3. Investigative journalism in a socially networked world

ABSTRACT
This article explores how investigative journalists can join the network society by moving online, collaborating with other reporters and media outlets across regions and across national borders, yet publishing in newspapers which arguably remain the central stage of the public sphere (Carson, 2013). A better understanding of the potential of social media and web-based communications for undertaking journalistic investigations can lead to the adoption of a global perspective, enriching local, regional and national stories (Berglez, 2013). The research and collaboration for a transnational story published simultaneously in The Australian and The Times in London in 2013 may provide insights into the potential for the use of social media platforms and web-based communications for finding stories, collaborating and following stories into the social media to find leads to follow-up stories. This article questions whether the synergies between mainstream media and social media platforms may yield potentially high impact stories for major masthead newspapers and thus contribute to their sustainability. Connectivity with news sources has always been an important resource for journalists. Online networks may have the potential to expand the range of voices that can be heard and the issues that can be covered.

Keywords: collaboration, internet, investigative journalism, network theory, news sources, online networks, social media, web-based communication

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JOURNALISM has become a node in the network society—a society in which almost everyone in the developed world has the power to publish words, images and video globally (Castells, 2010; van Dijk, 2012). Journalists and media companies have been slow to adopt internet-based journalism technologies that they perceived to be either unnecessary, because journalists already had wide networks of reliable contacts; or a threat,
PhD research

Group 1
2013 Walkley Awards finalists
• Use of social media
• Web-based communications
• Reporter collaboration
• News outlet collaboration

Group 2
2013 Tax Haven investigation by ICIJ
• Use of social media
• Web-based communications
• Reporter collaboration
• News outlet collaboration

Group 3
Waddington investigation
• Use of social media
• Web-based communications
• Reporter collaboration
• News outlet collaboration
Social media
Facebook

• Most reporters were self-taught.
• Time engaged – ‘not on Facebook yet’ to eight years.
• Wide variation in workplace acceptance or rejection of social media use.
Facebook

“I got my job because I could use Facebook to find case studies.”

“The first thing I do each morning is share my story published that morning, on Google+.”

- Sarah Whyte – Immigration and High Court reporter – Parliamentary Press Gallery, Canberra for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.
Twitter

“I asked someone the other day ‘What’s your Twitter handle?’ and he said ‘What’s a handle?’ ”

- Sarah Whyte – Immigration and High Court reporter, Parliamentary Press Gallery, Canberra for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.

“I’m not a Twitter junkie” – “I have 1800 followers”

- James Campbell, State Political Editor, Herald Sun
In Thailand . . . “On the final day when the army moved in and killed everyone . . . it was quite dangerous to move around the city because you didn’t quite know where the army were – where they had moved to, and in what direction. People were updating via Twitter saying ‘there are soldiers on this street. They’re marching this way. The bullets are coming, and they’re firing this way. There are people that have been hit here. And so Twitter was being used as a kind of emergency services broadcast network because mobile phones were jammed, there was no radio working, the TVs had all been shut down.” Ben Doherty – Foreign correspondent, Bangkok and Delhi, for the SMH and The Age
Twitter

“I use Twitter to find stories and case studies.”
– Mandy Squires, Geelong Advertiser.

“Anything that is retweeted a lot from a live feed is a good indication of a story angle that will do well when the story goes online.”
- Sarah Whyte – Immigration and High Court reporter – Parliamentary Press Gallery, Canberra for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.
“If I was shooting video and editing video for the Fairfax website I was able to upload YouTube files as private files and then send the link back to Australia and they were able to access it on Youtube.”

Ben Doherty – Foreign correspondent, Bangkok and Delhi, for the SMH and The Age
Web-based communication

Email

Skype
“If I filed late or I was getting on a plane to go somewhere I’d email (the editor) to let them know because the time zones were so different. [Email] became an organisational tool and it was how I filed.”

Ben Doherty – Foreign correspondent, Bangkok and Delhi, for the SMH and The Age
Skype

“Skype is safer to use for phone calls because it’s harder for people to intercept.”

- James Campbell, State Political Editor, Herald Sun

“I can barely remember a time when I didn’t have Skype.”

- Ben Doherty – Foreign correspondent, Bangkok and Delhi, for the SMH and The Age
“I could not have verified the story without GPS to find the location of the environmental damage.”

- Donna Page – Investigative Journalist, Newcastle Herald

Concrete was pumped for two days to fill a crack in the mountain . . . The pump was left unattended. The grout ran out of the crack and concreted a creek.
Government had known about the damage for over a year but had not ordered the mine to make repairs.

Almost all the Walkley finalist entries were collaborations:

- reporter - reporter
- reporter - photographer
In-house collaborations

Domestic collaboration
- Reporter – reporter
- Reporter – photographer

Transnational collaboration
- Reporter (Australia) – reporter (overseas)
Media outlet collaboration
Media outlet collaboration

Types of collaborations

1. Collaborations on news leads to **defray investigation costs** in different mediums eg newspapers-television.
2. Collaborations on news leads to **gain political clout** for the story.
Investigative journalism

accountability

democracy

equality
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