

Collaborative Newsroom of Local Journalists in Investigative Coverage on Online Media

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18196/ikm.21655>

Article Info

Article history:

Received 16 Feb 2024

Revised 7 May 2024

Accepted 14 May 2024

ABSTRACT

Investigative reporting in the digital era faces challenges due to the presence of online and social media. Long reporting times, limited budgets, and minimal editorial resources increasingly undermine the sustainability of investigative journalism. The competition for rapid news coverage further pressures investigative reporting. Several journalists in Yogyakarta and other regions address these challenges by practicing collaborative journalism through collaborative newsrooms. This research aims to describe how journalists in the field use collaborative newsrooms to produce investigative reports. It explores collaborative journalism practices as a middle ground to deliver credible, public-interest reporting using data and investigative journalism principles. The study employs a case study method, involving in-depth interviews with journalists and the analysis of published news data. The findings show that journalists in Yogyakarta use a temporary and separate model for their collaborative newsrooms, focusing on short-term collaboration on a single topic. These newsrooms leverage technology to facilitate communication and data sharing. Tasks are divided among participants to ensure comprehensive, in-depth, data-driven reporting. The reports are published in online media, serving as a strategic approach to presenting investigative journalistic work often constrained by limited media space.

Keywords: Collaborative, Newsroom, Investigative, Journalism, Online Media

ABSTRAK

Liputan investigasi era digital menghadapi tantangan dengan kehadiran media online dan media sosial. Faktor waktu liputan yang panjang, keterbatasan biaya dan minimnya sumber daya redaksi, kian mengikis keberlangsungan jurnalisisme investigasi. Keberadaan liputan investigasi makin terhimpit dengan persaingan adu cepat pemberitaan. Sejumlah jurnalis di Yogyakarta dan wilayah berbeda menyalasi dengan jurnalisisme kolaborasi berbasis *collaborative newsroom*. Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan *collaborative newsroom* yang dilakukan jurnalis di lapangan untuk menjadi berita investigasi. Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan praktik kolaborasi jurnalis sebagai jalan tengah menyajikan pemberitaan kredibel berdasar kepentingan publik dengan prinsip jurnalisisme data dan investigasi. Metode yang digunakan adalah studi kasus melalui wawancara mendalam dengan jurnalis serta memadukan data publikasi hasil pemberitaan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan, *collaborative newsroom* yang dilakukan jurnalis di Yogyakarta dalam proses peliputan investigasi menggunakan model sementara dan terpisah atau *temporary and separate* dan bersifat *short-term collaboration on a single topic* atau jangka pendek dan hanya pada satu topik tertentu. *Collaborative newsroom* dibentuk dengan memanfaatkan kemudahan teknologi untuk berkomunikasi dan *sharing* data. *Collaborative newsroom* dilakukan dengan pembagian tugas liputan dan pencarian data untuk dikolaborasikan dalam berita yang komprehensif, mendalam dan berbasis data. Output pemberitaan dilakukan di media online sebagai sebuah strategi penyajian karya jurnalistik investigasi yang seringkali terbentur dengan *space* media.

Kata Kunci: Kolaborasi, Redaksi, Investigasi, Jurnalisisme, Media Online

INTRODUCTION

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The ease of access to information in the digital era significantly influences audience consumption patterns through social media and online media. Webster and Ksiazek (2012) argue that audiences, as consumers of information, are shifting towards digital media due to differences in media product quality, social desires for diverse media choices, and the size of media outlets, which affect user preferences. Digital media facilitates easier consumption of quality content through ease of reproduction and often at no cost (Anderson, 2019). This shift is also accompanied by changes in editorial work patterns, transitioning from conventional to digital methods. Marhamah and Fauzi (2021) identify four aspects of journalism transformation in the digital era: the methods journalists use to obtain information, the nature of news content, editorial structure, and the relationships between media outlets. These changes accelerate the dynamics of the media market, driven by competition with social media, which influences online media production outcomes (Maulana, 2016).

News trends in Indonesian online media can be divided into two categories: Quality News and Popular News. This classification is based on how issues are presented, technical correctness, and public interest aspects highlighted in online media. Online media reporting is often dominated by sensationalism in the realm of popular news (Lestari, 2017). This trend also affects the landscape of investigative reporting, where the high costs and long time required for data collection lead many media companies to deprioritize investigative journalism (Iswinarno, 2023).

