

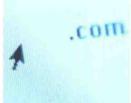


Media I O III

UNDERSTANDING MEDIA, CULTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY







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Preface Preface

We wrote this book to lead a new generation of textbooks about mass communication. Our focus is on all types of communication that are mediated by technology. We expanded the traditional focus to include new media that are rapidly changing our conceptions of "mass" media—and even blurring the meaning of that term—such as computers, the Internet, and the digital telecommunications infrastructure that underlies all the media. Our theme is that the convergence of these technologies is creating a new communications environment and is impacting the culture we all share. Our goal is to prepare students to thrive in that environment. Our approach is to provide an integrated treatment of traditional media and new media.

The specific reason we wrote this book is that we could not find an existing introductory mass communications textbook that adequately prepares our students for the real world as it stands today. Our title, *Media Now: Understanding Media, Culture, and Technology,* reflects our desire to focus on the cutting edge of both the traditional mass media (magazines, books, newspapers, radio, film, and television), the new media (cable, satellite, computer media, interactive television, the Internet, and digital telecommunications), and the culture that surrounds them.

We saw too many students diligently studying mass media in the traditional way, only to discover after graduation that the vast majority of today's real jobs require skills and a knowledge base that their textbooks had barely touched on. Students in media, advertising, journalism, and public relations now find jobs faster if they also know how to design and construct a Web page and how to find information on the Web. Many students find their first jobs in innovative places—with phone companies and Internet service providers, in corporate telecommunications departments and Web design firms, and so on—but discover they do not always know enough to succeed in these new environments.

Since our first edition was published, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 changed the rules to further encourage convergence and competition across media industries. That has led to fairly traditional combinations, such as the merging of movie studios, television networks,

and cable operations, but also to new alliances such as AOL Time Warner. And despite the recent downturn in the fortunes of Internet companies, the Web seemingly pervades all aspects of the daily lives of our students, from how they research their course papers to how they listen to music, to how they experience their own cultures.

This book shows where today's communications industries came from and how they got to where they are. But more importantly, it also seriously assesses their trajectories into the future. It helps students understand how mass media are being transformed as they converge with technologies such as the computer, Internet, and telephone. It helps them create a vision of their future in the information society and information economy.

Our purpose is not to be cheerleaders for communication technology. In fact, we raise critical and ethical issues about the implications of information technologies, parallel to our discussion of the implications of mass media. However, we have seen the lights turn on behind our students' eyes when we begin a class discussion with a headline from the morning paper. They realize that the convergence of technologies we are talking about is not dry history or mere speculation, but is really happening right now and affects them directly. It is important to expose them to—and to demystify—communications technologies and the economic and social forces that shape technology. This book is designed to help both professor and student do that.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

In this fourth edition, our goal is to widen our book's innovative coverage of the technology and the social and cultural implications of convergence. We have continued our in-depth coverage of traditional media, with full chapters for magazine and book publishing, newspapers, audio and radio, film, and TV. We have expanded and updated coverage of computer media, communications infrastructure, and the relationship between media and society, and media and the individual. We have also expanded our coverage of ethical issues and updated and revised information on policy and law.

Media Literacy

We have expanded our critical coverage and commentary on the communication industries. Students must gain both professional knowledge and critical appreciation of the changing communication media in order to understand media and prepare for careers in the area. Each media chapter now contains specific issue attention to political economy and to cultural impacts of the media. We focus throughout these chapters and in the law and policy chapter on changes in the concentration of ownership resulting from both industry imperatives and the deregulation in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. We also focus on the implications of many changes for the diversity of content and the quality of the information created. Our chapters have Media Literacy sections in which we focus on the key media issues that confront each sector of the media industry.

Media Ethics

We have added a chapter highlighting the ethical dilemmas that media professionals face. In an era of scandals that have touched all sectors of the communications industry, this topic deserves greater emphasis. Unlike other approaches to media ethics, ours places the issue in the broader context of corporate ethical practices. It also provides a focus on the ethical decisions of the media consumer, decisions that our students face every day as they consider whether to download a pirated movie or impersonate someone else in an Inernet chat room.

Updated Features

This book comes with a rich set of features to aid in learning:

- Glossary Key terms are defined in the margins, and a complete glossary is included in the back of the book.
- Time Lines Major events in each media industry are summarized in chart form.
- Boxed Features Boxed features are designed to target specific issues:
 - MEDIA & CULTURE highlights cultural issues in the media.
 - PROFILE focuses on key media figures.
 - MEDIA IMPACT examines the impact of some key aspect of media on the individual and society.
 - TECHNOLOGY DEMYSTIFIED explains technological background information simply.
 - TECHNOLOGY TRENDS (in select chapters) focuses on technological changes in the various media.

