Live Blogging
Challenges and opportunities of live reporting in the social media age

TT Digital Day, Stockholm, 4 December 2015

Professor Neil Thurman
Neil.thurman@ifkw.lmu.de
@neilthurman
Accessed a live blog in previous week

Source: REUTERS INSTITUTE DIGITAL NEWS REPORTS
Percentage who accessed a live blog in previous week

Source: REUTERS INSTITUTE DIGITAL NEWS REPORTS
Types of online news content accessed in previous week (Japan)

- Live page: 12
- Video: 10
- Audio: 4

January 2014
Weekly news access via SMARTPHONES

Source: REUTERS INSTITUTE DIGITAL NEWS REPORTS
Richard Knowles shared Mpora's video.
26 November at 19:24

Chris Surman check this one out!!

31,881 views

Mpora

This rally crash must be the CRAZIEST we've seen. So how did everyone walk away unharmed? Full story: http://mpora.co/crazyrallycrash

Like · Comment · Share

Andrew Kirby and Joe Gittins like Funding Circle.

Funding Circle

Local Government is lending millions to businesses through Funding Circle. If your business has a turnover of at least £50k you can apply now.
Credibility
You see it, you report it.
Be a Citizen Journalist.
SMS CJ to 2622
ibnlive.com
271 million monthly active users.

500 million Tweets are sent per day.
Challenges

• Little time for factual verification?
• Trivialise news?
• Confuse readers?
• No time for the basics?

Opportunities

• Rebuilt trust?
• Participation?
“looser culture of corroboration”

Corroborate --

vb1. (tr) to confirm or support (facts, opinions, etc), esp by providing fresh evidence: *the witness corroborated the accused's statement*
7.01pm: There are reports on Twitter that Lillywhites is now on fire.

Lillywhites on fire piccadilly
http://yfrog.com/gzrtqbej
less than a minute ago via Twitter for BlackBerry

Chris Snell
chrissnelltweet

7.56pm: Matt Taylor has said the post at 7.01 reporting a fire at Lillywhites should be corrected. The smoke that can be seen in the picture is from the fire on Jermyn Street reported by Paul Lewis at 6:59. Firefighters put the blaze out shortly afterwards.
PHOTO: Despite Sandy, Soldiers Stand Guard At Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier

BY ROGER PERALTA,
October 31, 2012 12:46 AM

Soldiers at 11:15 a.m. EST. Photo tweeted during Sandy.

The Coast Guard posted on Twitter that the photograph is a photo of soldiers standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier last week, on October 16, 2012. The photo shows the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a December 2012 Facebook post.

Here is a tweet today, according to the Coast Guard:

At 11:15 a.m. EST, Photo tweeted during Sandy.

The Coast Guard posted on Twitter that the photograph is a photo of soldiers standing guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier last week, on October 16, 2012. The photo shows the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a December 2012 Facebook post.

Soldiers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Our original tweet continues...

This is perhaps one of the most stunning photos of a very serious idea.

Soldiers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
Benulek
02 June 2010 1:18pm

This is a fast developing story and the details are sketchy at this stage, so if you are in the area and have news please post a comment below or email at matthew.weaver@guardian.co.uk.

This is deeply irresponsible. If you have concrete information, contact the police. If you have rumours, keep them to yourself.

Elphaba
02 June 2010 1:19pm

This comment was removed by a moderator because it didn’t abide by our community standards. Replies may also be deleted. For more detail see our FAQs.

drbendyspoon
02 June 2010 1:19pm

I think having a comment section on this is pretty ghoulish and in bad-taste. It’s only going to be strewn with conjecture and potential libel. Best just to let the truth come out properly instead of this rolling, almost certainly erroneous way of doing things.

Fwoggie
02 June 2010 1:22pm

I hope Alan Hannah doesn’t get done later for jumping a red light :/ You never know though, I’ve read about crazier things than that.

FifthCookieMonster
02 June 2010 1:23pm

One notch further down in the degeneration of the Guardian.
Farage predicts more UKIP victories

Nigel Farage says UKIP can become a major force at next year's general election after its victory in the Rochester and Strood by-election.

Robinson: What price UKIP power?
Reckless: We're agents of change
Is Rochester and Strood unusual?
Skinner turns on Reckless
Analysis: Party-by-party
Mapping UKIP's polling strength
The people have spoken

Two dead as balcony collapses
Two men die and at least six other people are injured as a balcony collapses in west London.

