



# Transforming the Studies in the News Workflow

An AI-Assisted Platform for the CRB Newsletter

---

The Studies in the News Workflow is an AI-assisted platform designed to streamline the weekly production of the CRB's Studies in the News newsletter, reducing manual coordination effort while maintaining quality and consistency across scouts, guest editors, and reviewers.

Status: Design Phase

# Our Work Informs California's Most Influential Leaders

The Studies in the News (SITN) newsletter is a critical resource, delivering timely, relevant, and high-quality research summaries. The quality and efficiency of our production process directly impact our ability to serve our key audience.

**5,500+**  
subscribers



## **State Policy Makers**

Rely on SITN for concise, unbiased information.



## **Legislative Staff**

Use our summaries for research and briefing.



## **CRB Researchers & Analysts**

Depend on the newsletter for situational awareness.

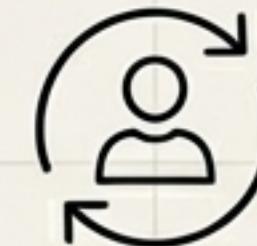
# A Dedicated Team Powers Every Issue

The weekly production of the SITN newsletter is a coordinated effort involving six key roles, each with specific responsibilities.



## Scouts

CRB researchers and librarians who monitor specific policy areas, find relevant studies, and write initial entries.



## Guest Editor

A rotating role filled by scouts, responsible for compiling all scout entries into the weekly newsletter draft.



## Supervisor

A CRB manager who provides edits and ensures high-level quality for each weekly issue.



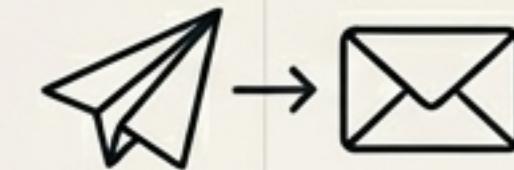
## Proofreader

Provides detailed edits, checking for grammar, style, and accuracy in each issue.



## Project Coordinator

Manages the overall logistics, documentation, and troubleshooting to ensure the process runs smoothly week-to-week.

