Career Opportunities in JOURNALISM

Description of the Field
Journalists report on current affairs and other events for publications in print and electronic media, or for broadcast on radio or television. Reporters are sensitive to news of breaking events, often observing such events, examining documents, interviewing people, and writing stories on laptops to be submitted electronically. Prior to publication, news writers may re-write the information submitted by reporters.

News reporters may specialize in fields such as politics, foreign affairs, business, arts, sports, health, or science. Increasingly, the work is being done by news teams encompassing reporters, editors, photographers, and graphic artists.

Reporters on morning papers may often work from late afternoon to midnight. Those on afternoon or evening papers may work from early morning to mid-afternoon. Long hours and irregular schedules can be a part of the job. In contrast, reporters and writers on magazines work regular daytime hours. Different sub-fields will have various schedules as well as job-specific tasks. A foreign correspondent, for example, may be required to travel or relocate more often than a local business reporter.

Career Paths and Entry Salaries
Typical entry to the field is through internships, summer, or part-time work with newspapers or broadcasters. Large publications and broadcast stations seldom hire recent grads, preferring to hire persons who have 3—5 years’ experience at smaller media organizations. In 2015, the salary range for full-time jobs in journalism extended from $30,000 to more than $100,000 with a median annual salary of $35,326. Journalists may also work as freelancers (being paid by the article) and publish through several venues.

QUALIFICATIONS TO ENTER THE FIELD

+ A Bachelor's degree with a specialization in Journalism, Broadcasting, or in Liberal Arts is widely preferred. However, some employers look for subject-matter specialties such as Economics, Political Science or Business, as well as a foreign language. It is important for journalists to keep “clips” (published articles) of all their previous work. Computer skills are essential, especially for students planning to work for an on-line publication. A familiarity with databases and computer graphics is very helpful. As communications is increasingly being done in team settings, the ability to have strong communications skills, interpersonal skills, as well as cultural sensitivity, is gaining in importance.
Sample Group of Employers
Wherever there is a daily or weekly newspaper, local television or radio station, magazines, or new media organization, there will be opportunities for employment. There is an emergence of twenty-four hour news and specialty networks and there are also numerous smaller publications that focus on law, politics, economics, government, and defense on an international scope. Students are urged to use a portfolio to showcase their written, oral and graphics related communications skills.

Resources for Additional Information

Associations
o American Society of Newspaper Editors - www.asne.org
o International Center for Journalists - www.icfj.org
o National Newspaper Association - http://www.nationalnotary.org/
o Newspaper Association of America - www.naa.org

Internet Resources
o Careers in Newspapers - www.asne.org - Provides information and links to online issues of the ASNE Reporter.
o National Writer's Union -www.nwu.org - Career resources for freelance writers.
o Writer's Digest - www.writersdigest.com - Provides tips and information on how to get published in magazines and books - especially helpful are the "Writers Guidelines" and "Market of the Day" sections.

LinkedIn Groups
o Journalist and Journalism - www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=689787
o Online Journalism - www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=723357
o Media, Advertising, Journalism Jobs Network- www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2259657

Publications
o Careers in International Affairs. Edited by Maria Pinto Carland and Lisa A. Gihring, Georgetown University Press, 2003.
o Editor and Publisher International Year Book. Editor & Publisher, 86th Ed. 2006.