'Extremist risk' at Muslim schools
Pupils at six east London schools are “vulnerable to extremist influences and radicalisation”, Ofsted's Sir Michael Wilshaw says after snap inspections.

Israel 'pauses plot to kill minister'
Labour's Thornberry quits over tweet
Andy Coulson freed from prison
Public borrowing at £7.7bn in October
A&Es miss four-hour wait standard
Usability

Reuters Institute Digital News Survey 2013, UK sample.

- **LIVE news pages are more balanced than article pages because they give a range of opinions and routinely link out to sources and supporting documents.**
- **LIVE news pages can be difficult to understand because the story is broken into short updates.**
- **LIVE news pages are a convenient way of following news while I am at work.**
- **I worry about the accuracy of the information on LIVE news pages.**
Key Points

- Landing robot Philae was released at 08:35 GMT
- First ever "soft landing" on a comet, if successful, is expected at about 16:00 GMT
- Radio contact between Rosetta, Philae and the control room has been established
- Pictures of the descent are beginning to arrive
- Live video from the European Space Agency's operations centre in Darmstadt, Germany
**Key events**

- 7.06am
  - David Cameron's statement
- 6.59am
  - Alex Salmond's concession speech - Snap summary and analysis
- 6.42am
  - Alistair Darling's speech
- 6.18am
  - Alex Salmond's concession speech
- 6.11am
  - Fife - No 55.05%, yes 44.95%
- 6.00am
  - Edinburgh - No 61.1%, 38.9%

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**Alex Salmond’s concession speech**

**Alex Salmond**, Scotland’s first minister, is speaking now.

He thanks Scotland for 1.6m votes for independence.

There will be a majority for no, he says.

The referendum was an agreed process.

Scotland has decided “at this stage” not to become an independent country.

He accepts that, he says. And he calls on all people in Scotland to accept that too.

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**6.16am**

There are about 100 yes supporters still in Glasgow’s George Square, looking tired and dejected, reports Libby Brooks. There is a police presence but no aggression, not even chanting now, just huddling in the early morning cold.
Live blogs – no time for the basics?

“There is still a need for self-contained, structured reporting and analysis, and for narrative storytelling, but its relationship with the live stream is still developing. We are still working to understand how they can best complement one another and how the two can be blended together when appropriate. And, for newsrooms, what the implications are of trying to do both”

-- Steve Herrman, editor BBC News Online.
Challenges
• Little time for factual verification?
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Opportunities
• Rebuilt trust?
• Participation?
Live pages’ balance & accuracy: UK readers’ attitudes

- **Agree**
  - LIVE news pages are more balanced than article pages because they give a range of opinions and routinely link out to sources and supporting documents.

- **Disagree**
  - LIVE news pages can be difficult to understand because the story is broken into short updates.

- **Agree**
  - LIVE news pages are a convenient way of following news while I am at work.

- **Disagree**
  - I worry about the accuracy of the information on LIVE news pages.
“less opinion based and more factual...I feel more empowered to make up my own mind”

“the person writing it is less likely to have an angle”

“I trust it more than some articles...most of it’s not opinion, it’s more fact based.”

“I’m more engaged in news than I have been for years. For me it’s about being able to make up my own mind.”
Objectivity

Verification

Balance

Transparency

Supporting Evidence
Supporting Evidence

Live Blogs

(Thurman and Walters 2013: 91)

Traditional articles

(Stray 2010)
Making corrections

12.37pm: Nick Raynsford did not say who he was referring to, but on Twitter my former colleague Gaby Hinsliff suggests this might have been a reference to Jenny Watson, head of the Electoral Commission. Watson has complained about being the victim of some particular hostile briefing from an unnamed government source.

Correction: We now understand it was not Watson. Apologies.

In response to another question about whether BSkyB came up in his conversations with Brooks, Cameron says the point he is trying to make is that he was not involved in BSkyB decisions. He did not even know when announcements were going to be made.

12.42pm: Penny Mordaunt, a Conservative, says the aid agencies are saying that donations to famine relief in east Africa are down because the phone hacking scandal is taking up too much media attention.

Cameron says that is why he wanted to press ahead with his visit to Africa.
Challenges
• Little time for factual verification?
• Trivialise news?
• Confuse readers?
• No time for the basics?

