

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter serves to explain the background of the intern's report, highlighting important initial details regarding the internship, its purpose and its scope and limitations. It is intended to be an introductory chapter to allow for a general idea of the entire paper.

I.1 Background

Until this day, Mass communications is an important aspect of human life, as the world has utilized a plethora of mediums in order to publicly broadcast all forms of information and entertainment to its population. Mass communications would not be possible without the human workforce behind them, entailing the purpose of this paper; the important roles that people partake that allow mass communication to take place. This most definitely includes a particular phase or department known as News Gathering. McQuail, in his 6th iteration of *Mass Communication Theory* (2010) states that "Mass communication can be seen as one of several society-wide communication processes" (Denis McQuail, 2010, p.16). It entails that Mass Communications, and the mediums that are utilized to reach a large masses, are essential in human society, and has always been and will always be the true framework of culture and society. It connects all individuals within all demographics in human life as a whole.

Therefore the medium, or media are in fact the web that weaves humans and culture together. In order to broadcast all sorts of information to the public, particularly the broadcasting of News and Actualities, the workforce behind the media are responsible figures that enable this. Comprising of roles such as scriptwriters, editors and producers, Anchors, Video Journalists or Reporters, Camera Persons, Audiovisual engineers, Technical Directors and Engineers, Video Tape Recording and Switcher engineers. However, in order to create news, the news station must first collect them, and this process of procuring news and stories is the responsibility of the News Gathering Department. Even though the following departments of Production and Studio are also important, they would be without purpose if not for the personnel of the News Gathering Department. This shines light on those who coordinate news locations, informants, times and durations, vehicles and equipment, and also the reportage teams that will be assigned. This essential workforce is comprised of personnel such as Reportage Coordinators, Assignment Editors, Regional Coordinators, and Camera Coordinators. These personnel are highly important for the production of news.

In mass communications, the terminology for the channels that are used to transmit content to reach the masses are known as *media*. Julia T. Wood published a textbook known as *Communication Mosaics: An Introduction to the field of Communication*, and in her 6th iteration, 2011, she has elaborated that “Mass Communication consists of all media that address mass audiences: books, film, television, radio, newspapers, magazines and other forms of visual and print communication that reach masses of people” (Julia T. Wood, 2011, p. 297) Media

does not only include Radio, Newspaper and TV, but can also take the form of Internet, and even the latest of them all, New Media and Social Media network, which utilizes the internet and electronic devices, “Mass communication also includes computer technologies”.

Of the history of media that have been employed for use, the Television remains prominent and proves itself to be one of the most used Media in the history of mankind. The reason for this has many roots, one of which is its ease of use, popularity, culture and the fact that almost every human household in our society requires that it has a working Television installed. The prominence of the Television can only be owed to the aforementioned working force behind the studios and the roles that they all play to contribute to the industry’s success.

Content can either be fictional or non-fictional, and although there is an emotionality value in things that are fictional, nothing is more objective than things that are true. Things that are actual, real, and can be proven because they have indeed occurred and are non-fictional. The definition for these kinds of information and content are those of *actualities*. Television provides many genres, but none more *actual* and immediate than News. Because news is new and interesting and considered important to know, and the people have the desire to know. And with that, there are television stations that serve to deliver News. That is why of all the aforementioned staff that contribute to success of a television station, are indeed essential, but for being able to broadcast news, the most crucial role belongs to that of the News Gathering Department.

The television is like a window to the world, where entertainment can be found, information can be found, new items and products can be advertised, and most importantly of them all; News, and the important ongoing occurrences of the world can be observed by all. Accompanied with brief, simple, and informative explanations, alongside images and video clips shown about a particular occurrence, the News that we observe via television allows us to be updated about our surroundings and the world we live in. All these, transmitted from Television Stations which gather, prepare, and present the content using allocated channels accessed from the Televisions themselves.