The inherent uncertainty of investigative reporting does not excuse media from performing thorough verification and confirmation before disseminating information to the public. Verification distinguishes journalism from rumors, gossip, and hoaxes; journalists must verify information to prevent future confusion (Haryanto, 2014). The verification process and balance are crucial for maintaining journalistic ethics (Winarni & Lestari, 2019). Local journalists in Yogyakarta have adopted collaborative journalism in collaborative newsrooms to overcome the lengthy and complex verification process. This practice was initiated by Kompas DIY journalist Haris Firdaus, who was concerned about the confusing data on Covid-19 case spreads in DIY. His collaborative efforts were supported by journalists from seven different media outlets, including VOA Indonesia, Harian Jogja, Gatra, CNN Indonesia TV, Pemuda Jogja, Idn Times, and Tirta (Interview with Kompas Yogyakarta Journalist, Haris Firdaus).

Changes in newsroom work patterns are not new. The internet, in particular, has significantly impacted collaborative newsroom operations. Neto et al. (2019) describe four models of collaborative work in newsrooms, known as 4C: communication, coordination, cooperation, and connections. The collaborative newsroom system facilitates communication, human resource coordination, and shared material resources, including technology. It also fosters collaboration among professionals in journalistic work production and connections that integrate social networks and software into contemporary newsroom operations (Neto et al., 2019). The internet also highlights differences in journalists' news production patterns, with newsrooms no longer confined to a single location but spread across various regions (Lestari, 2020).

Maria Konow Lund's research indicates that over the last two decades, investigative journalism has been reconstructed through global collaborative efforts, such as the Panama Papers investigation, which exposed tax evasion. This collaborative achievement has led to increased academic interest in the collaborative work of journalists and media in investigative reporting (Lund, 2019). Collaboration between editorial staff is becoming a common alternative amidst limited editorial resources for specific reporting processes like investigations (Jenkins & Graves, 2019).

Sarah Stonbely's (2017) research identifies six models of collaborative journalism in America: Temporary and Separate, Temporary and Co-Creating, Temporary and Integrated, Ongoing and Separate, Ongoing and Co-Creating, and Ongoing and Integrated. Jenkins and Graves found three forms of collaboration among local journalists in Europe: ongoing collaboration in topic-driven projects, short-term collaboration on a single topic, and collaboration through shared content distribution (Jenkins & Graves, 2019).

Collaborative practices are chosen as a middle way to overcome investigative reporting challenges, primarily due to the complex data collection process. Investigative reporting requires accurate and comprehensive data to ensure that the information provided to the public offers a clear perspective on significant events. The data verification process is often time-consuming and resource-intensive. Collaborative reporting enables journalists to work together in data collection, verification, and evaluation. In the digital journalism ecosystem, collaboration is a natural selection process that

compels media to work together for economic and idealistic survival (Nurlatifah & Mutmainnah, 2021).

At the local media level, collaborative practices in investigative reporting are relatively uncommon. Competition among regional media often leads to exclusivity between media outlets and journalists (Interview with *Harian Jogja* journalist, Bhekti Suryani). In Yogyakarta, collaborative practices differ from national-level collaborations, as they are often conducted without external funding and aim to reveal facts and uphold public interest (Interview with *Kompas* journalist, Haris Firdaus). Some collaborative practices do receive funding from non-profit organizations, but many initiatives arise from individual journalists' concerns and not media editorial policies. These initiatives are also discussed within journalist organizations like the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Yogyakarta, without editorial intervention.

This distinction sets apart the collaborative coverage landscape in Indonesia. According to Nurlatifah and Mutmainnah (2021), digital journalism collaborations in Indonesia fall into three categories reflecting digital media ownership distribution: large national media companies expanding their businesses, new online media companies led by local entrepreneurs and professionals, and diverse media collaborations involving international companies.

In contrast, this research finds that collaborative practices in Yogyakarta's online media originate from various outlets not united by ownership networks or media company status. These collaborations are driven by the initiative of individual journalists who recognize issues requiring extensive investigative efforts. This study aims to explain how collaborative newsroom practices in investigative reporting by local Yogyakarta journalists elevate local issues into significant journalistic work. It also explores how journalists and media influence government policy by transcending editorial boundaries and expression limitations often imposed by traditional media space constraints.

