

# James Benedict



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## Experience

### Reuters News Agency - Washington D.C. (remote)

#### News Apprentice, March - August 2017

Reported for an investigative series about Tasers with the national desk. Helped populate our database with original reporting and cowrote a story. Conducted interviews, gathered primary documents and researched using media/legal databases.

### Daily Monitor - Kampala, Uganda

#### HIV Reporting Intern, May - June 2016

Reported on HIV medication shortages and patient records for East Africa's largest independent newspaper. Wrote a story for an Ugandan audience and another for an American. Made photos and developed a website for the story. Studied at African Centre for Media Excellence.

### Indiana Daily Student - Bloomington, IN

#### Digital Redesign Manager, February - April 2017

Worked with editorial, advertising and a contracted CMS provider to redesign site. Focused on improving mobile retention and streamlining organization. Tested and revised mockups based on user feedback.

#### Investigations Reporter, January - December 2016

Analyzed and visualized data. Created maps, charts, and custom websites. Stories on campaign finance, campus crime and health care.

#### Digital Director, August - December 2015

Managed editors producing interactive and social content. Created multiple responsive websites and data visualizations. Developed well documented software. Managed homepage during breaking news.

#### Digital Editor, January - May 2015

Produced interactive graphics, websites and videos. Introduced analytics into editorial meetings. Developed a digital style guide.

#### Photographer, Jan 2014 - Dec 2016

Made photo essays, breaking news, and illustrations. Designed websites for optimal photo layouts. Covered beats. Toned and selected own photos.

### Society for News Design - Bloomington, IN

#### Designer, June 2015 - June 2017

Designed pages for the 36th-38th "Best of News Design Book". Wrote software to improve efficiency on the 38th book.

#### President and Treasurer, October 2016 - May 2017

Managed the club and organized designers for the SND38 Book. Responsible for managing a \$10 thousand budget.

#### Facilitator, January 2016 - January 2017

Facilitated the SND37 and 38 contests by helping select individual pages to appear in the book from the winning entries.

## Education

### Indiana University, May 2017

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism  
Certificate in Informatics (28 credits)  
GPA 3.59

## Awards

### Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle

1st Photo Illustration, 2015  
1st News Feature - Digital, 2014

### Society for Professional Journalists

National Finalist Online News Reporting,  
2016

### Indiana Collegiate Press Association

2nd Animation / Interactive Graphic, 2017  
1st News Feature Reporting Online, 2016  
2nd Informational Graphic, 2016  
1st Feature and Sports Photo Yearbook, 2016  
1st News Photo, 2016  
2nd Photo Essay, 2015

## Skills

### Web Development

Javascript/JQuery, HTML, CSS/SASS,  
D3, TopoJSON, Leaflet, handlebars,  
tabletop, Git, Gulp, Basic PHP,  
Responsive and templated design.

### Data analysis

Python, SQL, Excel, Web scraping,  
Relational database design, Pandas,  
Numpy, Jupyter notebook, Linear  
regression, Statistics.

### Additional

Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, QGIS, AP  
Style, FOIA Requests, DSLR Photography,  
Videography, Nexis, Westlaw.

## Objective

Powerful institutions are becoming less accountable to the public. At the same time, new technologies make it easier to propagate misinformation and diminish the gatekeeper role of journalists. I want to address these problems by making complex investigative journalism more accessible with user centered design. It shouldn't be challenging for citizens to understand the stories that most affect their lives.