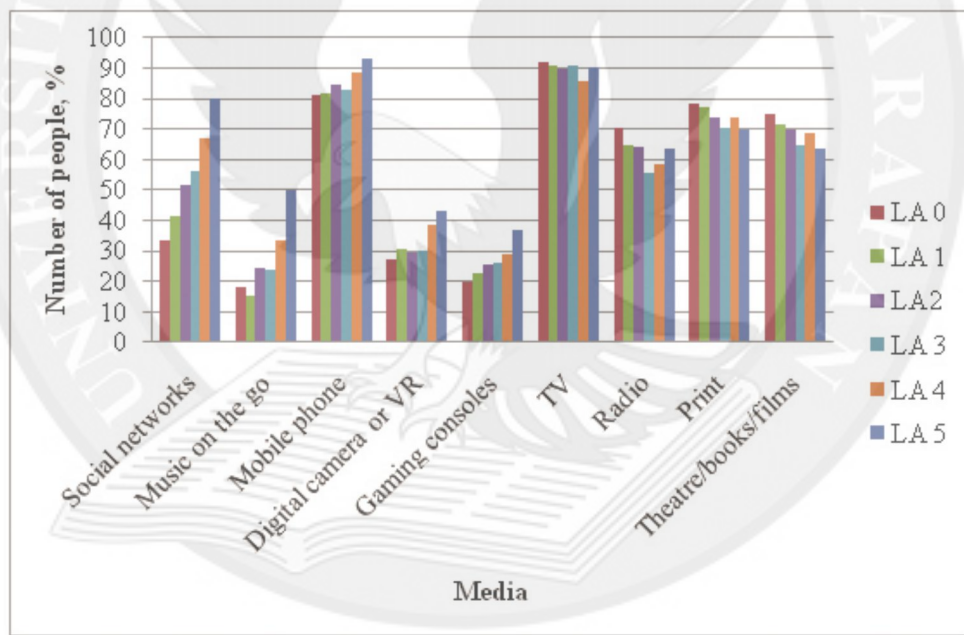


Figure 1.1 Chart on Media Usage Popularity
 Source: www.researchgate.net

Indeed, News can be accessed via other forms of media, such as radio, print, and the internet. However, none so efficiently and effectively as the Television. Other forms of media may prove itself to be competition towards

television as forms of media, but the television's perseverance in the market does not revolve around its competing against them, as they are separated and distinguished by the dimensionality of the information conveyed via respective media.

Televisions were to be used in households in the mid 20th century. In the 1950s, 4.3 out of 10 households in the US would have a television. And moving fifty years later into 2008-2009, a little over 80% of households all over the world own televisions. Until today, the television is still used as a primary source of news, because of its efficiency, thoroughness, and simplicity in conveying information concisely and effectively.

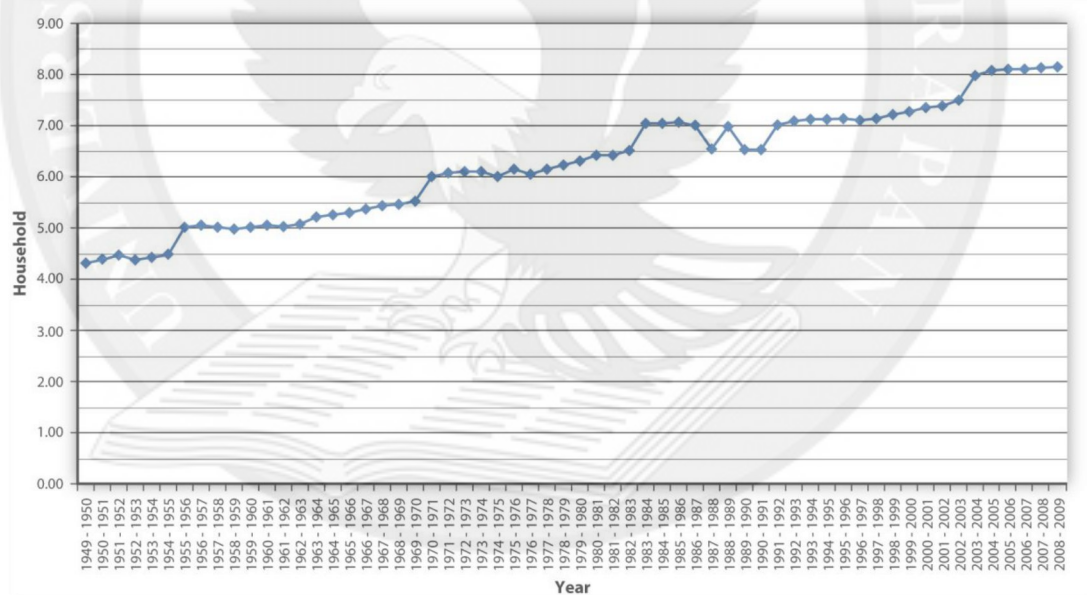


Figure 1.2 Televisions in Households Over the Years
Source: 2012books.lardbucket.org

This paper will elaborate the crucial role of the News Gathering Department, as the author has spent his time in Media Nusantara Citra (MNC) in

its Television branch, iNews Channel. Particularly about the two offices involved in gathering news, which are Reportage, or in Indonesian, “Liputan”, and also the role of Assignment Editor or Reportage Coordinator. Reportage Coordinator is a direct translation of the Indonesian term for it, “Koordinator Liputan”, and is usually shortened by local journalists to be “KorLip”, maybe because saying the full version is a little bit of a tongue twister to say all the time. Reportage or “liputan” will be conducted by none other than Reporter Teams or Reportage Teams, which directly translates to “Tim Liputan”. These teams are the Reporters and Camerapersons that go out there and find news so that the News Station has something to work with and can have something worth broadcasting. These Reporters are the ones that receive all the air time and glory, and are the faces that people see in their televisions, but there are in fact a more important role behind these reporters, and they are the Reportage Coordinators. Also known as Assignment Editors, the Reportage Coordinators are the ones that manage these Reportage Teams. Where they go, and what to look for, and sometimes, *how* to look for them. If reporters are warriors, than Reportage Coordinators are the commanders. These roles are what make up the News Gathering Department, and is the most crucial department in all of a Television News Station, because News Station cannot deliver news if there is no news to deliver.

