

Habitus of Journalists: An Analysis of the Behavior in Utilizing Artificial Intelligence

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ABSTRACT

Background: Developments in artificial intelligence (AI) models have transformed how journalists work on a daily basis. AI has been adopted by both international and national media, including print, television, radio, and online, at both the editorial and individual levels. **Purpose:** This study aims to explore how journalists in Bandung choose and utilize AI to support news production. **Methods:** This research used a qualitative method with a case study approach. Data collection was conducted through structured interviews with journalists in Bandung, selected using snowball sampling. Data analysis techniques used interactive analysis by Miles and Huberman, along with member checking for data validation. **Results:** All interviewed journalists use and benefit from AI tools in their journalistic activities. The most commonly used applications are ChatGPT, Gemini, Perplexity, and Pinpoint. AI is mainly used for interview transcription, translation, data searching, brainstorming, data validation, creating captions, and generating interesting headlines. The use of AI simplifies and streamlines work in terms of time, thus making work more effective. **Conclusion:** Journalists in Bandung actively choose and utilize AI to accelerate their work. The use of AI is allowed as long as journalistic ethics are observed. **Implications:** Journalists should be more aware of data security when using AI and continue to improve their journalistic skills, rather than relying on AI to replace them.

Keywords: artificial intelligence; Bourdieu; digital journalism; habitus; journalist

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INTRODUCTION

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has indirectly transformed how media organizations operate, from individual journalists to the editorial department. A number of international media outlets, such as the BBC, Reuters, and The Guardian, have integrated AI into their production and distribution processes (Jalalian Ebrahimi, 2026, pp. 5–7). At the individual level, journalists utilize AI to analyze big data, verify information, create visualizations, and analyze historical data in investigative journalism (Fridman et al., 2025, pp. 1362–1367), creating a hybrid of investigative journalism professionalism in the ability to use AI technology and the ability to tell a narrative (Sánchez Esparza & Palella Stracuzzi, 2026, and integrating it into radio operations (Mulyani et al., 2025, p. 82). On a much broader scale, Túñez-López et al. (2021, pp. 188–190) also examines, from a macro perspective, how AI impacts business models, audiences, news content and formats, as well as the professionalism of journalists themselves.

The use of AI in journalism offers a number of benefits, such as analyzing data from various sources, converting spoken words into text, and text into audio and video. It also enables automated fact-checking and accelerates the pace of journalistic work (Biswal & Gouda, 2020, p. 162). This speed and efficiency lead journalists to use AI in their daily work. While offering opportunities for efficiency and audience engagement, the use of AI also poses challenges regarding ethics, journalistic quality, and access to information (Sonni et al., 2024, p. 1554). These social, professional, and ethical contexts are key factors in the successful implementation of AI in journalism (Túñez-López et al., 2021, p. 190), including technical and human resource challenges (Mulyani et al., 2025, p. 79). In Journalism, the use of AI poses four main challenges, which are: the validity of information, data accuracy and verification, algorithmic bias, and the lack of specific regulations regarding its use in journalism (Listiyoningsih et al., 2025, p. 189). It is also necessary to develop hybrid skills for journalists, especially in the field of automated journalism (Hafied et al., 2025, p. 215). AI has developed rapidly both as an academic field and as an industry, as technology companies have implemented it on a global scale. The transformative impact of AI is spreading to various fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation (Rawas, 2024, p. 25).

In Indonesia, a survey of 262 media company members of the Indonesian Online Media Association (AMSI) shows that readiness for AI adoption varies by company size. Large media companies are far more ready, while small and medium media companies need support in areas such as literacy, training, governance, infrastructure, and technical expertise (Wendratama et al., 2026). Meanwhile, within the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) framework, digital newsrooms in Indonesia, including their journalist have accepted AI because it is practical in streamlining work processes and easy to learn (Prasetia et al., 2026, pp. 140–142).

AI was defined by McCarthy (1959) as the science and engineering of creating intelligent machines. Russell and Norvig (2020, p. 1032) describe it as the birth of a new form of intelligence capable of simulating intelligent human behavior. These human behavioral activities include decision-making, problem-solving, learning, understanding, reasoning, and interacting (Collins et al., 2021, p. 3).