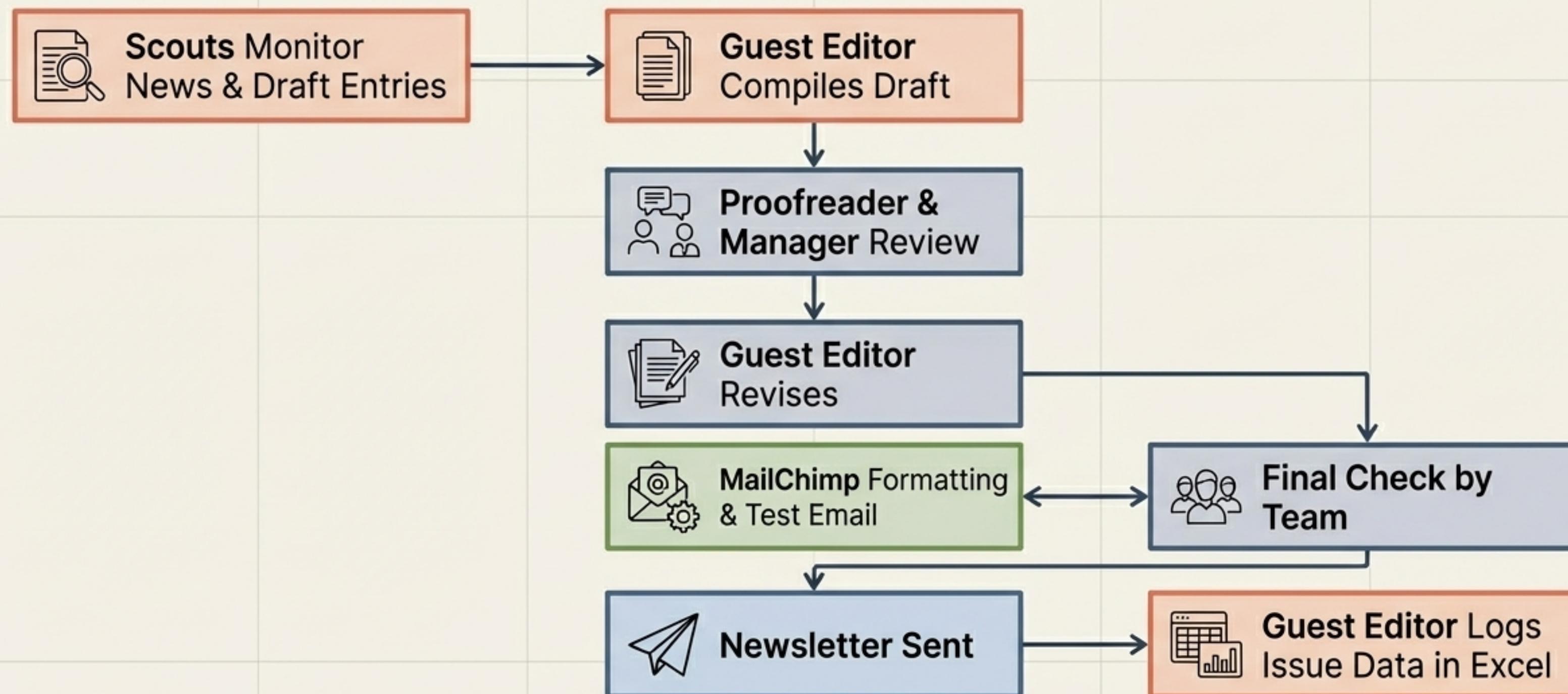


## Mailchimp Guru

Takes the final Word document draft and loads it into Mailchimp, manages testing, and schedules the final send.

# Visualizing the Current Weekly Production Cycle

Our Friday-to-Wednesday timeline involves a complex sequence of manual compilations, reviews, and formatting checks, creating significant time pressure.



# Our Process Offers Opportunities for Improvement

The current production process relies on multiple manual steps across fragmented systems (OneDrive, Teams, MailChimp, Excel), creating significant friction and risk.



## Time-Consuming Coordination

Constant manual handoffs between scouts, guest editors, and reviewers.



## Inconsistent Quality

Varying interpretations of guidelines lead to inconsistent entry quality.



## Limited Scalability

Rotating roles and manual copy/paste workflows create process friction and are difficult to scale.



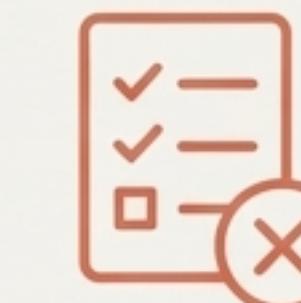
## Knowledge Silos

Processes are memory-dependent with minimal formal documentation.



## Reduced Efficiency

4-5 sets of eyes are required on each issue, straining limited staff resources.