News has always been an important part of human society. People are entitled to be informed about the ongoing occurrences in the world, real-time. As a response, media corporations have been providing real time news over the eras to the public, in the form of print, electronic, and now, new media. “Most people

rely on journalism for surveillance - to inform them about what is going on in the world. Clearly very few have direct experience of events, and just as importantly, they need to know what has not happened” (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002, p.1). Rudin and Ibbotson’s *Introduction to Journalism* also states that “*journalism also has an important influence in their views and attitudes*” to continue the previous statement. Throughout history, the delivery of news has been executed no better than Television. Even though newspapers and print may be more thorough with details, the television does so with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

The News Stations that are responsible for such accessibility place great importance in three core processes: News Gathering, News Production, and Broadcasting. The Media Corporation, Media Nusantara Citra, abbreviated as MNC, is a great example for shining light on these processes. Like other Indonesian Television stations such as Metro TV, Berita Satu, or SCTV, MNC possesses a workforce comprised of VJs or Reporters, Editors, presenters and directors. All working as teams knowing their roles, and working together to undergo the Production process of News. These activities and processes are essential to understanding the inner workings of a television station. Hence the reason for such internship to occur, as the author opts to delve into all these activities, to gain a thorough grasp on the subject at hand.

I.2 Purpose of Internship

The authors objectives to be achieved for the internship are as follows:

1. To learn and understand the News Gathering activities in iNews Channel and the roles of the journalists involved in the department, and how it influences the rest of the workforce
2. To learn about gatekeeping in the most prominent form of media, learning how iNews is able to shape what public thinks and dictates what they see in the actual occurrences of the world.
3. To emphasize the importance of communication studies as an all-round important science, both for organizational scope and for broadcasting as mass communications.

I.3 Scope and Limitation

The author is to be placed in News Gathering Department and will be rolled between Reportage Team and Reportage Coordinator, which are two roles for News Gathering. Reportage Coordinators are also known as Assignment Editor, but iNews journalists use the Indonesian term, Koordinator Liputan, which is then shortened to KorLip. The intern has learnt how to write rough scripts for Television (as they are quite different from print but more similar to radio), interview key informants, identify valuable news based on titles and script of the newscast, and also assist VJs in the field. These are all general News Gathering activities that are applied for any program that delivers Hard News or Straight News.

The intern is intended to assist in the process of News Gathering and Gatekeeping, which facilitate news programs that deliver Hard News, Straight

News, Live Reports, and Breaking News. Hard News serves to deliver actualities, meaning real events that occur in the world, but edit the information in a presentable manner towards the audience. The idea of information being untampered has nothing to do with the editing of scripts and video or the blurring or censoring of explicit content, as they are only done to fit the timeframes of packages and follow censorship protocols. The intern will also learn how Reporter Teams conduct their reportage and will assist them in their activities as an Assistant. These teams are comprised of the Reporter or VJ, a Camera Person, and an assistant for carrying out supportive duties such as bringing equipment.

There are also limitations in the internship period, as there are many phases and departments in the production of news. The intern will solely be operating under News Gathering paradigms:

1. Procuring news and stories in the field by recording events in the form of scripts and video material in accordance to reporter and voiceovers or sound on tape or packages.
2. Obliging wishlists, plotting and organizing potential story destinations and time frames of occurrences as an Assignment Editor or Reportage Coordinator.
3. Databasing all the incoming news of the day, sifting through them in terms of news value, and presenting or suggesting them in staff meetings. Meetings are also known as program meetings or rundown meetings.
4. Assisting with administrative News Gathering activities such as printing, listing, and sending via electronic means, the collected news and scripts to journalists that require them.

I.4 Location and Time of Internship

MNC Tower is located in Kebon Sirih. More specifically Kb. Sirih, Kec. Menteng, Kota Jakarta Pusat, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta, which is a 5 minute walk from Monumen Nasional.

Reportage Locations vary depending on predicted locations around Jakarta. However, most reporters from all news stations are usually stationed at DPR, KPK, BNN, various police stations (Polda/Polsek). Reporters are issued 3 timeframes of operations: 0700-1500 hours, 1300-2100 hours, and 1900-0500 hours. Interns can only participate in the 0700 and 1300 hour instances.

Interns will participate on weekdays beginning on 30/01/2020. Depending on the roll, the intern will attend at either 0700 hours, or 1300 hours and must participate for 9 working hours when participating in the Editorial Floor, which is where the Reportage Coordinator section is situated. For reportage, they will participate for the duration of the allocated timeframes, for 8 hours only. These times can also vary however, due to external factors in the field. In some occasions, reportage teams might need to stay more than 10 hours at a particular post or story location until the news required is obtained from sometimes difficult key informants. Interns will be rolled and take turns with other interns between joining the Reportage Teams and Reportage Coordinators



Figure 1.3 MNC Logo
Source: mnc.co.id



Figure 1.4 iNews Logo
Source:mnc.co.id