AI performs a wide range of functions. Based on its capabilities and operational characteristics, it can be classified into several types according to technological approach: (1) Machine learning describes a system's ability to learn from problem-specific training data to automate the process of creating analytical models and solving tasks; due to its adaptive nature, AI can imitate human cognitive abilities (Janiesch et al., 2021, p. 685). Like a newborn baby: there are billions of connected neurons in the brain that enable computers to learn and

develop by imitating, and this is how machine learning works (Taye, 2023, pp. 1–2). Machine learning is a subfield of AI that develops algorithms using mathematics, statistics, logic, and programming. Its ability to automatically identify patterns in data is improved without the need for specialized programming (Reis et al., 2024). There are three types of machine learning: supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning (Janiesch et al., 2021, p. 686). (2) Deep learning is most commonly used for applications such as visual object recognition, translation, speech recognition, and image and speech synthesis (Russell & Norvig, 2020, p. 801). (3) Natural Language Processing (NLP) is an AI model designed to understand and analyze language and serves as the foundation for speech recognition (Russell & Norvig, 2020, p. 13), such as Siri on Apple or Alexa on Amazon (4) Generative AI refers to AI systems based on algorithms, models, and other technologies designed to generate text, audio, images, code, and video (Shi & Sun, 2024, p. 582).

The Press Council or Dewan Pers (2026) reports that 11.634 journalists hold the Junior Journalist certification level, 2.997 hold the Intermediate level, and 1.430 others hold the Advanced level. These figures represent the total number of certified journalists throughout Indonesia, including those in print, online, television, and radio media. As the second-largest metropolitan area after Greater Jakarta, the city of Bandung has a dynamic press scene across the national, regional, and local levels. Unlike Jakarta, which is dominated by the headquarters of national media outlets, Bandung's media industry consists of a mix of national media bureaus, independent local media, community media, campus media, radio, television, and even homeless media. Bandung is a major talent pool for the media industry, as reflected in the number of universities that offer journalism programs. However, journalists in Bandung are also caught in the liminality of digital transformation. Some are threatened by digital disruption, while others are resilient and able to adapt to these changes. Based on these reasons, this study tries to examine how journalists in Bandung utilize AI, to what extent they are individually prepared to use AI, whether they utilize AI responsibly, whether they face challenges or obstacles, whether they explore its use by trial and error, and to what extent the media industry they work for supports its journalists.

The use of AI by journalists is certainly not uniform. Each journalist practices the profession in a specific way, such as a print journalist or reporter, a video journalist, a photojournalist, or a multimedia journalist who combines various elements such as text, images, audio, or video. Its application in journalistic products also varies, not to mention that the intensity of use differs among journalists. Also, knowledge of regulations governing AI use remains limited, with few specific provisions established through laws or government regulations. In short, AI is transforming traditional news production processes but also raising ethical issues (Shi & Sun, 2024, p. 587). The use of AI by journalists in Bandung cannot be understood merely as the adoption of technology, but rather as a *habitus* that gives rise to new practices in news production. It also involves how journalists position themselves in accepting or rejecting its use in their work.

Sociologist and anthropologist Pierre Bourdieu defines *habitus* as tendencies and ways of thinking that result from social formation and mediate individual choices (Graziano, 2025, pp. 150–155). Bourdieu introduced three concepts within his theoretical framework: *habitus*, capital, and field (Darmawan, 2024) or $[(\text{habitus}) (\text{capital})] + \text{field} = \text{practice}$ (Graziano, 2025, p. 151). *Habitus* refers to the fact that individual actions do not arise spontaneously but are based on rational choices. It encompasses the ways in which individuals think, feel, judge, and approach the world, as well as their roles within it. In other words, *habitus* is the individual's personal experience of the distinctive aspects of their social trajectory (Bourdieu, 1990;

Sharlamanov et al., 2024, p. 97). It contributes to shaping the environment as a meaningful world and individual perceptions that give the social world meaning (Sharlamanov et al., 2024, p. 97). Bourdieu classifies capital into four categories: economic capital, cultural capital, social capital, and symbolic capital (Graziano, 2025, p. 150; Setten, 2020). Cultural capital consists of knowledge or skills embedded in an individual, such as ways of thinking, speaking, education, and skills that influence individual preferences (Darmawan, 2024; Mudd et al., 2023). Social capital is a potential resource related to the possession of a network of relationships based on the exchange of material and symbolic goods and interpersonal closeness (Graziano, 2025, p. 150). Meanwhile, symbolic capital is the recognition given to an individual or group based on social practices and cultural capital, which can be exchanged for economic, cultural, or social capital (Darmawan, 2024).

