

James Benedict



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Experience

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

News Apprentice, March 2017 - Present

Reported for an investigative series about Taser usage with the national desk. Helped populate the main 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 issues with patient records for East Africa's largest independent newspaper. Spoke with sources ranging from the president's personal doctor and senior advisor to the fisherfolk. Wrote one story for an Ugandan audience and another for an American. Studied at African Centre for Media Excellence.

Indiana Daily Student (IDS) - Bloomington, IN

Digital Redesign Manager, February - April 2017

Worked with editorial, advertising and a contracted CMS provider to redesign the website. Focused on improving UI and mobile retention. Created multiple mockups and written technical guide for submission.

Investigations Reporter, January - December 2016

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

Digital Director, August - December 2015

Managed editors producing interactive and social content. Developed in-house software and wrote detailed documentation. Managed homepage during breaking news. Oversaw and produced multiple longform digital projects.

Digital Editor, January - May 2015

Produced interactive graphics, websites and videos. Created content specifically for social media and introduced analytics into editorial meetings. Developed a digital style guide.

Photographer, Jan 2014 - Dec 2016

Made news photos and photo illustrations. Made feature photo essays and breaking news photos. Had beats including men's basketball during NCAA tournament. 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 speed up organizing 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 from the winning entries to appear in the book.

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

Skills

Web Development

HTML, CSS/SASS, Javascript/JQuery,
D3, Leaflet, Mapbox, CartoDB, Git,
handlebars, tabletop, Responsive and
templated design, Clear documentation.

Data analysis

Python, MySQL, Excel, Scraping, Regex,
Relational database design, Pandas,
Matplot, Jupyter notebook, Linear
regression, Discrete math, Statistics.

Additional

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

Objective

Make complicated stories more approachable by finding compelling stories in large datasets, creating clear explanatory graphics and accessible user interfaces.