GLOBAL REACH  
GLOBAL IMPACT

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Global Investigative Journalism Network
Who are we?

- A global hub for resources, contacts, expertise
- Help on sustainability, funding, reporting, management
- 211 member organizations in 82 countries
- 13 Conferences: 8,000 journalists, 140 countries
- A voice for world’s investigative journalists
- A network for reporting and collaboration
- A defender of our colleagues under fire
Our members

211 member organizations in 82 countries
Our conferences

#GIJC13 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – https://gijc2013.org/
#IJASIA18 – Seoul, South Korea – https://2018.uncoveringasia.org/
#GIJC21 – Online: 1–5 November 2021
Join our 300,000 strong global community, with our resources, posts, and tools reaching millions every year.

GIJN publishes in twelve languages every day on multiple platforms with the latest on investigative journalism tips, tools, and opportunities worldwide.

More information: gijn.org/join-our-global-community/
GIJN delivers!

Get the latest in investigative journalism around the world in your email.

The GIJN Bulletin is free and distributed to journalists and others in +100 countries.

Available in English, Arabic, Bangla, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish.

More information: gijn.org/gijn-newsletters/
GIJN Email & Text Groups

For women, Africans, French & Russian speakers, and journalists worldwide.

Great tools for finding colleagues and getting help around the globe.

+3,000 journalists

More information: gijn.org/join-our-global-community/
GIJN Help Desk
A space designed to help investigative journalists around the world.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?
Contact our Help Desk
Reporting Tips & Tools

Archiving Your Work
Defining Investigative Journalism
Drone Journalism
Editing and Managing
Fact-checking and Verification
Finding Expert Sources
Freelancer Services
Interviewing Techniques
Investigative Books and Films
Investigative Dashboard, a user's guide
Investigative Journalism Manuals
Investigative Journalism Organizations
Mobile Journalism
Online Research Tools
Open Source Verification & Investigation Tools
Photojournalism
Social Media Research
Tracking US actions in your country
Video Verification
Whistleblowing
AROUND THE WORLD

Report: Freedom of Expression Under Global Assault

According to the 2021 Global Freedom of Expression report, press freedom has come under repeated attack during the COVID-19 pandemic. Authored by the human rights group Article 19, the report details hundreds of arrests, physical assaults, and other oppressive tactics on an independent press in the previous 14 months since the coronavirus outbreak in early 2020. Per the report, there were 600 violations of press freedom since March 2020, one-third of which were physical or verbal attacks, and another one-third were arrests or detentions by authorities. And the first three months of the pandemic were especially dangerous, with harassment and physical assaults on journalists quadrupling across the world.

Source: Article 19

Five Inspiring Investigative Newsletters

By Marthe Rubio | 23 hours ago

Newsletters are popular because their offering is different from the information that is dangerously filtered and molded by social media giant’s random, opaque algorithms. GIJN has selected five original newsletters that can inspire journalists around the world.

DATA JOURNALISM

Digging Up Hidden Data with the Web Inspector

By Smara S Toledo | July 28, 2021

Many reporters never notice the “inspect element” option below the “copy” and “save-as” functions in the right-click menu on any webpage related to their investigation. But it turns out that this little-
GIJN YouTube Channel

+500 videos, 5 languages

GIJN assembled experts on health reporting, infectious disease, trauma, and financial survival to help journalists navigate the difficult reporting waters ahead.
Investigating Health and Medicine Guide

A GIJN Guide

Investigating Health & Medicine

By Catherine Riva and Serena Tinari / Re-Check.ch

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Citizen Investigation Guide

Overview
Planning and Carrying Out an Investigation
Ethics and Safety
Searching the Internet
Researching Individuals
Finding Out Who Owns Corporations
Looking into Government Records
Investigating Politicians
Digging Up Property Records

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Write for Us!

Interested in Contributing? Send a brief pitch or three, along with links to recent work and a bio or CV to hello@gijn.org.

Story Ideas: Tips and Tools, How They Did It, Case Studies, Investigative Journalism in the News, Profiles, Innovation Trends and Projects, Round-Ups and Listicles, Resource Center Guides and How-Tos

+ info: https://gijn.org/about/write-for-us/
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Global Investigative Journalism Network
TOP INVESTIGATIVE TIPS & TOOLS 2021

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Global Investigative Journalism Network
“COLD” SOURCES: GETTING A LEG IN THE DOOR

Russ Buettner’s simple & fantastic tip to buy yourself time to pitch an interview to strangers: CARRY A THICK BINDER UNDER YOUR ARM.

(The sight of the file – ANY file – helps reduce the fear that the story is ‘all on them’)

SUPER-TOOLS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

• Most researchers know to use Quotation Marks to focus online searches, and capitalized terms like OR to give alternatives. Try also:
  • Site: -- to narrow to a domain
  • AROUND(7) — between two terms you suspect are connected, and Google will hunt for graphs where they appear near each other.
  • The ‘excluding trick’. Find the origins of mysterious images or clips online by pasting the URL link, plus a Minus sign for sites:
    – site:youtube.com
  • Ext: -- to find documents
  • Wildcards where you’re unsure of a name, like “Dr. * *”
  • Computer logic. E.g. Looking for a map, type words that would likely appear, like “scale” — not “map”.

