

REPORTER SOCIALIZATION ON DAILY NEWSPAPERS IN FLORIDA

By

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This study probes the newsroom processes by which the beat reporter on Florida daily newspapers becomes socialized into his role. The study analyzes the various agents which help to contribute to the reporter's training and understanding of his functions.

The study entailed a survey of the city hall beat reporters at each of Florida's 51 daily newspapers. Interviews with a selected group of respondents were also conducted as part of the data gathering process.

Analysis of data from both the interviews and survey provides a description of the processes of interaction in the newsroom which help the reporter to learn his role and functions.

The results of the study showed that, as a group, city hall beat reporters in this study were primarily influenced by their editors. Job experience and individual personal demands were also important factors in the socialization process. Education, the newspaper organization, reporting organizations, and peers were found to be much less important influences.

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