# Introduction to Mass Media Fourth Edition hirley Biagi

# Media/Impact

## AN introduction TO MASS MEDIA

FOURTH EDITION

#### SHIRLEY BIAGI

California State University, Sacramento



**Wadsworth Publishing Company** 

I⊕P<sup>®</sup>An International Thomson Publishing Company

Belmont, CA • Albany, NY • Bonn • Boston • Cincinnati • Detroit • Johannesburg • London • Madrid • Melbourne • Mexico City • New York • Paris • Singapore • Tokyo • Toronto • Washington

Publisher: Karen Allanson

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Project Editor: Cathy Linberg Print Buyer: Barbara Britton Permissions Editor: Susan Walters

Production: Electronic Publishing Services Inc., NYC Copy Editor: Electronic Publishing Services Inc., NYC

Interior and Cover Design: Studio Montage

Cover Image: PhotoDisc

Compositor: Electronic Publishing Services Inc., NYC

Printer: World Color Book Services, Taunton

Cover Printer: Phoenix Color

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Printed in the United States of America 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Sygma/Brooks Kraft; Chapter 2 PhotoEdit/Michael Newman; Chapter 3 Electronic Publishing Services Inc., NYC/Francis Hogan; Chapter 4 PhotoDisc, Inc.; Chapter 5 PhotoEdit/Deborah Davis; Chapter 6 Electronic Publishing Services Inc., NYC/Francis Hogan; Chapter 7 @ Uniphoto Picture Agency/ Peter Beck; Chapter 8 Electronic Publishing Services Inc., NYC/Francis Hogan: Chapter 9 Electronic Publishing Services Inc., NYC/Francis Hogan; Chapter 10 @ Goodby, Silverstein & Partners; Chapter 11 AP/Wide World Photos/ Nick Ut; Chapter 12 PhotoEdit/John Neubauer; Chapter 13 Courtesy of The New York Daily News; Chapter 14 Sygma/N. Tully; Chapter 15 Reuters/Ian Waldie/Archive Photos; Chapter 16 @ Ulrike Welsch/StockBoston

Chapter Opener Photo Credits: Chapter 1

For more information, contact Wadsworth Publishing Company, 10 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002, or electronically at http://www.wadsworth.com

International Thomson Publishing Europe Berkshire House 168-173 High Holborn London, WC1V 7AA, United Kingdom

Nelson ITP, Australia 102 Dodds Street South Melbourne Victoria 3205 Australia

Nelson Canada 1120 Birchmount Road Scarborough, Ontario Canada M1K 5G4

International Thomson Publishing Southern Africa Building 18, Constantia Square 138 Sixteenth Road, P.O. Box 2459 Halfway House, 1685 South Africa International Thomson Editores Seneca, 53 Colonia Polanco 11560 Mexico D.F. Mexico

International Thomson Publishing Asia 60 Albert Street #15-01 Albert Complex Singapore 189969

International Thomson Publishing Japan Hirakawa-cho Kyowa Building, 3F 2-2-1 Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 102 Japan

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#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Biagi, Shirley.

Media / impact : an introduction to mass media / Shirley Biagi. — 4th ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-534-54810-5 (pbk.)

1. Mass media. I. Title.

P90.B489 1998b

302.23-dc21

98-22567

This book is printed on acid-free recycled paper.

#### **Impact Boxes**



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#### Preface

n spring 1997, an extraordinary meeting took place at the San Francisco Bay Area office of Wadsworth Publishing. I was invited by Wadsworth to meet with 10 members of the Wadsworth staff who publish communications texts for the company. Around a large conference room table, everyone from the company's new president to the editorial assistant for communications participated actively in an intense discussion that lasted more than eight hours. We all shared the same goal—to create the best possible fourth edition of *Media/Impact*.

Just a few months since the previous edition of *Media/Impact* had been published, we were talking about a very ambitious revision, to be accomplished within a year. It seemed an impossibility, but you are holding in your hands the exciting result of a commitment that began with that meeting: the fourth edition of *Media/Impact*, comprehensively explaining today's mass media with the most timely information available, published in a beautifully redesigned, accessible format.

# EXCITING NEW FEATURES THAT MAKE THIS EDITION DIFFERENT

To the strong foundation established in previous editions, I have added the following new features:

- A new *Chapter One: You in the New Information Age,* that describes and explains how the new media landscape will affect today's students.
- A new *Chapter Nine: New Media, On-line Media and the Web,* that focuses on how the contributions of digital technology and the Internet are transforming traditional media.
- A completely revised *Chapter Twelve: Mass Media and Social Issues*, with new information on multiculturalism and the media, plus a discussion of the media's portrayal of alternative lifestyles.



• *Impact/On You*, a new feature in each chapter that highlights information about how the mass media affect people in their everyday lives.









- Impact/Technology, 17 new perspectives on the latest trends, including forecasts for the media's digital transformation.
- *Impact/Point of View,* offering provocative short essays throughout the book on contemporary media topics to stimulate critical discussion.
- *Impact/Profiles* throughout the text feature the contributions of significant people—Ida Tarbell, Ernie Pyle, Edward R. Murrow and others—who have shaped the development of the mass media.
- *TimeFrames,* adding context to explain each mass media industry, in an innovative format that begins today, and then moves backward in time to uncover each medium's early origins.
- *Watching the Web,* offering important website information at the end of each chapter for on-line media reearch.