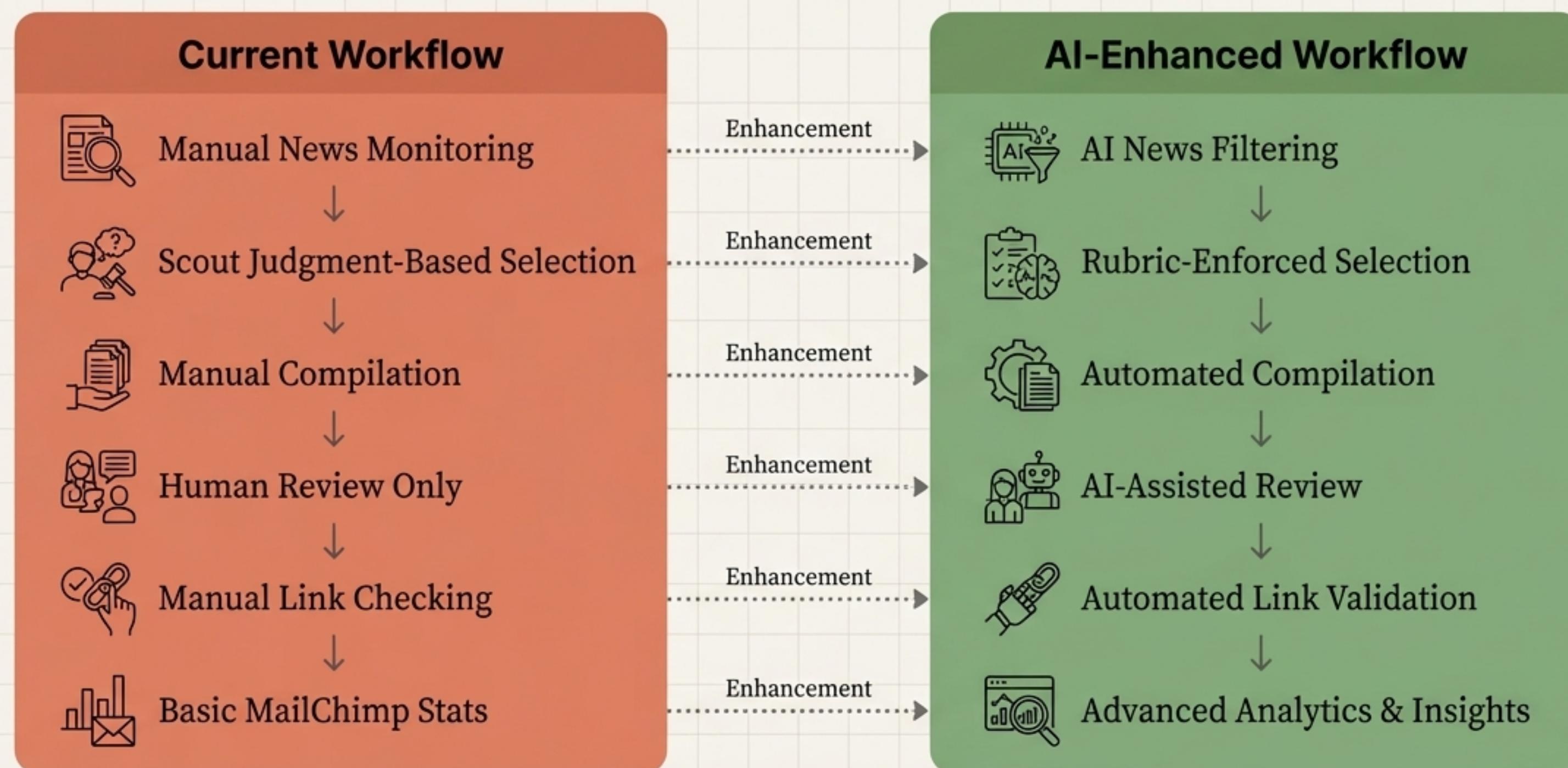


## No Automated Quality Checks

Manual detection of bias, methodology issues, duplicates, and broken links.