Opportunities
• Rebuilt trust?
• Increased reader participation?
Likelihood to participate

Source: Thurman and Walters (2012), n=189
“other people are on at the same time and will be reading it ... so there might be some response to what you write”
% user-generated content

- Boston Marathon Bombings (n=3)
- 2012-13 Egypt protests (n=2)
- Birth of Prince George (n=3)
- Wimbledon 2013 (n=3)
- Guardian.co.uk (Thurman & Walters, 2012)
- Virginia Tech (Wigley and Fontenot, 2009)
- Tucson, Arizona shootings (Wigley and Fontenot, 2011)
“If you get any more than a hundred comments it becomes impossible to write the live blog and read the comments”

Matt Wells

Andrew Sparrow – works “with a relatively narrow patch of usual suspects”

Matthew Weaver: “I’ll be doing Syria or Yemen, and I won’t be looking at generic search terms, I’ll be looking at lists of people who we know are there”
Spike

Social Sensor

Geofeedia
• Identify **original news** on social media
• Assess the **reliability** of social media **contributors**
• Identify **trends**
• **Updates** on running stories
• Identify **sentiment**
Geofeedia
The President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, says he will mobilise African countries to pull out of the International Criminal

getting into another p is not
18 times Taylor Swift was right about everything in 2014
Where does plastic in the ocean end up?

The budget deal gives the Pentagon just as much money as it got during the Iraq War

Jesse Jackson, Tim Cook and the ‘storming’ of Apple HQ http://t.co/FLz0y0zo01

Nadhim Zahawi @nadhimzahawi
Great to meet with the Stratford Town Transport Group and honoured to be asked to formally join it http://t.co/KJ0xQa1KsQ

The Irish Times @IrishTimes
David Cameron lacks desire to engage with Northern Ireland http://t.co/qaME

Sugarscape @sugarscape
Is Mel B going to miss the X Factor Final due to illness? Guap. http://t.co/EuX7tZWtLO http://t.co/2xrrWKdpdW

Fashionista.com @Fashionista.com
The best gifts are the ones that smell amazing, right? http://t.co/mQ09eL9vLO http://t.co/hbJzdySGwk

The Paris Review @parisreview
“We cannot step even once in the same river. We cannot step even once in the same text.” – Harold Bloom.

CS Monitor @csmonitor
Estonia is accepting applications for ‘e-residency’ is it the end of the nation state as we know it? http://t.co/XXwEZtw7V
Glasgow-based artist Duncan Campbell wins the 2014 Turner Prize for his video, It for Others

Tweets and status updates

Morning Ireland @morningireland
DuncanCampbell spoke to us about It For Others, his winning Turner Prize film entry http://t.co/bAHq3vjpy6. http://t.co/NI4zSf2qEq