■ Electronic Resources Many of the boxes and sources cited contain electronic resources—places to look on the Internet or in InfoTrac College Edition for further information. (See next page for more information about this resource.)

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

For this edition, important resources have been enhanced:

- Media Connection CD-ROM This fourth edition of Media Now is created to work in concert with the newly created Media Connection CD-ROM—free to students when purchasing a new text. The CD-ROM immediately connects students with the media they're studying, and through it they can connect to the Media Now Web Site. These powerful resources enhance every chapter of the text by providing students with a large section of interactive and engaging resources.
 - Chapter ending screen grabs prompt students to link to the Media Connection CD-ROM.
 - Media in Motion concept animations help clarify hard-to-understand technical concepts. Taken from many of the text's illustrations, these animations allow students to view and interact with the material.
 - Chapter-related Critical View news clips from CNN® bring to life media concepts and theories through real news accounts.
 - Career Profiles with media professionals open students' eyes to the variety of media opportunities that are out there and show students how they can get their start. These short clips inform students how professionals got their starts in the media and what career opportunities are available.
 - Media Now Web Site. See next page for further details.
 - InfoTrac® College Edition. See next page for further details.
- Media Now Web Site: http://communication.wadsworth.com/media_now4 The Media Now Web Site can be accessed through the Media Connection CD-ROM providing students with essential chapter-by-chapter resources, including interactive chapter outlines, Web links, quizzes, exercises, InfoTrac College Edition activities, and more. The book's Stop and Review feature is enhanced by an on-line tutorial (with answers) at this Web site. Students also now have access to News Edge—an authoritative news service that delivers customized news feeds daily.

- InfoTrac College Edition Automatically packaged free with each new copy of the book, this world-class on-line university library offers the full text of nearly 10 million articles from almost 4,000 scholarly and popular publications, which include Advertising Age, American Journalism Review, Broadcasting and Cable, Communication World, Digital Media, New Media Age, Telecommunications, and thousands more! Both adopters and their students receive unlimited access for four months.
- Instructor's Resource Manual This essential manual includes chapter objectives, lecture outlines, suggested student assignments, InfoTrac College Edition exercises, worksheets for in-class discussion, test bank questions, sample syllabi, and a CNN Today video correlation guide for classroom use.
- WebTutor ToolBox for Blackboard or WebCT Preloaded with content and available free via pincode when packaged with this text, WebTutor ToolBox for Blackboard or WebCT pairs all the content of this text's rich Book Companion Web Site with all the sophisticated course management functionality of a Blackboard or WebCT product. You can assign materials (including online quizzes) and have the results flow automatically to your gradebook. ToolBox is ready to use as soon as you log on-or, you can customize its preloaded content by uploading images and other resources, adding Web links, or creating your own practice materials. Students have access only to student resources on the Web site. Instructors can enter a pincode for access to password-protected Instructor Resources. Contact your Thomson representative for information on packaging Web Tutor ToolBox with this text.
- ExamView Computerized Testing Create, deliver and customize tests and study guides (both print and on-line) in minutes with this easy-to-use assessment and tutorial system. ExamView offers both a Quick Test Wizard and an Online Test Wizard that guided you step-by-step through the process of creating tests, while its uinque "what-you-see-is-what-you-get" capability allows you to see the test you are creating on the screen exactly as it will print out or display on-line.
- Multimedia Manager for Media Now: A Microsoft® PowerPoint® Link Tool Invigorate your lectures with predesigned Microsoft PowerPoint presentations, containing hundreds of images, text, and cued CNN and student speech videos. The unique Media in Motion concept animations are also included in this dynamic tool.

- CNN Today Videos: Mass Communication A Wadsworth exclusive, these videos allow professors to integrate the newsgathering and programming power of CNN into the classroom to show students the relevance of media issues to their everyday lives and possible future careers. Each video in the series consists of approximagely 45 minutes of footage originally broadcast on CNN within the last several years. The videos are broken into short, one- to five-minute segments that are perfect for classroom use as lecture launchers or to illustrate key concepts.
- Media Literacy in Mass Communication: A Workbook This workbook encourages students to think critically about media with 45 engaging exercises.
- InfoTrac College Edition Student Activities Workbook for Mass Communication 2.0 Become a better on-line researcher with this helpful workbook containing numerous activities that can be completed using InfoTrac College Edition.

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