GIJN.ORG
CITIZEN INVESTIGATIONS: TRY YOUTUBE

Navalny’s FBK anti-corruption investigators were neither journalists nor trained investigators. But they used investigative journalism techniques to break major stories on Russian corruption – getting up to 100 million views of their scoops on Youtube.
SELF-TAUGHT IN OPEN SOURCE TOOLS

To trace a mega-yacht bought with public funds, FBK:
• Looked for maritime departure dates coinciding with arrival dates for a gifted private jet, using MarineTraffic and FlightRadar tools.
• Found source contacts with Telegram bots, like getContact.
• Found a donated plaque for the corrupt lovers on a New York Central Park bench — and filmed the ‘reveal’ on viral video.
GRABBING UGC VIDEO CLIPS IN REAL-TIME

THE FANTASTIC ‘GEOCODE’ TRICK

• Right-click on “What’s Here” in Google Maps, grab the longitude/latitude, and paste it into TweetDeck — alongside Geocode: (incl. the colon).

• Add a small radius — “, 1mi” — and focus the search with keywords.

• Download with twittervideodownloader.com for Twitter, FBdown.net for Facebook video, and y2mate.com for YouTube.
GETTING TOUGH ‘TARGET SOURCES’ TO TALK

• If your subject is ‘hiding’, then Question their one decision that is NOT in question. Righteous indignation can draw even bad actors to the interview.

• Ask a foreign colleague to make the call to the skittish official – they tend to respond to overseas investigators.
PRETEND YOU’RE NOT IN AN AUTOCRACY

• “One of the ways you keep the democratic imagination alive . . . is to act as if it’s a democracy” — Nic Dawes.

• Where it’s safe to do so, reporters in autocracies should report as if institutions of justice and accountability work.

• This pretense prevents self-censorship, embarrasses corrupt officials, and reminds repressed audiences that they deserve better.

‘MASTER TOOLS’ INVESTIGATORS USE WEEKLY

- CrowdTangle for Facebook.
  (For Telegram, try tgstat, telegago, or site:t.me/*)
- Google Earth Pro
- WayBackMachine
- Hunch.ly
- Otter/ Trint/ Pear Note transcription
- Pro bono Satellite Imagery
- Google Voice “virtual burner phone”
- Protonmail
- Signal
- VeraCrypt
- Facebook Transparency box
- WorkFlowy/ Things app
- “Who Posted What” — for FB
- Pipl — the ‘scary’ people finder
BASIC VISUAL FORENSICS TRICKS

• Zoom in on Google Maps til the names of nearby shops pop up, and call to request their CCTV footage. If they refuse, show them your initial story and ask again. Pin event locations and click the ‘walking man’ icon to contrast Google’s estimate of travel times to official claims.

• The steps: Discovery (TweetDeck), Verification (Silverman Handbook), Geolocation (Google Earth), Chronolocation (look for timestamps, or time markers between clips, like a slammed car door, or light).

• Edit clips side-by-side with video edit tool (Adobe Premier Pro; WatchFrameByFrame).
MAKE FOI REQUESTS. IF YOU DON'T HAVE FOI?
MAKE A REQUEST TO A COUNTRY THAT DOES

• You don’t need to be a resident of many countries with FOI laws, including the US (except a few states), to file FOI requests — so file ‘em, and keyword search for local data.

• For multiple public records requests, use tools like TextExpander, which allows shortcuts to plug in names and copy.

• Try the Lusha Chrome extension to extract contacts from LinkedIn & Twitter

GIJN offers Guides on public records requests, and contacts for FOI support groups: https://gijn.org/gijns-global-guide-to-freedom-of-information-resources/
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS ARE AWESOME!

• No law enforcement agency in the world dared to investigate the chemical weapons attack against Navalny. But Bellingcat & The Insider identified 3 kill squad operatives & 5 officials behind the hit in just 3 months.
• They looked for passengers whose flights mirrored Navalny’s, and reverse vehicle search bots to see which of these passengers park near FSB spy HQ, and phone bots like TrueCaller to track their call patterns.
• They also – reluctantly – bought ‘black market data’ for flight manifests and passport applications, and used face comparison tools like Azure.
THEY MAKE SACRIFICES

• Editors at Botswana’s tiny Ink investigative nonprofit took personal salary cuts to purchase this satellite image.

• It proved Botswana’s president had used military resources to build a private game lodge.

Satellite photos like this can now be obtained without cost, as per GIJN’s guide: https://gijn.org/resources-for-finding-and-using-satellite-images/

+ info: https://gijn.org/2021/01/05/how-to-use-satellite-imagery-in-your-next-investigation/
THEY FIND OTHER WAYS

• To check COVID death toll claims, reporters compared Total Deaths to prior time periods, and used proxy sources.

• A reporter in Somalia interviewed ambulance drivers; reporters in Nigeria interviewed gravediggers; an investigator at ProPublica used the Broadcastify emergency services app and response Codes to gather COVID death data; and reporters in Peru embedded with private crematorias workers to find massive undercounts.

AND THEY LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, THROUGH COLLABORATION, CONFERENCES, AND GIJN

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