Dozens of journalists working for international media organisations in Europe, Africa and Asia share their experiences to help young fellow journalists from all over the world to better decipher news information and to develop constructive journalism.

CFI, in partnership with RFI, France 24 and Monte Carlo Doualiya, are launching the “Journalist Tips” website to help train young journalist bloggers or student journalists to boost their knowledge and skills as regards various themes and fields of journalism.

From Bangkok to Beirut via Johannesburg, seasoned international journalists share their know-how on covering the news in a different way and developing constructive journalism. There are 70 entertaining, educational videos available on the website, grouped into 5 themed collections: Journalism & the Environment, Health, Fake News & Fact-Checking, Gender Equality, and Solutions Journalism. They are all available free of charge, in French, English and Arabic.

The videos, each 5 minutes long on average, have been produced for viewing on a mobile phone, to fit with common practice among young journalists as regards use of teaching aids, especially in Africa, the Arab world and South-East Asia.

journalistsInsight.com

#JournalistsInsight
You’re not born a journalist, you become one. The “Journalist Tips” project offers an invaluable tool that is both entertaining and effective for sharing experiences between seasoned professionals and young fellow journalists or budding journalists. It aims to spread best editorial practices as extensively as possible, as a shared commodity of journalists worldwide. Designed by CFI, in partnership with France Médias Monde, it constitutes an ideal supplement to our work on the ground in Africa, the Arab world and South-East Asia.

THIERRY VALLAT
CHAIR AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CFI

France Médias Monde’s news outlets are also forums for dialogue and culture. They form bridges between France and the five continents. It is therefore quite natural for RFI, France 24 and Monte Carlo Doualiya journalists to work with our subsidiary, CFI to share their know-how and amplify this ambitious online learning project aimed at young fellow journalists throughout the world.

MARIE-CHRISTINE SARAGOSSE
CHAIRWOMAN AND CEO OF FRANCE MÉDIAS MONDE
COLLECTION #1
JOURNALISM & THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is partly linked to human activity and threatens all forms of life on Earth. But the environmental threats weighing on the planet are not just climate-related. They also take the form of soil, air and water pollution, endangering the life of many people in every corner of the globe and, in the longer term, of humanity as a whole.

In the face of destructive human activity, journalists have a crucial role to play in raising people’s awareness and prompting changes in behaviour.

They need to know how to make scientific information widely accessible and intelligible to the general public but also, and above all, to deal with environmental issues through local reporting so as to demonstrate how these issues are a danger in practical terms to the health, resources or way of life of a village or region.

This educational collection is all about establishing the closest possible connection between environmental issues and the risks they pose to local populations.

This collection was written by Anne Sophie Novel, a journalist, writer and producer specialising in the sharing economy, ecology and social innovation. It is presented by Marina Bertsch, a journalist on the 24-hour TV news channel France 24.

View the environment collection (available from 6 April)

COLLECTION #2
JOURNALISM & HEALTH

Health is an issue that is crucial to the life of every human being. It is thus entirely normal for a media organisation to devote a significant proportion of its content to health, in particular when its role is to inform people facing endemic diseases (malaria, typhoid fever, etc.), recurring epidemics (Ebola, Zika etc.), global pandemics (HIV/AIDS, Covid 19, etc.) or health crises caused by armed conflict.

However, medical news coverage is an area journalists need to treat with particular sensitivity in order to make often complex information accessible to the general public, within short time frames that do not fit with the timing of the scientific research.

A health journalist therefore has to sharpen their wits and their pen to be able to deliver news information that respects their own professional ethics but also the ethics of the medical profession.

This collection was written by Laure Dasinières, a freelance journalist specialising in the health field, medical science, psychology, gender and sexuality. It is presented by Micha Khlalil, a journalist on Monte Carlo Doualiya, the French public radio service that broadcasts across the Arab world.

View the health collection (available from 6 April)
COLLECTION #3
JOURNALISM & FACT-CHECKING

Fact-checking is a discipline in journalism that appeared in the media in the mid-1990s to put politician’s speeches to the test and check their accuracy. It is also used in riposte to the circulation of fake news promulgated on an almost industrial scale on the Internet by partisan lobby groups or people acting either in defiance or for amusement, with malicious intent or for financial gain.

This phenomenon pollutes public debate to the same extent and with the same risks to social cohesion on every continent. So, now more than ever, citizens need journalists who are capable of ensuring truth is central to debates once more.