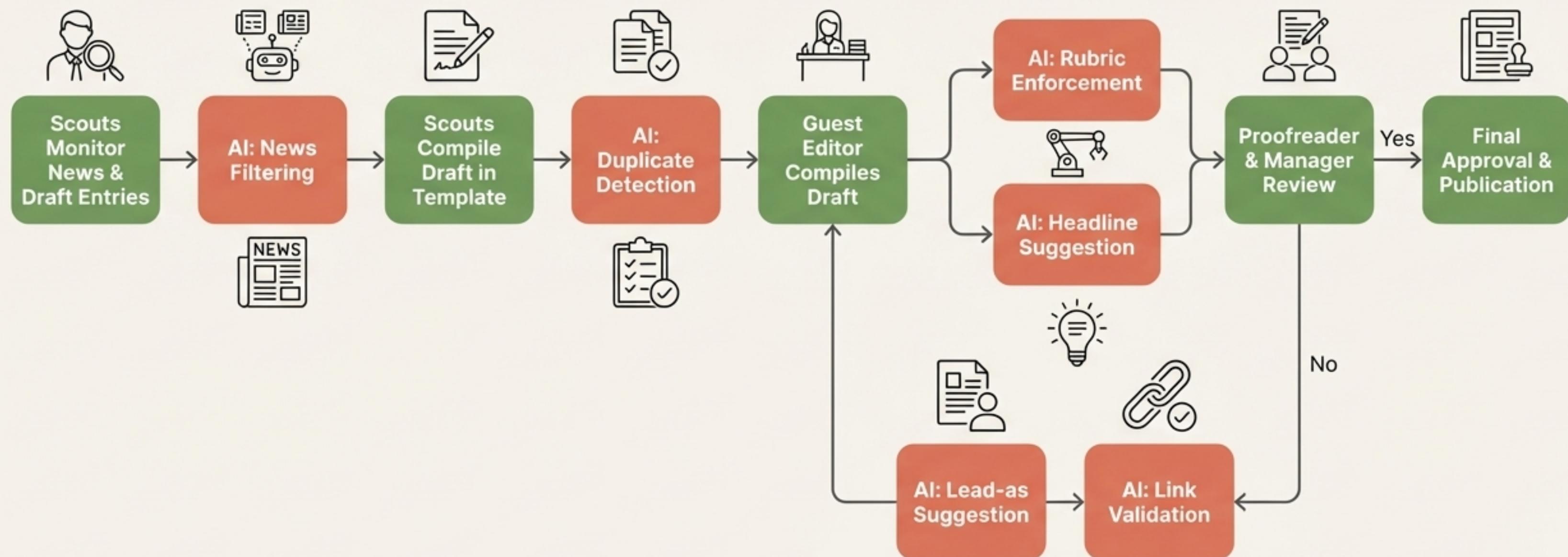
# The Solution: A Unified Platform to Automate, Assist, and Analyze

We are building a Next.js-powered web application that centralizes the entire workflow, leveraging AI to enhance each stage of the process from content discovery to analytics.



# Our Future State: An AI-Enhanced Workflow

The new application embeds intelligent automation directly into the production cycle, reducing manual tasks and empowering the team to focus on high-value work.



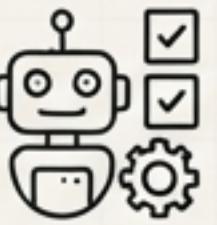
# Core Capabilities of the New Platform

The application is built around six core capabilities designed to address every stage of the newsletter production lifecycle.



## 1. Scout Workflow Management

Centralized content discovery, entry creation, and submission tracking.



## 2. AI-Assisted Quality Control

Automated rubric enforcement, bias detection, and methodology checks.



## 3. Guest Editor Dashboard

Streamlined compilation interface with automated duplicate detection.



## 4. Collaborative Review System

Integrated editing and approval workflow with real-time collaboration.



## 5. MailChimp Integration

Automated formatting and test email distribution.

