

1. Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group
Annual Report
1 Oct. 2011 - 30 Sept. 2012

2. CCJIG Officers, 2011-2012 *(see attached demographic information form following annual report document)

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3. General Statement

In programming CCJIG panel sessions this year we emphasized teaching. In years past there has been concern expressed that we were not programming as much in this area, so this year three of the five panel sessions focus on teaching. One of the panels “Mobile Me, Mobile We: Building and Bridging Communities with Media” focuses on how mobile technologies change community media. Another teaching panel is “Teaching With and About Participatory Media Cultures” that focuses on how sharing information has changed society. This year’s J-Lab luncheon also has a teaching focus as it highlights journalism programs that are launching news sites to cover their communities.

This year’s PF & R session “African Media, the Arab Spring and Democratization: The Unseen and Un-mentioned Social Side of the News Revolution” will examine the effects of discourse about politics and economics in sub-Saharan Africa. The Research session will examine the next wave of research in the area of participatory and user-created content. Also in the area of Research, there are also two referred research paper sessions and a referred scholar-to-scholar session.

CCJIG also participated in the midwinter conference at the University of Oklahoma.

4. Goals and Outcomes for 2011-12

- Continue to clearly articulate what civic and citizen journalism are to increase relevance and appropriateness of conference paper submissions. We clearly stated the importance of articulating such connections in the call for papers, newsletter and listserv messages. This led to fewer conference paper submissions. However, we believe the relevance and appropriateness of paper submissions to CCJIG is important. Thus, we will continue to provide reminders and clearer definitions that will potentially lead to more meaningful communication and understanding of the CCJIG. These efforts, we hope, will also lead to an increase in research paper submissions, membership, participation, and relevant areas of interests in research, teaching.
 - Outcome: Clearly articulating what civic and citizen journalism are continues to be a challenge in a field changing as rapidly as this one. This year we explored a name change to “Participatory Journalism Interest Group.” Although the name did receive a majority of votes, the vote was close, so officers decided to not go through with the name change. This will be explored again next year.
- While efforts were made for increased discussion among CCJIG members through

various electronic means, officers were generally the main discussants and participants. Further efforts should be made to increase active membership and participation in the organization. In other words, over the past few years, mainly the same individuals were involved while other members rarely participated. Additionally, some of the interest group's senior members could play a more central mentoring role to further facilitate interest group activities and goals.

- Outcome: Officers continue to be the main contributors to conference activities, and the quarterly newsletter, although some new people have begun to enter the group.

- More clarity in research paper submissions is needed. This year we have received a few same or similar research papers between the midwinter and annual conference submissions. Unless they were **explicitly** the same paper, we were advised to move along with review. We also had a paper with author identifying information. Such details should be addressed in upcoming conferences.

Additionally, a discussion regarding more conceptually or theoretically driven papers that do not address research questions/hypothesis (e.g., not a full blown study), yet are rigorously developed and soundly presented, should be carried out.

- Outcome: This was not an issue this year.

- More aggressively build on the interest group's ongoing research bibliography that in part serves as a resource for teachers in best practices for civic and citizen journalism pedagogy.

- Outcome: Work continues on this.

Goals for 2012-13

- Continue to explore the name change to "Participatory Journalism Interest Group."
- Start using the language "Participatory Interest Group" in communications with members to start getting them used to the term.
- Increase the number of high quality paper submissions. This year only a top student paper award was given because none of papers submitted by faculty were felt to be of high enough quality to qualify.
- Update the CCJIG blog more often.
- Work with members and leadership to identify more efficient ways to do conference programming.

RESEARCH:

5. Number of faculty research paper submissions **10**; number of acceptances **5**; **50%**. (overall research activity; please note the Research Committee guideline is a 50% acceptance rate).

6. Number of student research paper submissions **12**; number of acceptances **4**; **33%**. (research activity with students; please note the Research Committee guideline is a 50% acceptance rate).

7. Overview of judging process (forms used, please attach). **Approached judges from previous years. Used the standard judging matrix offered by AEJMC.**

8. Total # of judges **18**; **normally 3** papers per judge (please note the Research Committee guideline is no more than 4 papers per judge).

9. Did your group conduct any other type of refereed competition? (Could be creative projects, teaching papers or any other non-traditional method of inquiry.) **None**

Number of submissions **22**; Number of acceptances **9** (slightly more than the 17 submissions last year, but same total number of acceptances)

Briefly explain the competition and the selection process. **Papers were randomly spread among judges so that no judge had more than three papers from CCJIG. Three papers were transferred to other divisions as civic/citizen journalism wasn't the focus of these papers (these three are not counted in the 22 submissions cited above).**

10. Please list your conference activities related to research. **Supported the mid-winter conference by assigning 8 abstracts to 5 CCJIG board members. From this, 5 papers were accepted by the abstract reviewers and were presented at the mid-winter conference.**

11. Please list your out-of-conference activities related to research. **None.**

12. Please describe briefly the research goals and activities of your group. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities. **I have worked to advise CCJIG board leadership on the need to heighten the research profile of this interest group. As a result, we did solicit members for a possible name change, but the vote was not decisive to move forward with that idea. I am on record that, having served as research chair three out of the last four years, there has been a notable decline in the number and quality of papers submitted to the CCJIG. This is a trendline that needs to be addressed. The high reject rate we have seen this**

year among student scholars (and the three papers I had to refer to other divisions) reveals that the CCJIG needs to better articulate that the group is the ideal venue for scholarship that concerns participatory journalism. As it stands now, other larger divisions are getting those better submissions and we are receiving student (and faculty) papers that are off the mark, or of poor quality.