To fully understand human interactions, Bourdieu argues that it is not enough to look at what is said but rather at the place where the event or interaction takes place. Bourdieu's concept of a field is rooted in its capacity to satisfy fundamental human emotional and psychological needs through the hope of social recognition (Piroddi, 2022, p. 330). The field is the site of tensions, contradictions, and social struggles, and the place where various forms of capital are produced and reproduced (Setten, 2020, p. 287), or can be defined as a network or set of objective relationships among positions whose existence is determined by agents, institutions, situations or types of power (capital) (Piroddi, 2022, p. 316). Social space is the material and symbolic setting in which we live our daily lives (Graziano, 2025, p. 150), where an individual's mindset and behavior cannot be separated from the field because habitus is rooted in social context.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study aims to build on the recommendations of previous research that calls for a focus on the categories of journalists and professionals in various media organizations (Listiyoningsih et al., 2025, p. 189). This study employed a qualitative method with a case study design. Qualitative research aims to interpret observed phenomena, explore human experiences and perspectives, and examine complex social phenomena (Lim, 2025, p. 199). This approach was chosen because it allows the researchers to examine the habits of journalists in Bandung in selecting and utilizing AI in their daily journalistic practices. This research was conducted from March to June 2026 and included developing a research plan through a literature review, developing a conceptual and theoretical framework, and identifying initial informants for interviews. Data collection for this study was conducted through structured interviews with journalists, selected using snowball sampling. This method allowed researchers to communicate more effectively with informants. Snowball sampling, also known as chain sampling, is categorized as a non-probability sampling method, in which researchers identify cases or phenomena (Gierczyk et al., 2024, pp. 88–89). The first informant was identified by the researchers as a journalist who actively uses AI to facilitate their work. From this informant, the researchers requested recommendations for subsequent informants known to use AI in their work and could offer insights relevant to the research focus. Snowball sampling is used to expand the participant pool by relying on referrals from first participants (Memon et al., 2024, p. 10). The number of informants was determined based on the principle of data saturation, and the interviews were terminated after the twelfth informant, as indicated by the absence of any new information (Pasikowski, 2024, p. 110). In this study, saturation occurred when recommendations from one informant were repeated by another, and the answer provided by an informant was identical to those of a previous informant. This resulted in no new insight

being identified, such as repeated mention of AI tools and their use in various stages. The data collection was analyzed using Miles and Huberman's interactive data analysis technique, which consists of three stages: (1) data reduction by simplifying interview transcripts, (2) data presentation by identifying themes to help identify patterns and relationships among the research findings, and (3) drawing conclusions from the analyzed data. To ensure data validity, the researchers conducted verification through respondent validation by checking the answers provided and interpreting them to ensure the accuracy of the preliminary findings against the actual responses (Espedal et al., 2022, p. 226). Lastly, member checking was used to enhance the reliability or precision of qualitative research by asking participants to provide feedback on all research findings (Kullman & Chudyk, 2025, pp. 1–4).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To reflect the diversity of journalists in Bandung, the researchers selected a number of informants from various media outlets representing the television, radio, online, and cyber media industries, as well as domestic and international news agencies. This composition is intended to represent the entire media industry operating in Bandung, specifically examining how journalist roles differ in terms of the utilization and the choice of AI tools. More specifically, the researchers required that these sources be at least certified as journalists by the Press Council. However, the researchers also included two sources who were not certified as journalists by the Press Council as a control group. The purpose was to assess the extent to which the ethics of AI use are understood or internalized in their daily journalistic practices. Table 1 presents a profile of the informants, including their codes and gender, their roles as journalists at the media outlets where they work, and the media organizations they work for.