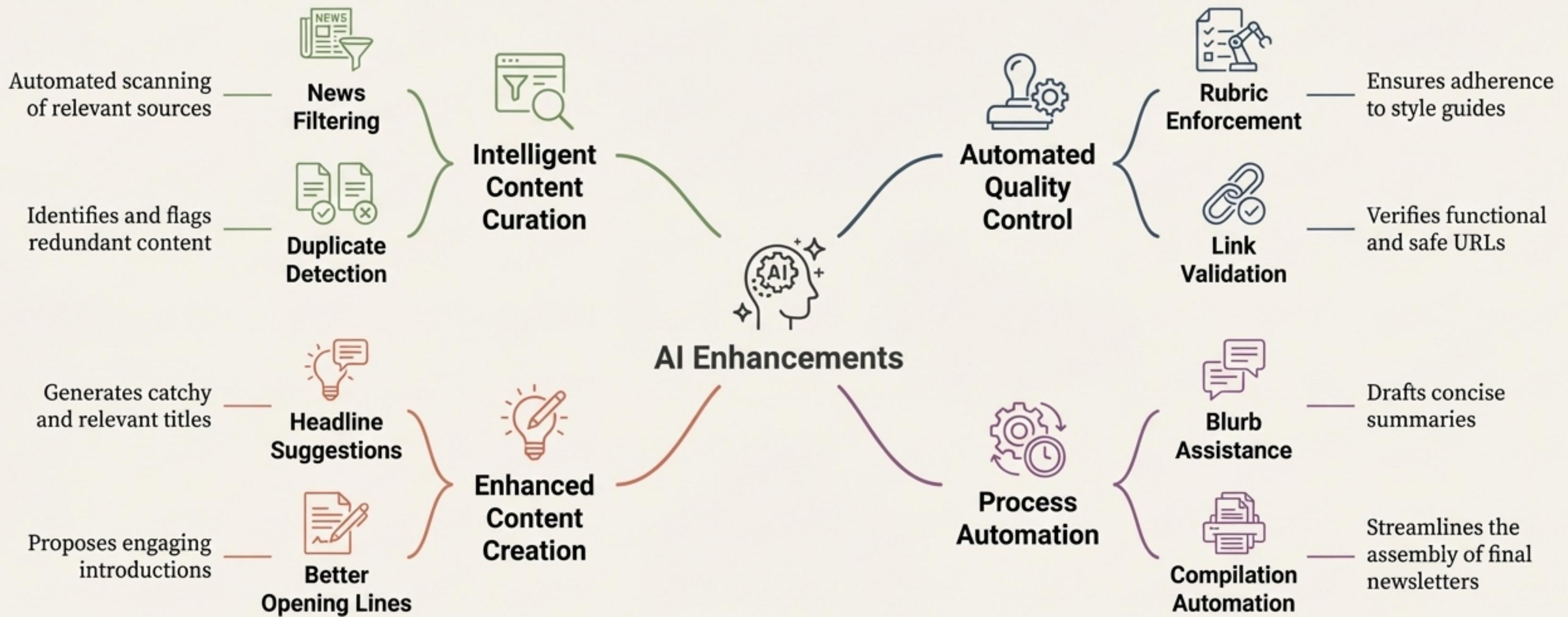


## 6. Analytics & Insights

Engagement tracking, policy relevance scoring, and feedback collection.

# How AI Will Elevate Our Workflow

AI enhancements are strategically applied across the workflow to improve efficiency, quality, and content engagement.