This series of online learning aids provides the essential elements for understanding the different guises that disinformation may take and introduces the tools and techniques for verifying facts and deconstructing fake news.

This collection was written by Guillaume Ledit, who recently released Dans la Tête de Julian Assange (“In the Head of Julian Assange”), published by Acte Sud, and is a former journalist with the online news site Owni and cultural TV magazine show Télérama. Guillaume Ledit teaches Fact-Checking at the Sciences Po Journalism School. It is presented by Diara N’Diaye, a journalist for the international radio station RFI.

View the fact-checking collection (available from 6 April)

COLLECTION #4
JOURNALISM & GENDER-SENSITIVE ISSUES

Gender equality in the media is a professional and ethical aspiration, similar to respect for the truth and honesty, as journalism’s roots lie in the struggle for progress and universal rights.

However, despite the progress made in the last 25 years, media organisations still generate stereotypes about women, which play a part in reducing the latter’s power in society. In every region and culture, deeply-rooted prejudices are encountered that still confine women - whether journalists, experts or public citizens - too often to dealing with news topics concerning social affairs, children’s education or “lifestyle”.

Standing up to the cultivation of stereotypes and integrating practices that reflect inclusive democratic values therefore remains a major challenge for the media. In journalism, gender equality implies a fair, non-stereotypical representation of the news, use of neutral, non-gender-specific language and women being given opportunities equal to those of men to express their views on topics relating to politics, safety and the economy.

This series presents the instinctive responses and habits to adopt to avoid falling into the trap of gender-related stereotypes in your news coverage and some tips to encourage better representation of women as experts and agents of change.

This collection is written by Sophie Ekoué, a journalist specialising in gender issues and a CFI trainer in Africa. It is presented by Juliette Fievet, a presenter on RFI and France 24, and RFI journalist Namouri Dosso.

View the gender equality collection (available from 6 April)
Current affairs are often perceived as a stream of depressing, worryingly bad news, which is damaging to the popularity of journalism as an occupation and can lead to ordinary people disengaging from public life.

However, a new form of journalism came into existence a few years ago, known as Solutions Journalism (SoJo) which, without denying bad news, tries to restore balance in the news through more constructive handling of current affairs.

Still little-known among the general public and wrongly associated with a kind of “good news” journalism, this demanding and methodical branch of journalism is already practised by over a thousand media outlets worldwide.

It goes beyond just describing problems by also presenting the responses provided to address them and seeks to understand how and why these responses do or do not work.

This series of online learning aids is all about shedding light on the characteristics of this genre of journalism, providing the required tools to investigate, conduct interviews and put together a report, programme or dossier.

And at the end of the investigation, we will see how to check whether it ticks all the SoJo criteria and how to maximize its impact.

This collection is written by Eric Le Braz, a Solutions Journalism specialist and CFI trainer in Africa, and it is presented by Yena Lee, a France 24 journalist, and Zéphyrin Kouadio, a journalist with RFI.

View the solutions collection (available from 6 April)

42 JOURNALISTS FROM 20 COUNTRIES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE
ABOUT US

CFI, THE FRENCH MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Our role is to promote the development of the media in countries of the South, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Mediterranean and the Levant. At the heart of our work are the young people of African and Mediterranean countries, digital technology and the new channels of communication it offers and, last but not least, gender equality. We are committed to working together with media organisations to promote dialogue between local authorities and citizens in order to increase mutual understanding. CFI has 3 main programmes and 30 projects currently ongoing, aimed at strengthening the media in order to improve news diversity and quality. cfi.fr

FRANCE MÉDIAS MONDE, WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE WORLD

France Médias Monde, the group in charge of French international broadcasting services, comprises the 24-hour TV news channel France 24 (in French, English, Arabic and Spanish); the international radio station RFI (in French and sixteen other languages), and the Arabic-language radio station Monte Carlo Doualiya. The three media organisations broadcast to the world in 19 languages. The group’s journalists and its network of correspondents offer viewers, listeners and internet users comprehensive coverage of world events, with a focus on cultural diversity and contrasting viewpoints via news bulletins, reports, magazine shows and debates. Its workforce is made up of 66 different nationalities. francemedia monde.com
PRESS CONTACT

OXYGEN
Claire Auzanneau / Tatiana Grafeuil
+33 (0)1 41 11 37 89
claire.a@oxygen-rp.com

CFI
Julien Gueit - Directeur de la communication & du numérique
+33 (0)6 73 40 10 28
julien.gueit@cfi.fr

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