METHODS

This research employs a qualitative approach with a case study methodology. Creswell (2016) defines case studies as a qualitative research strategy used to examine specific events, processes, activities, or individuals in depth, often bounded by time and activities. According to Wahyuningsih (2013), a case study involves exploring a particular phenomenon (case) within a certain timeframe and activity, collecting detailed and in-depth information using various data collection procedures over a specific period. Similarly, Eidhagda and Ediyono (2022) describe case studies as analytical tools aimed at examining strategies, organizing meetings, and uncovering specific findings related to particular cases.

The case study method was chosen for this research due to its capacity to provide an in-depth understanding of research questions, particularly focusing on the collaborative journalism practices of journalists in Yogyakarta within the context of investigative reporting. The specificity of the problem is evident in the coverage area, the cases or issues addressed, and the involvement of journalists, all of whom operate in the Yogyakarta region. Despite the local focus, the reach of collaborative coverage extends beyond geographical boundaries due to the broad distribution of online media and the elevation of local issues to national prominence, particularly those related to the pandemic and land use.

In addition to observation and documentation, this research includes interviews with three key sources: Haris Firdaus from *Kompas*, Bhekti Suryani from *Harian Jogja*, and Dipna Videlia Putsanra from *Tirto*. These individuals were selected based on their roles as initiators of collaborative practices among local journalists in Yogyakarta, capable of bringing together journalists from different media outlets for ongoing collaborative reporting. The selection was based on the individual contributions of these journalists rather than media representation.

Qualitative data collected in the field will be presented in narrative text, tables, charts, matrices, and other formats. Conclusions will be drawn by referencing the problem formulation outlined in the initial sections. Verification will be ongoing throughout the analysis process, ensuring that the final conclusions are well-founded. This conclusion-drawing process represents the culmination of the entire research endeavor.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Collaboration and journalism have become integral parts of editorial practice in the mass media. In a simple media organization, collaboration occurs among journalists, editors, photographers, videographers, and even citizens. In the era of new media, collaboration is further enhanced through technological approaches, such as the use of social media and big data on the internet to support journalistic work. Collaborative journalism, which involves partnerships between media, journalists, and civil society groups, leverages digital technology to produce in-depth and impactful reporting amidst the economic and professional challenges facing the media industry (Jenkins & Graves, 2024). Journalism as an institution is adapting to pressures from other institutions, such as technology and markets, by becoming more collaborative (Koivula, 2024).

Despite the trend of collaborative journalism in Indonesia often being hampered by issues of exclusivity in media reporting, collaboration is seen as the future of journalism amid competition with internet-based media, including online media and social media. Wahyu Dhyatmika, the executive editor of Tempo magazine, remarked that the current era of journalism is one of collaboration rather than competition. Collaborative efforts enhance the impact of journalistic work, making the media more relevant and necessary for the public (Remotivi, 2020). This approach challenges the assumption that journalists' reports lose perspective when they depend solely on what other media report (Lestari, 2018). In collaborative practices, journalistic independence and ethics are maintained, with collaboration serving as a method rather than a tactic to replicate each other's news.

Definitions of collaborative journalism vary and can be interpreted narrowly or broadly. At the micro level, within a media organization, collaboration is part of narrow journalistic practice. At the macro level, collaboration can involve journalists from different newsrooms, organizations, and resources. Digital technology plays a crucial role in both approaches, facilitating collaboration among journalists, media users, and digital applications to provide a comprehensive understanding of factual contexts. Such collaborative work in the digital era is common in hypermedia organizations (Nurlatifah & Irwansyah, 2019).

Collaborative journalism is often described as a model that brings together professionals from various news organizations and other industries to conduct investigative journalism that would otherwise be impossible (Mesquita, 2023). Sarah Stonbely defines collaborative journalism as a cooperative arrangement (formal or informal) between two or more news and information organizations, aimed at complementing each organization's resources and maximizing the impact of the produced content (Stonbely, 2017).