Headlines

Duncan Campbell wins the Turner Prize 2014 | Tate
www.tate.org.uk  14 hours

Innovative Filmmaker Wins Turner Prize for Art - NYTimes.com
Glasgow-based artist Duncan Campbell wins the 2014 Turner Prize for his video, It for Others
Glasgow-based artist Duncan Campbell wins the 2014 Turner Prize for his video, It for Others.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Newswire</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Google Plus</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay legalizes cannabis</td>
<td>23:49 Dec 10</td>
<td>11:55 Dec 11</td>
<td>01:21 Dec 11</td>
<td>02:35 Dec 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bubonic plague outbreak</td>
<td>17:24 Dec 10</td>
<td>19:30 Dec 11</td>
<td>18:00 Dec 12</td>
<td>00:22 Dec 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google removes privacy feature</td>
<td>09:25 Dec 12</td>
<td>09:48 Dec 12</td>
<td>07:25 Dec 14</td>
<td>09:50 Dec 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Car bomb in Mali</td>
<td>09:48 Dec 14</td>
<td>09:48 Dec 14</td>
<td>19:18 Dec 14</td>
<td>14:04 Dec 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter O’Toole dies</td>
<td>17:17 Dec 15</td>
<td>18:21 Dec 15</td>
<td>21:20 Dec 15</td>
<td>01:18 Dec 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jameis Winston wins Heisman</td>
<td>02:01 Dec 15</td>
<td>03:19 Dec 15</td>
<td>03:59 Dec 15</td>
<td>02:37 Dec 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Fontaine dies</td>
<td>00:42 Dec 16</td>
<td>01:05 Dec 16</td>
<td>02:29 Dec 16</td>
<td>06:01 Dec 16</td>
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<td>Google buys Boston Dynamics</td>
<td>06:27 Dec 14</td>
<td>08:40 Dec 14</td>
<td>05:04 Dec 15</td>
<td>08:10 Dec 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Bachelet elected</td>
<td>22:09 Dec 15</td>
<td>03:56 Dec 16</td>
<td>05:36 Dec 16</td>
<td>22:28 Dec 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>RnR Hall of Fame inductions</td>
<td>04:25 Dec 17</td>
<td>04:37 Dec 17</td>
<td>07:43 Dec 17</td>
<td>13:07 Dec 17</td>
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<td>Two sentenced for drug smuggling</td>
<td>16:00 Dec 17</td>
<td>17:46 Dec 17</td>
<td>16:00 Dec 17</td>
<td>19:18 Dec 17</td>
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<td>Angela Merkel reelected</td>
<td>14:03 Dec 17</td>
<td>09:24 Dec 17</td>
<td>13:44 Dec 17</td>
<td>07:21 Dec 18</td>
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<td>Australia wins Ashes</td>
<td>05:45 Dec 17</td>
<td>06:14 Dec 17</td>
<td>06:24 Dec 17</td>
<td>06:05 Dec 17</td>
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<td>Gonzalo Inzunza Inzunza killed</td>
<td>19:26 Dec 18</td>
<td>20:26 Dec 18</td>
<td>00:54 Dec 19</td>
<td>00:36 Dec 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ronnie Biggs dies</td>
<td>07:43 Dec 18</td>
<td>07:04 Dec 18</td>
<td>12:45 Dec 18</td>
<td>10:33 Dec 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apollo Theatre ceiling collapses</td>
<td>20:30 Dec 19</td>
<td>20:31 Dec 19</td>
<td>21:08 Dec 19</td>
<td>09:40 Dec 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada overrains prostitution laws</td>
<td>11:00 Dec 19</td>
<td>17:20 Dec 19</td>
<td>09:15 Dec 20</td>
<td>07:38 Dec 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shinzo Abe visits Yasukuni shrine</td>
<td>02:11 Dec 26</td>
<td>01:52 Dec 26</td>
<td>05:15 Dec 26</td>
<td>03:22 Dec 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joaquin Guzman heart attack</td>
<td>08:15 Dec 26</td>
<td>11:22 Dec 26</td>
<td>00:10 Dec 27</td>
<td>17:41 Dec 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Identify **original news** on social media
• **Assess the reliability** of social media **contributors**?
• Identify **trends**
• **Updates** on running stories
• Identify **sentiment**?
Syria massacre in Houla condemned as outrage grows

This image - which cannot be independently verified - is believed to show the bodies of children in Houla awaiting burial
Ex-NSA chief shot dead at LAX, Los Angeles Police say

REUTERS AND ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published Friday, Nov. 01 2013, 1:11 PM EDT
Last updated Friday, Nov. 01 2013, 1:42 PM EDT

LAPD is reporting Ex-NSA chief Michael Hayden has been shot dead at LAX. Radical Christian group has claimed responsibility on its website.

Earlier, the Los Angeles International Airport said on Friday that police were responding to an incident at the airport and California media reported that a gunman with a high powered rifle was shot by law enforcement.

The airport said on social media that there was "an incident underway at LAX." A local CBS affiliate reported that a gunman had been shot and secured by law enforcement, and that some passengers were being evacuated from a terminal.

Witness Brian Keech said he heard "about a dozen gunshots" from inside the security gate at Terminal 3.

Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey said emergency crews have responded to a multi-patient incident.

The incident was reported after 9:30 a.m.
Mind Blowing
@TheMindBlowing

A shark was photographed swimming in the front yard of a flooded home in Brigantine Beach, New Jersey #sandy pic:


8,117 RETWEETS 1,338 FAVORITES
Justin Hart
@justin_hart

Wow... the missing kid Sunil Tripathi sure does look like suspect #2...
Calculating Social Media Contributors’ Credibility in Social Sensor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of tweets</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of retweets</td>
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<td>Ratio of followers/following</td>
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<td>Verified by Twitter</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popularity</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

Professor Neil Thurman
Neil.thurman@ifkw.lmu.de
@neilthurman