PP (34/F), a reporter for Tribun Jabar who has been working for more than six years and holds the qualification of a junior journalist, uses AI tools such as ChatGPT and Pinpoint daily. In his journalistic work, he uses AI to translate foreign languages, paraphrase interview transcripts, and create engaging news headlines. This transcription feature helps him work

Table 1. Profile of Researcher Informants

No	Informant Code	Role	Media
1	PP - F	Reporter	Tribun Jabar
2	DAD - M	Journalist	Tribun Jabar
3	RD - M	Reporter	Harapanrakyat.com
4	TAH - M	Journalist	Radar Bandung
5	FC - M	Journalist	Kompas
6	RP - M	Redactor	PRFM
7	KH - M	Correspondent	CNN Indonesia
8	A - M	Contributor	Beritasatu
9	NA - M	Photographer	LKBN Antara
10	SM - M	Photographer	Xinhua
11	AFS - M	Photographer	Zuma Press
12	NFS - F	Journalist	JPNN.com

Source: Researchers , 2026

more efficiently and speeds up his workflow. Meanwhile, his coworker DAD (33/M) uses ChatGPT, Gemini, Canva Magic Studio, and Google Notebook LM in his work as a journalist. He uses these tools for research, translation, and interview transcription, particularly to find catchy headlines optimized for search algorithms. Daniel also uses design-based AI to edit social media content and propose program ideas. According to him, these AI tools are easy to use, free, efficient, and help speed up his work.

I use AI to translate foreign languages, transcribe interviews, or even create catchy news headlines. Of course, this saves my time, I don't have to listen to long interviews all over again. My office doesn't prohibit it, but we're not allowed to utilize AI to write news stories. As for the newsrooms, I'm not sure I rarely go to the office (PP, Personal communication, May 27, 2026).

RD (33/M), a reporter for the online media outlet Harapanrakyat.com who has been working there for two years, uses Pinpoint and Gemini to transcribe interviews several times a week. He uses their voice-to-text conversion features. He said he learned from colleagues in other media outlets and has found that AI makes his work more efficient. This is in line with the experience of NF (30/F), who also uses Gemini and ChatGPT to conduct research, edit news stories and foreign-language content, and transcribe interviews. According to her, her work has become simpler and less time-consuming, allowing her to use her work time more effectively. Having worked at JPNN.com as a journalist for more than six years, she recommends TurboScribe for transcribing audio into text that can be converted into multiple languages. In addition, she also uses it to find news headlines that are engaging, SEO-optimized, and discoverable by algorithms.

As a reporter, I use Gemini several times a week to transcribe interviews, the speech-to-text feature makes my work more efficient, and my workplace allows it. I also use Pinpoint (RD, Personal communication, May 29, 2026).

Meanwhile, FC (39/M), a journalist for the national print media outlet Kompas, uses SoundType AI and Perplexity to transcribe audio recordings of interviews with sources. He also uses AI to conduct research and translate foreign languages. He believes that because a journalist's work involves spending a great deal of time in the field, working with AI is essential for efficiency, as long as the data collected and the articles are original works created by the journalist.

RP (32/M), an editor and journalist who is still actively reporting in the field for Radio PRFM, said he uses ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity for brainstorming, research, and proofreading his journalistic work. But that's not all; he also uses these tools to optimize SEO and algorithms by crafting engaging headlines for news stories and articles. AI tools like Perplexity offer efficient and in-depth search results. Once again, this AI simplifies his work, and its features make it convenient for his work as a journalist, especially since it's free.

KH (33/M) and A (33/M) are, respectively, a correspondent and a contributor for the news outlets CNN Indonesia and Beritasatu. They both have worked for their respective television stations for more than six years. KH, who holds the intermediate-level journalist certification, uses ChatGPT to quickly and conveniently obtain data that is nearly accurate. The goal of using AI is to work faster while still upholding ethics, ensuring accuracy, and verifying information. According to him, ChatGPT is easy to use, efficient, has open-source features, and helps him create catchy headlines. However, he uses it relatively rarely and does not use it all the time. Unlike KH (33/M), A (33/M), a contributor to Beritasatu, uses Gemini to more easily translate foreign-language articles and transcripts, conduct data searches, and perform preliminary research.

If I'm not sure about something, I utilize ChatGPT before conducting an interview to verify information. I also use it for research, translating foreign languages, and writing interesting news headlines. I use AI to work more efficiently, while still maintaining ethical standards and ensuring the accuracy of the information (KH, Personal communication, June 6, 2026).

