

## Paper Evaluations

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Conversion ID	Paper Title	Reviewer 7237	Reviewer 7271
PID97405	<a href="#">Enhancing Available of Information and Towards Freedom of News Distribution: Supporting Small-scale News Agencies with Web-Service Infrastructure</a>		
Relevance: The material is relevant and appropriate to the field		Agree	Disagree
Theory: The theoretical foundation is strong		Disagree	Disagree
Methodology: The methodology and analytic approaches are appropriate for the research		Neutral	Disagree
Presentation: The presentation of the material is clear, complete, and well organized		Neutral	Agree
Validity: The conclusions are supported by the analysis		Disagree	Disagree
References: Appropriate literature is referenced		Neutral	Disagree
Contribution: The paper will likely make a contribution to the field		Disagree	Disagree
Interest: The paper will likely generate interesting discussions at the conference		Agree	Disagree
The overall quality of the paper is		3 - Neutral	2

### Reviewer 7237 Comments to Author:

This paper provides a solid technological design for what appears to be an efficient system for distributing news, particularly pictures, from smaller regional news sources worldwide. My chief concern is that it appears to be based on a faulty premise - that the primary impediment to the use of smaller sources by larger media is a technological one. Harking back to the huge blowup around NWICO in the 1980s that led to the US withdrawal from UNESCO, we should remember that ideology and political economy are more weighty factors in news distribution around the world. A good example is in [Ogan, C. (1987). Coverage of development news in developed and developing countries. *Journalism Quarterly*, 64(1), 80-87.] that shows how northern media aren't interested in depicting what southern media think is important about their countries. It is also assumed that more information leads to more democracy, but that is not necessarily the case, and no theoretical framework is set forth in this paper to justify the principal premises. There are not enough references provided either for many of the assertions about world news. Much is assumed without question. The author should make more assumptions explicit and document them with references from the literature. Overall, I would say that the technological design appears sound but there is no indication that such a beautiful system would in fact be used, or what institutional framework would create/sustain it. Finally, the author should obtain assistance for final proofreading as there are countless errors of spelling, word use and grammar.

### Reviewer 7271 Comments to Author:

I was puzzled by your proposed solution to the access to information problem. As researchers addressing such a problem, I would assume that your first step is to assess the current solution space and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses. Hence, I would have expected you to assess Google News, which now aggregates and syndicates thousands of news sources in many different countries. Using the aggregation function, it determines the most widely reported topics, and then syndicates them on country-specific news pages. You can find these for instance at <http://news.google.com>. Had you seen this solution beforehand, your research might have taken a different direction. Also, there is another technology which is called RSS (real simple syndication), also based on XML, which also enables syndication in a lower technology environment than you suggest. This would be another technology to consider (and possibly extend). There is little doubt in my mind that news could also be offered as a web service, in response to e-democracy concerns. I could foresee a scenario where there is a "world news distributor" such as Google, who is supplied news in form of web services, and then distributes it, with the added benefit of a unified payment model (where now subscription may be free or may be news organization specific). There is nothing in your article that suggest to me that your solution better solves the AOI problem than Google News or RSS can already do now.