

Data literacy for journalists

Background

Data is an essential element in deriving insight of an issue. In journalism, the incorporation of data in story articles is widely adopted for it allows one to discover and communicate the truth in a compelling way. To produce data-driven journalism pieces, data skill such as data collection and analysis is a prerequisite. However, working with data might be a major challenge for journalists to embrace data-driven story production.

As an organization that promotes open data, ODC recognizes the challenge and need for journalists to obtain data skills in order to produce data stories. For this reason, ODC is preparing a training program on Data Literacy for Journalists intended to fill the capacity of journalists to produce data stories.

This training program is part of the Innovation for Social Accountability (ISAC) project in collaboration with FHI 360 and funded by USAID.

Objective

The training aims to equip enthusiastic journalists with the skill to produce compelling data-driven stories on **issues around social accountability**. The course will cover five modules: fundamental understanding of data, data standardization, data analytics, introduction to feature story production, and organizing a data story.

This training is a four-days program split into 2 phases which the first phase will take place on **27-28 April** and on **11-12 May** for the second phase.

Benefits

- Obtain data skills such as data collection, data cleaning, data analysis, and data storytelling.
- Expand the capabilities to produce data-driven stories.
- Opportunity to apply for the story production grant.
- Receive mentorship support for the story production once receive the story grant.

Eligibility

- Being a journalist and enthusiastic about learning and applying new skills.
- Has least basic knowledge and skill in using data and spreadsheet tools such as MS Excel and Google Sheets.
- Journalist who is interested or seeks to produce stories around the social accountability sector.
- Having the commitment to complete the four-day training courses.
- Have a basic understanding of English language/be able to read and write in English

How to apply



Please register via [this link](#). The applicants will be shortlisted, and the successful candidates will be announced on the ODC FB post and informed individually via email.

Interested applicants are requested to fill in the application form **by 5:00p.m. 10 April 2023**.

Training modules

Module 1: Fundamental understanding of data

This module will cover the concept of how data work in data storytelling and the fundamental understanding of data. The participants will be introduced to the process of using data to tell story about a policy, fundamental of data, finding data online using Google Advanced Search and data portal, and validating data. The participant is expected to conceptually understand how data is used to tell story, understand what data they can use look like, understand the different classifications of data, be able to effectively find data they need online, and validate those datasets.

Module 2: Data standardization

This module will cover the basic concept of the structure and format of data standard, and techniques in cleaning data using Google Sheets. The participants will be introduced to the concept of tabular data structure, common data format, components of tabular data standard, common issues in datasets, and various data cleaning techniques in Google Sheets. The participant is expected to grow their knowledge on tabular data standards, be able to spot issues in datasets, and perform data cleaning techniques in Google Sheets.

Module 3: Data analytics

This module will cover the concept of hypothesis, basic data analysis, and data visualization. The participant will learn to develop a viable hypothesis for data story production, learn the concept of basic statistics, and data analysis functions in Google Sheets, producing an effective and compelling visualization. The participants are expected to be capable of forming a viable story hypothesis, performing data analysis using Google Sheets and producing and designing compelling visualization using Flourish.

Module 4: Introduction to feature story production

This module will touch upon the fundamental concept of feature story and will be taught by a Cambodian journalism expert. The participants will learn the structure and components of a good feature story, and the step-by-step process of story production. The participant is expected to internalize the concept of feature journalism and be capable of adopting the step-by-step process of feature story production.

Module 5: Organizing data story



This module will complement the concept of feature story production by introducing the participant to the process of generating insight from the data finding and simplifying for ease of understanding. The participant will learn to humanize their data findings, learn the structure of data story and organize the insights into a story. The participant is expected to be capable of simplifying the data findings for the public audiences, generating insight, and organizing a data-driven story.

For more information, please contact:

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