AI is not only used by reporters, journalists, editors, correspondents, and contributors, but also by photographers. This was revealed by NA (36/M) from LKBN Antara, who uses ChatGPT and Gemini to conduct research, search for data, refine photo story scripts or edit content, and come up with compelling news headlines. This mid-level journalist acknowledged that AI makes her work more efficient and supports her ability to keep pace with technology. She also noted that there are certain undesirable limitations in her profession as a photographer, namely the manipulation of journalistic photos. Therefore, in her view, her job remains irreplaceable for the time being.

I use ChatGPT and Gemini in my writing process, particularly for captions for story photos. In my opinion, the use of artificial intelligence is important because skills must keep pace with technological advancements (NA, Personal communication, May 29, 2026).

SM (38/M) also works as a freelance photographer for Xinhua, the official news agency of the People's Republic of China. He uses ChatGPT and Gemini for data searches and research, to paraphrase press releases, language transcripts, and interviews, and to craft compelling news headlines. Ease of use and accessibility are the main reasons why he uses AI to support his work as a journalist.

Of all journalists interviewed by the researchers, nearly 80% use ChatGPT, and 70% use Gemini, with other AI service providers including Pinpoint, Perplexity, and Canva Magic Studio. As shown in Table 2, the allocation of AI usage among journalists varies in terms of both the AI tools and the stages of AI utilization. The use of AI in each stage of the journalistic process is as follows: In the pre-reporting stage, journalists in Bandung make extensive use of AI to conduct research, brainstorm, gather information, and search for data to support their reporting. Meanwhile, during the production stage, AI is used to verify information with sources, strengthen news stories, or serve as news material in their own right. In the post-reporting stage, AI is still used to transcribe audio-visual interviews into text, transcribe foreign-language content, paraphrase press releases, determine compelling news headlines, and optimize SEO and algorithmic readability.

The use of audio-processing-based AI for interview transcripts is predominantly used by print and online or digital media journalists, such as informants PP-F, RD-M, FC-M, NFS-F. The use of AI saves them time on the job by eliminating the need to repeatedly listen to lengthy interviews and allowing them to quickly select verbatim quotes from informants. Meanwhile, photojournalists, television journalists, and digital media journalists or cyber journalists utilize it to generate ideas or brainstorm, come up with attractive headlines, find inspiration, or assist with editing, as practiced by TAH-M, RP-M, KH-M, A-M, NA-M, SM-M, and AFS-M. The use of AI in graphic design, practiced by DAD-M, includes changing backgrounds and editing photos to improve them for YouTube thumbnails. However, photojournalists do not use it, because photo manipulation is prohibited and violates the photojournalists' code of ethics. Editing is permitted only for color correction, not for manipulating or replacing objects in the photos.

Based on the data summarized in Table 2, journalists in Bandung begin using AI during the preparation stage to support data research and idea exploration. They use it before heading out into the field to conduct reporting, or to verify data before asking interview questions to

Table 2. Use of AI Tools by Journalists in Bandung

No	Informant Code	AI Tools	Usage Allocation
1	PP - F	Pinpoint, ChatGPT	Interview transcripts, ideas for catchy news headlines, interview questions, translating foreign-language articles, to save time so doesn't have to listen to long interviews
2	DAD - M	Gemini, AI, Meta AI, Google LM, ChatGPT, Canva Magic Studio	Changing backgrounds, photo retouching/editing, YouTube thumbnails, research, interview transcripts, SEO/algorithm optimization, creating compelling titles
3	RD - M	Pinpoint, Gemini	Interview transcript
4	TAH - M	ChatGPT	Assistance in writing news scripts
5	FC - M	SoundType AI, Perplexity	Transcript of the recorded interview
6	RP - M	ChatGPT, Gemini, Perplexity	Finding ideas, brainstorming, research, proofreading, and suggestions for news headlines
7	KH - M	ChatGPT	Research, creating a title
8	A - M	Gemini	Researching data for news stories, translating foreign-language articles, including interview transcripts
9	NA - M	ChatGPT, Gemini	Data research, editing scripts for photo stories, creating compelling headlines
10	SM - M	ChatGPT, Gemini	Data research, transcriptions of foreign-language articles, interview transcripts, finding compelling news headlines
11	AFS - M	ChatGPT, Gemini	Research, gathering information and data for photo captions and descriptions
12	NFS - F	ChatGPT, Gemini, TurboScribe	Research, copy editing, transcribing long interviews, creating compelling news headlines for algorithm optimization

Source: Researchers, 2026

informants. Meanwhile, its use is much more diverse when the news production process enters the editing stages, such as transcription of interviews, brainstorming for interesting titles, and translation of foreign-language articles, all the way through to the publication stage, such as design.