TEACHING:

13. The CCJIG hosted two panels in the 2011 convention that specifically or tangentially dealt with teaching and pedagogy. One panel, "Going Public," focused on how different journalism schools are teaching undergraduates to cover and serve local communities through citizen journalism and journalism-related service projects. The panel featured curricular ideas for projects that engaged students, established community news media and citizens or citizen-driven local issues. Several panelists described in detail the teaching methods and curricular design that allowed for civic and citizen journalism education to occur in successful and innovative ways. The second panel, "Using Location-based Services to Add Some Mobile to Your Journalism Course," emphasized placeblogs and hyperlocal coverage of communities. The panelists explored how to fit the concept of location into classroom curriculum, emphasizing best practices and specific assignments. A third opportunity related to leadership in teaching was the "Community News Sites: What Works," a luncheon co-sponsored by CCJIG and featuring the new J-Lab report: "New Voices: What Works." The session examined what is working in terms of content and sustainability; two issues meaningful to educators as they seek to provide students with the most promising practices in this area of journalism.

14. There were regrettably no out-of-convention activities related to teaching. A goal for the coming year is to set up an online discussion group that will promote the sharing of teaching ideas, tips, resources and scholarship among members and perhaps beyond the CCJIG membership as well.

15. A goal for this year was to provide a teaching-related article in every newsletter for which there was space, and this has been accomplished. The newsletter has featured several teaching-related columns to encourage members to innovate their teaching in the areas of civic and community journalism. Specifically, one feature article (Spring, 2012) highlighted the activities of various members' work in engaging students in community journalism projects and in civic journalism scholarship and analysis thereof. A second article ("Online tools help educators teach selves, students," summer 2011) provided ideas for using digital innovations and technology to enhance the teaching of participatory journalism and storytelling.

PF&R

16. Please list your in-convention activities related to PF&R. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the PF&R Committee's focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability, racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service. Include a list of non-member invited convention speakers with names and affiliations.

Two of our five panel sessions relate *directly* to PF&R concerns. They are:

A. African Media, the Arab Spring and Democratization: The 'Unseen' and 'Unmentioned' Social Side of the News Revolution.

This panel is co-sponsored with the Community Journalism Interest Group, and will explore the effects social issues had on discourse of politics and economics in sub-Saharan Africa during a time of tremendous change. Relates to free expression; and racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness.

Mobile Me, Mobile We: Building and Bridging Communities with Media

This panel, co-sponsored with COMJIG, looks at some of the diverse attributes of mobile in a changing media landscape at the hyperlocal and community level. The panel looks both critically and optimistically at what mobile means, not just as a journalism tool, but the emerging ways mobile fundamentally changes the broader dynamic of community media—as a tool for overcoming the digital divide, as a tool of social protest and reform, as a tool for economic development, as a tool for creating and distributing personal media, and as a tool for teaching and reaching mobile millennials. Relates to all five standards.

17. Please list your out-of-convention activities related to PF&R. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the PF&R Committee's focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service.

Listserv discussions on issues relating to our interest areas and newsletter articles. We had a rich year to consider international applications. Our spring 2012 newsletter carried profiles of journalists in Norway and Russia who are initiating public journalism programs in communities to expand public discussion and feedback. This clearly speaks to media accountability, ethics and cultural inclusiveness. In the summer newsletter, another profile explored an example of civic journalism in Japan. Hideya Terashima, an editor with the *Kahoku Shimpō* newspaper, who has spent the past year chronicling the concerns of victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. His work there has carried direct PF&R lessons for all of us. One example is his commitment to media accountability by establishing a civic-journalism type discourse through his new blog; the use of a blog to build ties with readers is a relatively new development in Japan. His work also raises questions of racial, cultural and gender inclusiveness – both in his attempts to make sure the powerless are heard and in our attempt with this article

to push our interests in civic and citizen journalism beyond the familiar terrain of North America. Our PF&R chair has spent this past year in Japan on a Fulbright lecturing grant. He is aiming to extend more knowledge about Terashima's work via other AEJMC channels.

18. Please describe briefly PF&R goals and activities of your division. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

Our constant concern in CCJIG is to investigate the implications of participatory journalism, given the dramatic changes occurring in the field, and especially in digital platforms that we often explore. We maintain occasional conversations through out listserv and newsletters and try to ensure that our organizational doors are open to new members, including graduate students, who are sharing our interests. We also try to monitor and remark on initiatives taking place, whether through the Knight Challenges or other agencies. And this year, following previous-year conversations with professors from South Africa, we have again sought to explore participatory news applications in nations beyond American borders.

19. Newsletters can be found at: <http://aejmc.net/civic/>