# A Human-Centered Design Built for Our Team

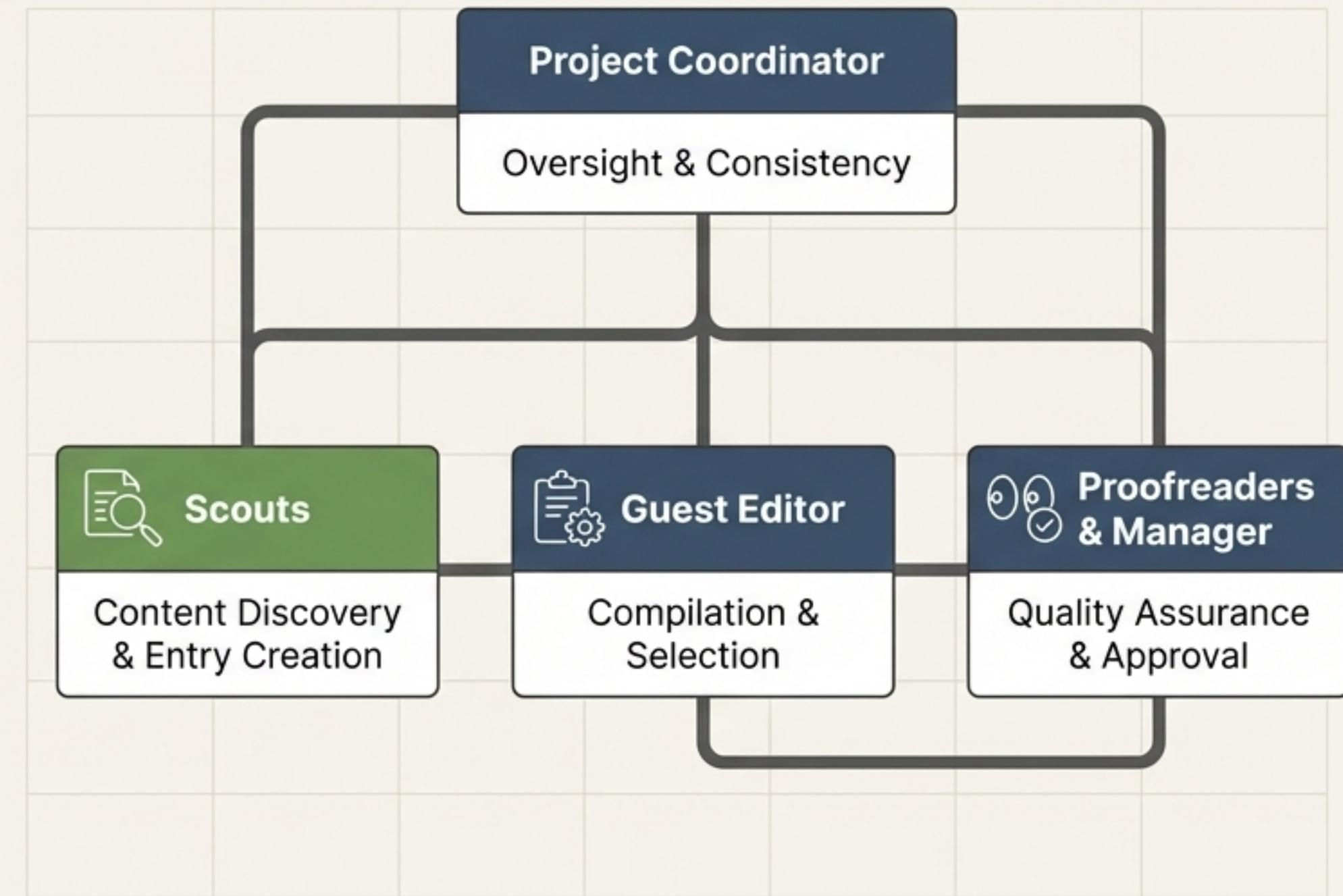
Every feature is directly mapped to the needs of the people who produce the SITN newsletter, from initial content discovery to final approval.

