

Tom Meagher

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EXPERIENCE

The Marshall Project, New York, N.Y.

Deputy Managing Editor
Data Editor

April 2015 - present
June 2014 – April 2015

Part of the team that launched this non-profit, investigative newsroom covering the U.S. criminal justice system, I work with other reporters to find, crunch, analyze and visualize data for their stories. I'm also one of the editors who created "The Next To Die," a structured journalism experiment covering executions in America.

Digital First Media, New York, N.Y.

Data Editor

August 2012 – May 2014

Ran a team of journalist-developers at Project Thunderdome, the centralized news hub for Digital First Media, the nation's second-largest newspaper chain. We built interactive web applications, supported computer-assisted reporting projects in the company's 75 local newsrooms and offered training in data analysis and visualization.

The Star-Ledger, Newark, N.J.

Data Editor
News editor

December 2010 – August 2012
February 2009 – December 2010

As the data editor at the largest paper in New Jersey, I oversaw a team of reporters and researchers charged with developing enterprise stories using computer-assisted reporting techniques.

Earlier, at the Star-Ledger's New Jersey Local News Service, I directed seven reporters covering towns in two counties. 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.

City Editor
Computer-assisted reporter
City government reporter

December 2007 – February 2009
June 2006 – December 2007
July 2004 – May 2006

As City Editor, I led 13 reporters and four editors covering three cities and their surrounding suburbs. Focused on strong watchdog coverage, I coached reporters through stories about imprisoned firefighters forging documents for work-release programs and contractors who duped homeowners into unneeded mortgages.

While CAR reporter, I was responsible for databases and mapping, and one of my stories exposed a deal between the Paterson's mayor and a developer that cost the nearly-bankrupt city more than \$10 million.

Early in my career, I worked as a 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, to bring coders and journalists together to unlock public data and build open source news projects.
- Teach at conferences on topics including 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."