ChatGPT, or Chat Generative Pretrained Transformer, is an AI system developed by OpenAI, an AI research company headquartered in the Pioneer Building, San Francisco, California, United States. The service was released on November 30, 2022, and is available in 59 languages. It works by processing language patterns, reasoning based on training and instructions, and generating responses that appear thoughtful, making it seem intelligent. ChatGPT is built on a Large Language Model (LLM) and transformer architecture, which are the result of deep learning, machine learning, and generative AI.

Meanwhile, Gemini is an AI model developed by Google and designed to serve as a collaborator, responding quickly, efficiently, and accurately when processing text and data. Gemini was developed using deep learning, LLMs, and transformer architectures like those used in ChatGPT. It has billions of parameters, drawing on text, code, and multimedia information from various sources to understand linguistic context and human logic. The core foundation of Gemini's technology is generative AI, supported by natural language understanding (NLU) and natural language processing (NLP). It also includes reinforcement learning from human

feedback (RLHF) systems aimed at ranking answers to ensure they are structured and accurate through alignment.

Perplexity is an AI model that uses NLP and LLM technology to scan the internet in real time, providing concise answers and including references at the end of the text. Unlike ChatGPT and Gemini, Perplexity prioritizes accurate, concise, and factual answers. This AI was developed by Aravind Srinivas, Andy Kowinski, Denis Yarats, and Johny Ho, along with investor Jeff Bezos and Nvidia, and was officially launched in 2022.

The ability to process human language and logic, or text-based data, explains why ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity were chosen to perform research, suggest interesting headlines for news articles, and find data to serve as the basis for news coverage. That's why journalists in Bandung use AI across all professions, including print, online, radio, and television.

Furthermore, TurboScribe is an AI system developed by Leif Erikson Ventures, LCC based in the United States. This transcription service can accurately convert audio and video into text in a short time and supports 98 languages. TurboScribe is based on OpenAI Whisper speech recognition technology (speech-to-text), Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Neural Speech Models, and modern speech-to-text models, and offers free and subscription services.

Google Pinpoint is an AI research platform designed for students and journalists to analyze large volumes of documents. It utilizes generative AI with an audio-to-text feature that automatically transcribes recordings of interviews, meetings, and speeches. This service was launched in 2020 using NLP technology, as well as advanced Optical Character Recognition (OCR), which can convert text or handwriting on paper into digital text. Just like TurboScribe and Pinpoint, SoundType AI is an AI platform that transcribes audio from interviews, meetings, and discussions into text. Founded by InnoSquares, a United States-based company, this platform is built on text-to-speech technology and combines ASR.

The simplicity of converting speech to text makes it easier for print, online, and cyber journalists to create interview transcripts for news stories. This method saves time by eliminating the repeated listening to audio recordings, as acknowledged by the informants. They only need to record audio or video, then upload it, and the text will be automatically generated by AI. Nevertheless, transcription errors still occur and are common; even if the audio quality is poor, the generated text may be inaccurate.

Canva Magic Studio is a feature that uses generative AI technology, developed in collaboration with OpenAI. It can instantly convert text into presentations, videos, or images. Other features include summarizing text and changing design formats, all of which are integrated with Canva. Meanwhile, Google's NotebookLM service is also designed to help summarize and explore information from documents and to create content automatically using generative AI.

Based on the platforms and AI technology explained above, journalists consciously choose AI based on the needs of their work fields and their roles. Journalists easily use more than one AI tool to assist with their daily work, as shown in Table 3. They utilize the services according to their needs, whether for research, transcription, translation, proofreading, or suggestions for news headlines. Generative AI using deep learning is contextual and adaptive. The outputs it provides address the needs of users, in this case journalists, thereby improving time efficiency and productivity, offering problem-solving solutions, and being available for use at any time. This expands the ability and increases the speed of task completions while simplifying work. Therefore, journalists play a crucial role in every process involving the use of AI to monitor the results produced. It is these roles and responsibilities that journalists or humans must consider throughout the process.