**For Scouts:** Clear guidelines and real-time AI feedback to create high-quality entries efficiently.

**For Guest Editors:** An automated dashboard to streamline compilation and eliminate manual duplicate checks.

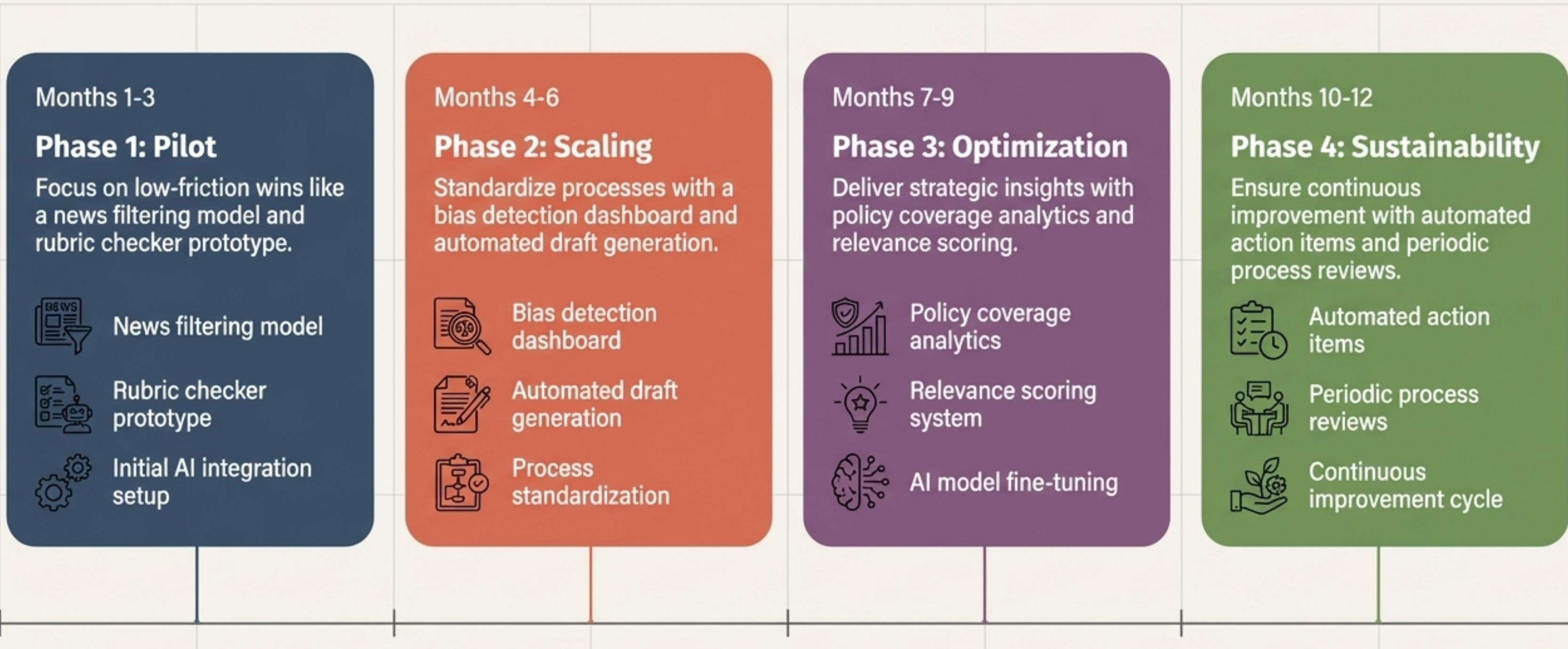
**For Proofreaders & Manager:** An integrated review system with automated link validation and headline suggestions to focus on quality assurance.

**For the Project Coordinator:** A holistic view of the entire process to ensure consistency and reduce manual oversight.



# Our Phased Implementation Roadmap

We will deliver value incrementally over a 12-month period, starting with low-friction wins and progressing to full-scale optimization and sustainability.



# How We Will Measure Success

The project's success will be evaluated against specific, measurable improvements in efficiency, quality, and staff satisfaction.