# IMPORTANT FEATURES THAT I RETAINED AND IMPROVED

This edition of *Media/Impact* maintains the strongest features of earlier editions, including:

- A contextual basis for historical information to add perspective to today's developments.
- A thematic approach that encourages critical thinking.
- The best current scholarship on mass media topics from contemporary experts.
- All the important statistics that anyone could ever need to keep track of the shifting electronic media marketplace.
- A writing style that presents information in a way students can understand and enjoy.

I also have revised and improved many other important features of *Media/Impact* that teachers and students have sought from the first edition, including:



- Nine totally redesigned *Industry Windows* to vividly portray the key elements of each media business.
- *Impact/Profiles* throughout the text, featuring the contributions of significant people who have shaped the media's development.
- A completely updated *Media Glossary*, including the latest terms to help enhance students digital vocabulary.
- A comprehensive, revised *Student Resource Guide*, including an alphabetical listing of *100 website resources* for media information, organized for easy reference.

#### WADSWORTH OFFERS NEW RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

To this exciting new edition, Wadsworth has added important new resources. *InfoTrac College Edition*, a searchable on-line database with more than half a million full-text articles, allows students to expand their knowledge of media issues with contemporary articles from all the major media, plus video clips from library and network news sources. In addition, a series of *CNN Videos*, with video segments keyed to material in the text, is available to professors by arrangement with Wadsworth.

For teachers, author Jan Haag has totally revised the *Instructor's Manual*, including complete lecture outlines, multiple choice and essay test items, suggested student assignments, InfoTrac exercises, and a list of CNN videos available through Wadsworth for classroom use. For more information, instructors can request the *Media/Impact Instructor's Manual* package from their Wadworth Sales Representative or contact Wadsworth Faculty Support by visiting their website at:

http://www.wadsworth.com/communications

Also, the most comprehensive multimedia presentation and lecture tool available will now be provided on a new cross-platform CD-ROM, as well as on the Wadsworth World Wide Web site. Designed to assist professors teaching in this dynamic field, this Microsoft PowerPoint® supplement has been revised by author Raymond Koegel and covers all the current information included in the text.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Every detail of this book's format and design is the result of the painstaking care of the Wadsworth team that created this edition of *Media/Impact*. Their names appear on the copyright page.

This fourth edition of Media/Impact also reflects the suggestions, contributions, and wisdom of the reviewers, for which I am very grateful. They are: Ed Adams, Angelo State University; Thomas L. Beell, Iowa State University; Michael Carlebach, University of Miami; Meta G. Carstarphen, University of North Texas; Thomas E. Diamond, Montana State University; Irving Fang, University of Minnesota; Tom Grimes, Kansas State University; Kenneth Harwood, University of Houston; Jules d'Hemecourt, Louisiana State University; Sharon Hollenback, Syracuse University; Steve Jones, Tulsa University; Robert G. Main, California State University, Chico; Maclyn McClary, Humboldt State University; Kenneth D. McMillen, University of Oklahoma; Jim Mitchell, University of Arizona; Tina Pieraccini, State University of New York, Oswego; Peter K. Pringle, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; Marshall Rossow, Menkato State University; Randall R. Scott, University of Alabama, Birmingham; Ronald Spielberger, University of Memphis; Linda Steiner, Rutgers University; Lee Thomas, Doane College; Mary Trapp, California State University, Hayward; John Ullman, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; Hazel Warlaumont, California State University, Fullerton; Bill Withers, Buena Vista University; and Miriam Zimmerman, College of Notre Dame.

#### PEOPLE WHO ARE CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT

None of this would have been possible, of course, without that spring 1997 meeting. And the spring 1997 meeting would not have happened without the support of Susan Badger, Wadsworth's president, who I believe has been central to this edition's success. For her continued interest and belief in *Media/Impact*, I am very grateful.

I also would like to thank the current Wadsworth communications team for their patience with my persistent personality; my students, who give me continuing inspiration; and all the members of my family, who nurture me with constant humor and great new ideas.

I hope you have an opportunity to explore all of *Media/Impact's* features. And please let me know what you think. My email address is

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Shirley Biag

#### **About the Author**



hirley Biagi is a professor in the Department of Communication Studies at California State University, Sacramento. She is the author of several Wadsworth communications texts besides Media/Impact, including Media/Reader: Perspectives on Mass Media Industries, Effects and Issues; and Interviews That Work: A Practical Guide for Journalists. She is co-author, with Marilyn Kern-Foxworth of Texas A&M University, of Facing Difference: Race, Gender and Mass Media, published by Pine Forge Press. She also is editor of the national media history quarterly American Journalism, published by the American Journalism Historians Association.

She has served as guest faculty for the Poynter Institute, the American Press Institute, the National Writers Workshop, the California Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association. She also has been a project interviewer for the Washington (DC) Press Club Foundation's Women in Journalism Oral History Project, which completed 57 oral histories of female pioneers in journalism. Her international experience includes guest lecture appointments at El Ahram Press Institute in Cairo, Egypt, and Queensland University in Brisbane, Australia.

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