Sarah Stonbely (2017) identifies two important elements of collaborative journalism: the duration of the collaboration and the level of integration between organizational partners. These variables form the basis for six different models of collaborative journalism: Temporary and Separate, Temporary and Co-Creating, Temporary and Integrated, Ongoing and Separate, Ongoing and Co-Creating, and Ongoing and Integrated.

Tabel 1. Variable Models of Collaborative Journalism

	One Time - Finite	Ongoing - Open Ended
Partners create content separately and share it	Temporary and separate	Ongoing and separate
Partners work together to create content	Temporary and Co-creating	Ongoing and co-creating
Partners share content/data/resources at the organizational level	Temporary and Integrated	Ongoing and Integrated

Types of collaborative journalism model (Stonbely, 2017)

Journalist Collaboration on Reporting Pandemic Issues in Yogyakarta

The practice of collaborative journalism in Yogyakarta originated from the concerns of several media journalists facing limited access to coverage during the pandemic. The confusion surrounding pandemic data and information prompted these journalists to adopt collaborative journalism practices, particularly focusing on data journalism. This initiative stemmed from the apprehension of Haris Firdaus, a journalist from Kompas DIY, regarding the unclear data on Covid-19 cases in DIY (Rudiana, 2020). Similar concerns were shared by seven other journalists from various media outlets,

including VOA Indonesia, Harian Jogja, Gatra, CNN Indonesia TV, Ponsel Jogja, Idn Times, and Tirta. They observed that the handling of the pandemic in the Yogyakarta area was perceived as slow and suboptimal, particularly in comparison to other regions that had implemented policies such as Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB).

When covering investigative issues, specific procedures and high journalistic capabilities are indispensable due to the sensitive nature of the topics involved (Kurnia et al., 2021). These sensitive issues often pose challenges that cannot be adequately addressed through conventional reporting methods. Collaborating journalists identified sporadic media coverage as a significant factor hindering the dissemination of crucial issues to the public and stakeholders. Haris initiated communication with fellow journalists who were previously connected through the professional organization Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Yogyakarta.

Haris emphasized to his fellow journalist collaborators that collaboration in the reporting and data processing stages could facilitate the primary objective of amplifying voices, inputs, criticisms, and responses from the public, experts, and agencies involved in the technical management of the pandemic. This collaborative approach aimed to ensure that these perspectives are more effectively conveyed to both central and regional government authorities.

“The second aim is to increase or strengthen the quality of the coverage that we do because by collaborating the quality of our coverage is stronger, making it easier for us to create in-depth coverage with difficult data,” (Haris Firdaus, 2023).

Haris and his fellow journalists in DIY acknowledge the challenges of conducting journalistic work during the pandemic, as various activities are restricted. In addition to concerns about virus transmission, the transparency of government data delivery is also questioned. Given the global impact of the pandemic, journalists find it imperative to collaborate to ensure optimal coverage and access to reliable information (Lund, 2024). Collaborative journalism serves to enhance the impact of investigative reporting, broaden audience reach, and provide comprehensive coverage of events. Journalist safety is another crucial motivation for collaboration, as joint efforts enable the reinforcement of information security measures (Cueva Chacon, 2021). Furthermore, in the realm of investigative reporting, not all media editorial policies adequately support independent investigative journalism. Lengthy and expensive investigative coverage often falls outside the routine agenda of media outlets.

“So then this collaborative work supports us internally, with the aim of improving quality or making it easier for us to do better in-depth and investigative reporting than if we worked alone. In fact, we also hope that with coverage of this collaboration, the processes or writings that we voice will be heard more loudly in front of the government and related parties,” (Haris Firdaus, 2023).

The collaborative journalism undertaken by journalists in DIY resulted in a series of journalistic pieces addressing specific issues related to the development of Covid-19 cases in DIY. Initially, the collaboration team consisted of four journalists from different media outlets, namely Kompas, Harian Jogja, VOA Indonesia, and Gatra. Together, these journalists produced six reports focusing on various aspects of the evaluation of Covid-19 management in Yogyakarta, spanning from one month following the onset of the pandemic to the emergence of the first confirmed case of Covid-19 transmission in Yogyakarta on March 15, 2020 (Setiawan et al., 2020).