Understanding Regulation and Openness Media

In Indonesia, there is currently no law that specifically regulates how AI is used in journalistic practice. The Press Council has issued Regulation No. 1, which provides guidelines for the use of AI in journalistic work. These guidelines state that any journalistic work created using AI must adhere to the journalistic code of ethics, which emphasizes human oversight from start to end, with responsibility resting with the media company. The Press Council does not restrict the use of AI tools, including by media companies. However, caution is required when handling data, information, images, audio, video, or other forms of content generated by AI, and respect must be shown for copyright and applicable laws and regulations. Nevertheless, the lack of specific regulations will raise ethical issues regarding the future use of AI. The Press Council emphasizes that the use of AI in journalism is intended solely as a tool to ensure

Table 3. Selection Factors, Sources of AI Use by Journalists in Bandung, Editorial Policies

No	Informant Code	Understanding AI Regulations	AI Selection Factor	Source of studying AI	Editorial Policy
1	PP - P	Doesn't Know	Easy to use, convenient, efficient, saves time	Self-taught, other media partners	Permitted, but news stories must not be created using AI
2	DAD - L	Know	Easy to use, no premium or paid version required, speeds up work, efficient	Self-taught, media organizations	Permitted
3	RD - L	Know	Makes work easier	Other partners, media organizations	Limited to interview transcripts only
4	TAH - L	Know	Easy to use	Self-taught, other media partners	Permitted, with restrictions, without changing the original source
5	FC - L	Know	Open source, easy to use	Self-taught, office training	Limited to research and interview transcripts
6	RP - L	Know	Efficient, easy to use, open source, helps with work	Self-taught, other media partners, media organizations	Permitted
7	KH - L	Doesn't Know	Easy to use, efficient, practical	Self-taught, media organizations	Permitted as long as it does not violate the journalistic code of ethics
8	A - L	Know	Efficient and easy to use	Self-taught, other media partners	Permitted
9	NA - L	Know	Efficient, keeping pace with skills and technological advances	Self-taught, other media partners	Permitted
10	SM - L	Doesn't Know	Makes work easier, efficient, easy to use, comfortable to use	Self-taught, other media partners	Permitted as long as it does not violate the journalistic code of ethics
11	AFS - L	Know	Easy to use, efficient, free, makes work easier	Self-taught, other media partners	Prohibited
12	NFS - P	Doesn't Know	Efficient, easy to use, free, helps you make the most of your work time	Self-taught, other media partners	Permitted and for reference only, not 100% identical

Source: Researchers, 2026

compliance with the code of ethics. These guidelines are also intended to maintain the quality of journalism in Indonesia.

As shown in Table 3, eight of the twelve informants were aware of the AI regulations, while only four were not. The regulations in question are the Press Council's regulations on the use of AI. The majority of informants are aware of the regulations or guidelines that govern its use in journalistic work in Indonesia. They recognize that the journalistic code of ethics also serves as a guideline or set of principles to be followed in their work as journalists and in the use of AI. However, the majority of media outlets where these informants work also permit the use of AI, provided that journalists carry out the verification process and it does not violate the code of ethics. The application of the code of ethics by journalists certified by the Press Council demonstrates journalists' credibility and professionalism in using AI tools.

The concept of *habitus*, as outlined by Bourdieu, is evident in the work habits of journalists, who are required to submit news stories quickly or meet the deadlines set by their editorial teams. Journalists are expected to submit a certain number of stories by a set time each day. It is this speed and efficiency that form the initial basis for how journalists in Bandung perceive themselves and develop their professional habits. Ease of use, time-saving benefits, and the fact that it is open source are the reasons why journalists in Bandung have decided to adopt AI.

Openness to new technology is a cultural capital possessed by every journalist, as they gradually learn AI independently or through self-study. Journalists' skills in adapting to new things are strengthened by their openness to digital literacy. This allows them to understand issues and their development in their work environment or the area where they report. Networks among fellow journalists are also a form of capital for journalists in Bandung. Journalists gather at reporting locations or scenes of events, and they may be assigned to specific desks such as law, crime, sports, or government. There, they get to know each other even if they are from different media outlets or have different functions as journalists.

