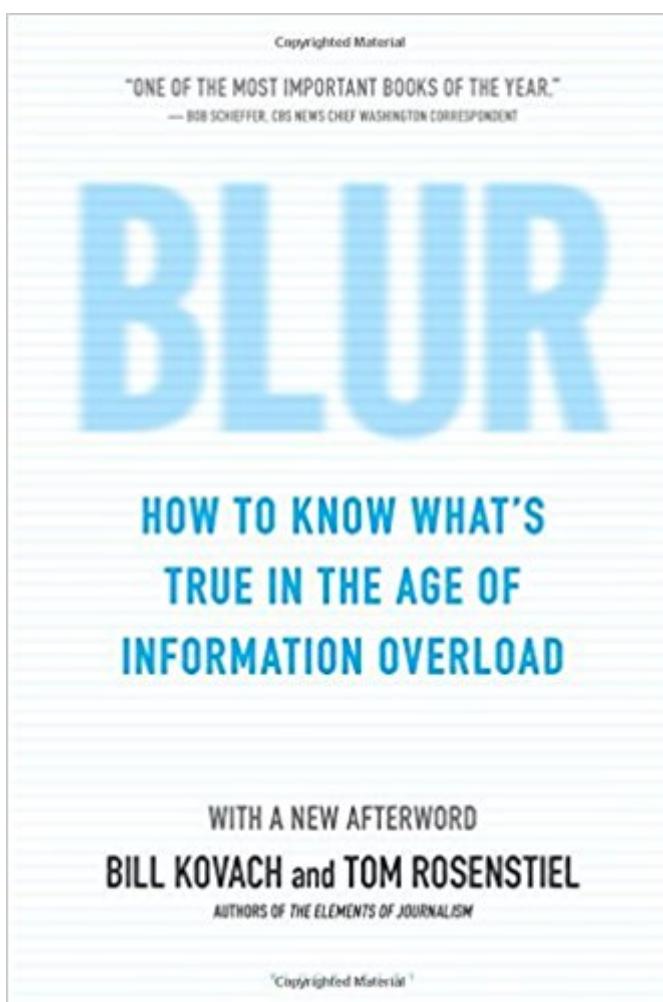


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Blur: How To Know What's True In The Age Of Information Overload



Synopsis

Amid the hand-wringing over the death of "true journalism" in the Internet Age—the din of bloggers, the echo chamber of Twitter, the predominance of Wikipedia-veteran journalists and media critics Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel have written a pragmatic guide to navigating the twenty-first century media terrain. Yes, old authorities are being dismantled, new ones created, and the very nature of knowledge has changed. But seeking the truth remains the purpose of journalism. How do we discern what is reliable? *Blur* provides a road map, or more specifically, reveals the craft that has been used in newsrooms by the very best journalists for getting at the truth. In an age when the line between citizen and journalist is becoming increasingly unclear, *Blur* is a crucial guide for those who want to know what's true.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA; Reprint edition (September 6, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1608193012

ISBN-13: 978-1608193011

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #20,869 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Textbooks > Communication & Journalism > Journalism #48 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Journalism & Nonfiction #49 in Books > Textbooks > Communication & Journalism > Media Studies

Customer Reviews

Veteran journalists Kovach and Rosenstiel (*The Elements of Journalism*) begin their intelligent and well-written guidebook by assuring readers this is not unfamiliar territory. The printing press, the telegraph, radio, and television were once just as unsettling and disruptive as today's Internet, blogs, and Twitter posts. But the rules have changed. The gatekeepers of information are disappearing. Everyone must become editors assuming the responsibility for testing evidence and checking sources presented in news stories, deciding what's important to know, and whether the material is reliable and complete. Utilizing a set of systemic questions that the authors label "the way of skeptical knowing," Kovach and Rosenstiel provide a roadmap for maintaining a steady

course through our messy media landscape. As the authors entertainingly define and deconstruct the journalism of verification, assertion, affirmation, and interest group news, readers gain the analytical skills necessary for understanding this new terrain. "The real information gap in the 21st century is not who has access to the Internet and who does not. It is the gap between people who have the skills to create knowledge and those who are simply in a process of affirming preconceptions without growing and learning." (Nov.) (c) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Starred Review What if the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island occurred today, in the age of the Internet, talk radio, and hyperpartisan "news" programs? Journalists Kovach and Rosenstiel examine that frightening prospect in this book that looks at how Americans will sort out news and information as journalism struggles in the Internet era. After offering historical perspective on the way news gathering has worked and its current state of uncertainty, the authors offer sound lessons on the "tradecraft of verification" necessary for Americans to sort out truth from vested opinion. They offer examples of how reporters typically verify information in contexts from covering wars to politics. They break down the process by emphasizing the kind of information content (news versus commentary); its completeness, source, and tested evidence; and, finally, what readers are learning from what they read. Applying their criteria, the authors analyze several instances of news reporting, commentary, talk-show haggling, and blogging to discern how readers, listeners, and viewers can sort through the cloud of information. Kovach and Rosenstiel combine journalism and civics in this valuable and insightful resource to help Americans adapt to an era that demands that readers become their own editors and news aggregators. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Good overview of the state of journalism with some guidance about how to cope with it. The authors are a little too optimistic that things change and are rather blind about whether corporate journalism can be reformed. They think of journalism as a market and that's a bridge too far for me. Good journalism, like good education, is better thought of as a merit good than a profit center.

Anyone who reads, listens to or watches any aspect of the news today should take a look at the reality presented by Kovach and Rosenstiel in his book. Plenty of real life examples and a clear, and penetrating, explanation of how information and images can be manipulated, how assertion can be

passed off as news, and how the rise of opinion journalism is threatening our ability as a society to make important decisions.

Have recommended this book to everyone I know! Am reading through my annotations now in anticipation of using this in my high school civics class.

use it as reference all the time

refreshing - gave me some tools with which to asses 'the blur' inundating us all -well paced and easy to explore -

Very informative

There's a teeth shattering error early in the book: the claim that human speech developed about 6,000 years ago. It actually doesn't seem to be a typo combined with poor proofreading because it also includes a claim that writing was developed about 5,000 years ago. Its a bad way to begin a book on separating truth from fiction in modern news reporting. The authors also display a clear bias in their political leanings, another bad sign. But they do clearly enunciate the principles of good reading and, as sort of a bonus, good journalistic writing. The content has the feel of being written for a student audience, not the general public. This is a minor thing, but it does lead to wordy exposition. Overall, I think "Blur" will guide the interested reader to an understanding of how to read all that purports to be news. But it could have been more intensely edited and the bulk reduced by a third or so without losing any of its meat. Jerry

The brand new book "BLUR -- How to Know What's True in the Age of Information Overload" is the perfect gift for anyone who cares about the news. It's a fascinating review of the new kinds of content we're all faced with in today's blurry mashup of news, ads and commentary. Well-respected journalists Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel tell us how to be active skeptics. BLUR makes the case that journalistic skills are more important than ever and that News Literacy should be taught more widely. Despite my training as a journalist and an attorney, I found the critical thinking skills in "BLUR" have made me a smarter, more proactive media consumer.

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