Table 2. Results of Series 1 Pandemic Collaboration Coverage
Collaborative Investigation Series 1 Coverage
Theme: Evaluation of Covid-19 Handling in Yogyakarta
Published March 16 2020

Journalist/Media	News Title	Link
Bhukti Suryani - Jogja Daily	It's Time for DIY to Apply for PSBB	https://jogjapolitan.harianjogja.com/read/2020/04/16/510/1036927/diy-lalu-cepatnya-mengajukan-psbb
Haris Firdaus - Kompas	Critical Point to Stem the Pandemic in Yogyakarta.	https://www.kompas.id/baca/nusantara/2020/04/16/jalan-terjal-melawan-pandemi-covid-19-di-yogyakarta
Nurhadi Sucahyo - VOA Indonesia	A month of Corona in Yogyakarta, from one case to 62	https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/sebulan-corona-di-yogyakarta-dari-satu-case-jadi-62/5372763.html
Nurhadi Sucahyo - VOA Indonesia	After Jabodetabek, Yogyakarta Should Implement PSBB	https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/after-jabodetabek-perlukah-yogyakarta-tercepat-psbb-/5374472.html
Arief Koes - Gatra	A Month of Corona Yogya: Iceberg of Problems and 2 New Waves.	https://www.gatra.com/news-475738-kesehatan-sebulan-corona-yogya-gunung-es-problem--2-gelombang-baru.html
Arief Koes - Gatra	A Month of Corona Yogya: Between PSBB and the Potential of Special Regions	https://www.gatra.com/news-475738-kesehatan-sebulan-corona-yogya-gunung-es-problem--2-gelombang-baru.html

Source: Processed by the author from media collaborators

The initial series of collaboration highlighted three significant issues: a drastic increase in Covid-19 cases, limited availability of laboratory tests, and ineffective social restrictions. Additionally, the coverage explored the possibility of implementing Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in DIY, although the regional government later deemed it did not meet the PSBB requirements (Rudiana, 2020).

Interestingly, the genesis of this collaboration predates the pandemic. It originated from a workshop activity that inspired in-depth investigative coverage of the Indra cinema project in Yogyakarta. Initially involving eight collaborating journalists, the project later narrowed down to three participants before halting.

Collaborative journalism has the potential to enhance visibility and sustain journalistic practices, particularly in newsrooms with limited resources (Munoriyarwa & Chiumbu, 2024). Trust forms the cornerstone of collaborative investigative reporting, as emphasized by Sambrook (2017). Building trust involves establishing clear structures and guidelines, engaging neutral partners in coordinating coverage, resolving issues, setting goals with measurable metrics, and upholding values in journalistic production.

This foundation of trust paved the way for a second collaborative endeavor with increased journalist involvement. Three additional journalists joined, resulting in a total of seven collaborating journalists for the second coverage. This collaborative effort produced eight reports published in online media, focusing on deaths during the Covid-19 pandemic in Yogyakarta. However, one collaborator from Ponsel Jogja withdrew from the project due to internal editorial team commitments.

Table 3. Results of Series 2 Pandemic Collaboration Coverage

Collaborative Investigation Series 2 Coverage		
Theme: Death During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Yogyakarta		
Published April 30 2020		
Journalist/Media	News Title	Link
Bhekti Suryani - Jogja Daily	COVID-19 in DIY: Those Who Lost Their Lives But Were Not Recorded.	https://m.harjanjogja.com/jogjapolitan/read/2020/04/30/510/1038036/covid-19-di-diy-kerja-yang-lawan-nyawa-tapi-tak-terdata
Haris Firdaus - Kompas	Traces of Corona Data Confusion in Yogyakarta.	https://bebas.kompas.id/baca/nusantara/2020/04/30/jejak-sengkarut-data-korona-di-yogyakarta/
Nurhadi Sucahyo - VOA Indonesia	Corona patient data, why is it confusing?	https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/simpang-siur-data-patient-corona/5397003.html
Nurhadi Sucahyo - VOA Indonesia	Faint Writing on Tombstones: Confused Corona Patient Data (abridged audio version of report number 3)	https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/tulis-an-samar-di-batu-nisan-simpang-siur-data-patient-corona/5397520.html
Arief Koes - Gatra	Disappearance of Corona Victims in Yogyakarta.	https://www.gatra.com/detail/news/477377?t=1
Irwan Syambudi - Tirto	Those Who Died Unrecorded & Without Being Tested During the COVID-19 Pandemic.	https://tirto.id/cepat-pandemi-covid-19-ffkQ
Pito Agustin Rudiana	Data on COVID-19 Deaths in DIY is Awry, PDP Dies Unrecorded.	https://jogja.idntimes.com/news/jogja/pito-agustin-rudiana/data-kematian-covid-19-di-diy-amburadul-pdp-meninggal-tak-ter-recorded
Hendrawan Setiawan - CNN Indonesia TV	Corona Data Confusion in Yogyakarta.	https://www.cnnindonesia.com/tv/20200501081536-431-499138/video-sengkarut-data-korona-di-yogyakarta https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haeyfLQn48&feature=youtu.be