This is what became the social capital among fellow journalists in Bandung to understand how AI is utilized and applied in the field of journalism. Eight informants mentioned that apart from teaching themselves how to use AI, they also learned from their colleagues in the media. It is common for journalists to gather in the same place after covering an event. Communication outside of working hours while writing up reports also becomes a space for learning about AI. Through these exchanges, networks among journalists become a foundation for learning about AI. However, a number of media outlets where the informants work have already provided training to journalists or permitted the use of AI within reasonable limits, while emphasizing Indonesia's journalistic code of ethics.

Openness to technology is a *habitus* formed through social capital among journalists. This differs from journalists with a traditional media *habitus*, who may be skeptical of new technologies, far more selective regarding AI, and view it as a threat to journalistic professionalism. An understanding of prompting, coding, and digital literacy gives more confidence, especially to those who have access to premium AI resources. However, the informants interviewed by researchers utilize AI more through free services.

Journalists' ability to utilize AI to speed up media content production can be a competitive advantage in an increasingly intense media landscape. This is because media credibility now depends on speed as well as economic value derived from reader traffic, viewership, and subscriptions. This new capital gained from AI indirectly impacts the professional habits of individual journalists in Bandung, specifically their ability to respond to the ever-changing technology landscape. The social practices carried out by journalists in the city of Bandung that utilize AI are not simply the result of individual journalists being located in areas with

high-speed internet and advanced technology. Rather, it is the outcome of an arena or field that allowed for the use of AI within certain limits, the presence of social capital or cultural capital among fellow journalists, and the need for efficiency in the field, which facilitates and streamlines journalists' work.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and analysis, journalists in Bandung are optimistic that AI will not replace their roles as journalists. AI is positioned as a tool to lighten their workload, increase efficiency, and boost productivity in journalistic activities. Its ease of use allows journalists to occasionally use it for interview transcription, translation, data searching, brainstorming, data validation, creating captions, and generating interesting headlines. Several AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Perplexity, and Pinpoint, are the most dominant ones used by journalists in Bandung. The selection and utilization of AI also depend on where the informant works. For example, transcription and proofreading are more commonly used by radio, print, and online journalists, whereas television journalists and photographers tend to use AI for data searching or research, as well as for finding interesting and relevant titles for their writing. From Bourdieu's perspective on habitus, journalists' everyday use of AI in Bandung stems from capital and interactions in the form of individual digital skills acquired independently, knowledge exchange with colleagues in the media, as well as training provided by the media organizations where journalists work. The digitalization of media opens opportunities for individual journalists to adopt AI. In this context, media legitimacy allows the use of AI as long as it aligns with journalistic codes of ethics. These findings strengthen Bourdieu's view that daily practices or habitus do not arise solely from individual choices but from an interaction between capital and field. This results in new journalistic practices, namely the utilization of AI. The use of AI should always involve humans in the process, which is in line with the guidelines recommended by the press council. The journalistic code of ethics must be the main principle for journalists. It serves as a moral and ethical compass in carrying out their profession, where accuracy, transparency, accountability, and verification of the information produced must be the primary focus of journalists. Although AI enables news production through automation, journalists are at low risk of being replaced by it. Even though AI can be utilized at various levels, from the individual to the editorial level or the media organization as a whole, the responsibility for its use must be addressed. The way is to provide comprehensive training for journalists in the field, and by editorial teams to proactively verify that every news article submitted by their journalists from the field is indeed a work of journalism that complies with ethical guidelines. Education on ethics and the use of new technologies, particularly AI, must be provided to aspiring and young journalists through formal education programs during their studies. It can also be done through media organizations proactively offering training to their journalists, particularly in regional areas, as a form of social capital that will be useful when they begin working as journalists in the field.

Further research is expected to examine journalists' workload, particularly in the advent of AI, including changes in how newsrooms operate. It should also examine the digital divide among journalists in local, regional, and national media outlets. In addition to ethical issues, which remain a challenge particularly in Indonesia due to the lack of regulations, it should also examine how AI affects media sustainability, especially in terms of the quality of media content. This includes the extent to which the quality and credibility of the media and the journalistic products they produce, particularly those involving AI, are controlled from the start of production through to distribution.

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