Library research

Al tools and workflow of investigative journalist

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Introduction

Al is revolutionizing the world of investigative journalism by transforming how we interact with information. With Al-powered tools and techniques, journalists can now process enormous amounts of data, detect patterns, and generate insights that were previously impossible. In this paper, I explore the integration of Al into the workflow of investigative journalism, providing examples and references to current research and tools. We first outline the role of Al in data collection and analysis, before discussing its applications in fact-checking, source verification, and image and video analysis. Finally, we reflect on the limitations and benefits of Al for investigative journalism and suggest areas for future research.

Data Collection and Analysis:

The first step in any investigation is data collection. With the proliferation of online information, the amount of data available for journalists to work with has exploded. Alpowered tools can help journalists process this vast amount of data by automating tasks such as scraping websites and social media, analyzing documents, and extracting key information. For instance, **DocumentCloud**, a tool developed by the Center for Investigative Reporting, allows journalists to upload and analyze thousands of documents at once, saving them hours of manual labor. Another example is the use of machine learning algorithms to identify patterns in data, such as anomalies or trends that may indicate a larger story. One such tool is **GDELT**, which tracks news coverage across the world and uses natural language processing to identify patterns and trends.

Fact-Checking and Source Verification:

Al can also be used to fact-check and verify information. This is especially important in the era of fake news and misinformation. Several tools have been developed to assist journalists in this task, such as **Full Fact**, which uses machine learning algorithms to automatically fact-check statements made by politicians and public figures. In terms of source verification, tools like **InVID and First Draft** allow journalists to verify the authenticity of images and videos by analyzing metadata, source information, and visual content.

Image and Video Analysis:

Visual content is becoming increasingly important in investigative journalism, as images and videos often provide crucial evidence for stories. Al can be used to analyze and process

visual content, making it easier for journalists to detect patterns, identify objects, and recognize faces. For instance, object detection algorithms can be used to identify weapons, vehicles, and other objects in images and videos, as demonstrated in a study by Bhuyan et al. (2021). Similarly, facial recognition technology can be used to identify individuals in images and videos, as well as track their movements over time.

Conclusion:

Al has the potential to revolutionize the way investigative journalism is conducted, providing journalists with new tools and techniques for data collection, analysis, fact-checking, and source verification. However, it is important to recognize that Al is not a solution for all the challenges faced by journalists. It is important to be aware of the limitations and biases of Al, as well as the potential ethical concerns that may arise from its use. Nevertheless, Al has already made significant contributions to the field of investigative journalism, and we can expect to see even more exciting developments in the years to come. As journalists continue to struggle with the challenges of the digital age, Al will undoubtedly play a critical role in shaping the future of investigative journalism.

References:

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