

Audiovisual and multimedia

Brigitte Besse - Didier Desormeaux

Television  
News Reporting  
From Design  
to Delivery

Second edition

The 2003 war in Iraq shows that methodical and reliable journalism is now more necessary than ever: finding and authenticating information sources, presenting one's angles clearly, expressing oneself intelligibly and using the possibilities of image and sound in the most relevant way possible.

There is no such thing as a French, Anglo-Saxon or other way of producing information. Whatever the practices established by different cultures, the fundamentals of journalism remain the same. We have attempted to set out the rules which are indispensable for best practice in journalism which a society has a right to expect.

Although the journalist is merely a link in a production chain whose orientations he cannot control, he remains in charge of structuring information and, therefore, is responsible for the meaning given to news events.

This book is based on experience in the field, university research and numerous exchanges of ideas between professionals in French and European television, be it public or private. It also draws widely on the experience of local news journalists, whose struggle to remain free from outside pressure reflects the expectations of a demanding and committed viewing audience.

Following the success of the first French edition in 1997, a second revised and enlarged edition was published in 2001. The English version filled a gap by providing a handbook on television journalism intended for an international audience, whether for use in the daily practice of journalism, in training seminars for professional journalists or for students of journalism.

We should like to express our gratitude to the European Parliament and Circom for making the translation of this handbook possible.

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Brigitte Besse is a semiologist, doctor of linguistics and specialist in rhetoric. She designs and delivers seminars on the relationship between text and image for television and computers at France 3, RFO (French national radio and television network for overseas territories), RTBF (French-speaking Belgian radio and television) and TSR (French-speaking Swiss television). She was formerly associate senior lecturer at the Centre for Communication Studies (Celsa) at the University of Paris 4 - Sorbonne.

In charge of vocational training for journalists at France 3, Didier Desormeaux produces news programs on new television technology for the association of French-speaking radio and television trainers, (Fortef). As a member of the European Association of Regional Television, (Circom Regional), he is involved in the development of television in the countries of eastern Europe. He is a senior reporter and has a doctorate in information and communication sciences.

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# Television News Reporting

From Design to Delivery

This book shows and tells how to design and produce a television report. It provides rules garnered from experience. It describes methods which harness journalism ethics to ensure viewers are respected and their demands for quality content met. This second edition is intended for all involved in making television reports. It will buttress their skills. It provides a comprehensive update of the intersection of technology with journalism, and discusses various roles within journalism. This guide is for both seasoned professionals and those seeking to enter the world of television journalism.

**Brigitte Besse** is a semiologist, doctor of linguistics and specialist in rhetoric. She designs and delivers seminars on the relationship between text and image for television and computers at France 3, RFO (French national radio and television network for overseas territories), RTBF (French-speaking Belgian radio and television) and TSR (French-speaking Swiss television). She was formerly associate senior lecturer at the Centre for Communication Studies (Celsa) at the University of Paris 4 - Sorbonne.

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