

Digital photo manipulation: A descriptive analysis of codes of ethics and ethical decisions of photo editors.

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DIGITAL PHOTO MANIPULATION DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF CODE AND ETHICAL DECISIONS OF PHO

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Abstract

"Photography gave the world a lifelike memory. It is especially but serves other areas exceptionally well also. Legions of photographers used the medium with great energy; many also have used it with great integrity. The heirs of earlier photojournalists continue in the advantage of the significant improvements in technology to benefit readers and with heightened ethical awareness." Fred Parrish

This study examined the decision and thought process people use when handling manipulated images through digital photography. While the practice of editing has not changed, but the way in which photographs has changed. Computer screens replaced film and computer software replaced photographic loupes.

This study examined the code of ethics from various publications in the United States and foreign locations, finding out if a code of ethics for news organizations had been updated to incorporate digital technology. Fifty percent of news organizations had a written code of ethics specifically dealing with digital technology. Domestic newspapers exceeded the foreign newspapers in the issue of digital photography usage.

The research indicated digital technology allows altered images to be created and published without the photo editor detecting any manipulation. The trust of the publication may be lost if readers stop believing what they see.

Digital technology has created a paradigm shift in photography. While the act of photographing images remains the same, but digital photography has changed the medium in which images are produced. The technology was the main factor in a paradigm shift. The technology helped speed the process in getting photographs into news publications. Through printed versions or internet publications, the digital photograph has allowed for more images reproduced.

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