Time to Compile Draft  
**< 2 hours**



Review Cycle Time  
**< 4 hours**



Duplicate Prevention  
**100% detection**



Link Validation  
**100% valid links**



Quality Consistency  
**> 90% rubric compliance**



Staff Time Saved  
**> 30% reduction in manual effort**



Process Satisfaction  
**> 4.0 / 5.0**

# The Strategic Impact: More Time for High-Value Work

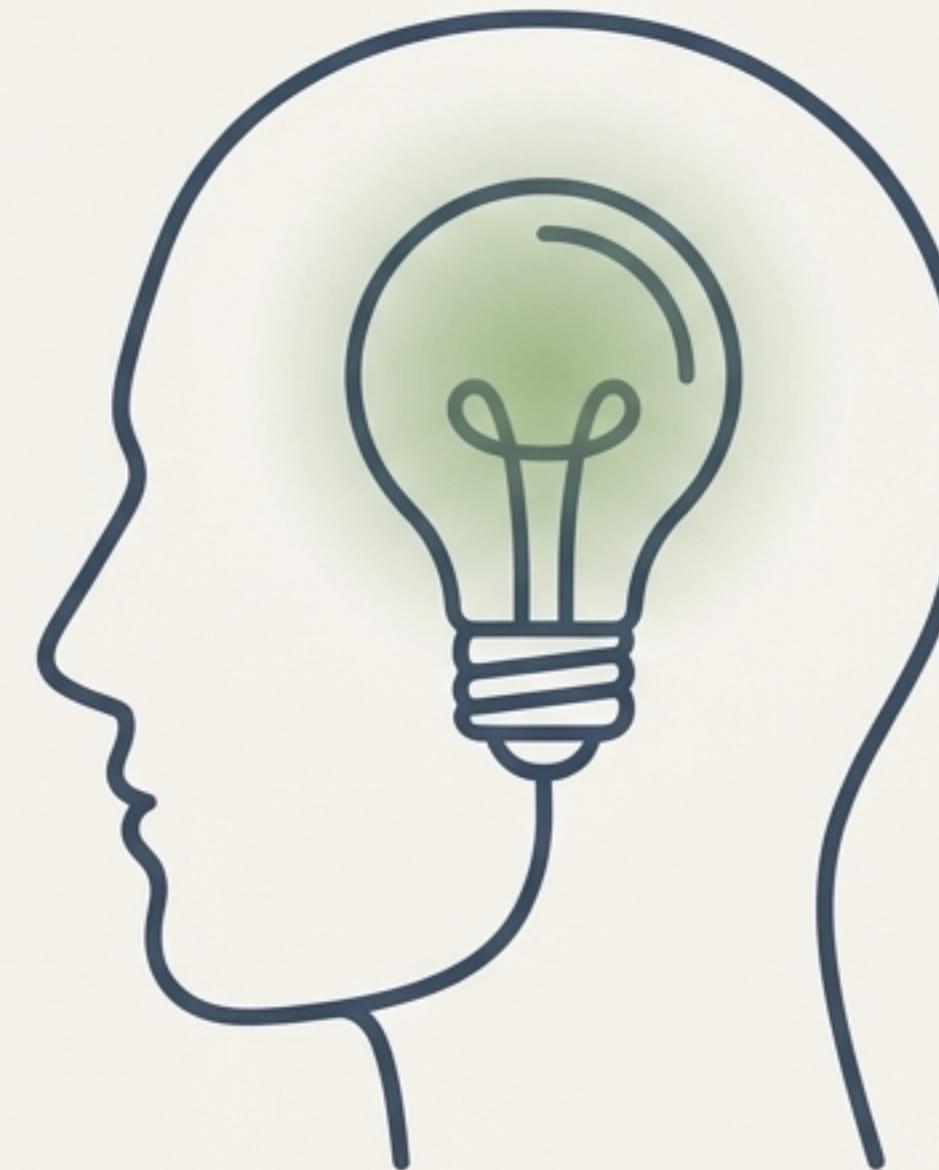
By transforming our workflow, we are not just building a tool; we are investing in our ability to deliver exceptional value to our readers. This platform will empower the CRB team by driving key improvements across the board.

## Increased Efficiency

Radically reducing time spent on manual coordination and repetitive tasks.

## Greater Scalability

Seamlessly supporting rotating roles and future growth without process degradation.



## Enhanced Quality

Ensuring consistency and accuracy through automated checks and rubric enforcement.

## Higher Staff Satisfaction

Freeing up team members to focus on strategic analysis and content curation, not process management.

# Built on a Modern and Scalable Technology Stack

The application leverages a cloud-native architecture to ensure performance, reliability, and security.

- \* **Frontend:** A responsive web application built with Next.js 16.
- \* **Backend:** Serverless logic and AI runtime powered by Firebase and Cloud Run.
- \* **Data Layer:** Secure and scalable data management using Firestore, Storage, and external APIs.
- \* **AI Engine:** Intelligence driven by Gemini models via the Genkit framework.

