

# Tom Meagher

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Digital First Media, New York, N.Y.**

Data Editor

August 2012 – present

- Lead a team of journalist-developers at Project Thunderdome, the centralized news hub for Digital First Media, the nation's second-largest newspaper chain. We build interactive web applications, support computer-assisted reporting projects in local newsrooms and offer training in data analysis and visualization. DFM's journalists reach 67 million Americans each month through more than 75 daily papers and hundreds of other products across 17 states.

### **The Star-Ledger, Newark, N.J.**

235,000 daily circ.

Data Editor

December 2010 – August 2012

- Oversaw a team of reporters and researchers charged with developing enterprise stories using computer-assisted reporting techniques. Also focused on presenting and visualizing data online.

News editor

February 2009 – December 2010

- Directed seven reporters covering towns in two counties for *The Star-Ledger's* New Jersey Local News Service. My reporters broke dozens of front-page stories, including one on \$30 million in public money squandered on a malfunctioning regional sewage plant.

### **Herald News, West Paterson, N.J.**

30,000 daily circ.

City Editor

December 2007 – February 2009

- Led 13 reporters and four editors to cover three cities and their surrounding suburbs. During my tenure, the paper was honored as the state's best small daily. Focused on strong watchdog coverage, coaching reporters through stories about imprisoned firefighters forging documents for work-release programs and contractors who duped homeowners into unneeded mortgages.

Computer-assisted reporter

June 2006 – December 2007

- Responsible for databases and mapping, one of my stories exposed a deal between the mayor and a developer that cost the nearly-bankrupt city of Paterson more than \$10 million.

City government reporter

July 2004 – May 2006

- Covering Paterson, I consistently broke stories of import to our readers, from city lawyers sexually harassing secretaries during public meetings to a housing agency wasting thousands in federal money on flower arrangements.

Early in my career, I worked as the night cops reporter for the *Lawrence Journal-World*, as a sports stringer for the *Associated Press*, interned in Washington, D.C. for the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*, and, in college, was a reporter and copy editor at the *Columbia Missourian*.

## EDUCATION

**Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism** Master of Science, 2004  
**University of Missouri** Bachelors of Journalism and of Arts in English, 1999

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Data analysis with SQL and relational database managers
- Web scraping and data cleaning with Python, regular expressions and Google Refine
- Mapping and geospatial analysis with ArcGIS, Google Maps and Fusion Tables
- Version control with Git
- Web development in HTML, CSS, JS, Python, Flask, Django

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Co-founded Hack Jersey, bringing coders and journalists together to unlock public data and build open source applications.
- Teach at conferences on topics such as programming in Python, version control using Git and Github, cleaning data with Google Refine and mapping in ArcGIS.
- Graduate of IRE's 2006 Computer-Assisted Reporting boot camp, 2007 Advanced CAR Statistics boot camp and 2011 Django mini-boot camp.

## SELECTED HONORS

- Led Thunderdome data team that won two 1st place awards in the 2012 Connecticut SPJ contest, recognizing our news application for the Newtown shootings and an investigation of Connecticut schools superintendents' contracts.
- During my tenure as city editor, the Herald News won the New Jersey Press Association's 2008 General Excellence award for best small daily in the state.
- 1st place in Enterprise Reporting in New Jersey SPJ's 2005 Excellence in Journalism awards for "A Temporary Life – Low Wages, Strong Backs."