Source: Processed by the author from media collaborators

In the second collaborative coverage, collaborating journalists discovered the phenomenon of unrecorded deaths in DIY. This phenomenon is characterized by a number of deceased victims who had the status of patients under supervision (PDP), but their data was not recorded in the DIY Provincial Government data. This condition has the potential to make data on deaths during the Covid-19 pandemic in DIY inaccurate. If the existing death data is inaccurate, it is possible that the impact of the pandemic cannot be fully understood and the policies taken may not be on target (Rudiana, 2020).

In the third series, there were eight news stories published simultaneously on online media with the theme of Those Who Died and Tested Negative for Covid-19. Team of collaborators found that a number of Patients Under Supervision (PDP) died in DIY who were declared negative for Covid-19 using questionable procedures. This policy has the potential to cause death data to be inaccurate, weaken tracing or contact tracing so that efforts to break the chain of transmission of Covid-19 could become more difficult (Rudiana, 2020).

Table 4. Results of Series 3 Pandemic Collaboration Coverage
Collaborative Investigation Series 3 Coverage
Theme: Death During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Yogyakarta
Published on June 4 and 5 2020

Journalist/Media	News Title	Link
Bhekti Suryani - Jogja Daily	Patgulipat PDP Data Died in DIY, Not Yet Tested but Negative.	https://jogjapolitan.harianjogja.com/read/2020/06/05/510/1040978/patgulipat-data-pdp-meninggal-di-diy-belum-dites-tapi-dinegativekan
Haris Firdaus - Kompas	Questioning the Bias for Determining Corona Negative Patients in Yogyakarta.	https://bebas.kompas.id/baca/nusantara/2020/06/05/standard-ganda-penetapan-patient-negatif-covid-19-di-yogyakarta/
Nurhadi Suchahyo -VOA Indonesia	Corona Patient Status and Data Compilation Problems.	https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/status-patient-corona-dan-problem-pengusunan-data/5448869.html
Nurhadi Suchahyo -VOA Indonesia	Government Asked to Be More Aggressive Regarding Diagnosis of Corona Patients.	https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/gov-diminta-besar-aggressive-terkait-diagnosa-patient-corona-5449414.html
Arief Koes - Gatra	The Mystery of the 'Disappearance' of Corona from PDP Dies in Yogyakarta.	https://www.gatra.com/detail/news/480939?t=1
Irwan Syambudi - Tirto	Behind DIY Corona Data: PDP Dies Without Swab in Negative Category.	https://tirto.id/di-baik-data-corona-diy-pdp-meninggal-tak-diswab-detik-negatif-ffaj
Pito Agustin Rudiana	After two swabs, PDP dies in DIY and is considered negative for COVID-19.	https://jogja.idntimes.com/news/jogja/pito-agustin-rudiana/belum-dua-kali-swab-pdp-meninggal-di-diy-dibuang-negatif-covid/1
Hendrawan Setiawan - CNN Indonesia TV	DIY Regional Government Negates Covid-19 Cases Not Complying with Ministry of Health Regulations.	https://youtu.be/y8IxxIabGo8

Source: Processed by the author from media collaborators

Collaboration of Journalists in Covering Land Issues in Yogyakarta

The practice of collaborative journalism among Yogyakarta journalists continues even a year after the onset of the pandemic. This collaborative newsroom initiative involves five different online media platforms, namely Suara.com, Kompas.com, net.id, tirto.id, and projectmultatuli.org. Journalists participating in this collaborative project shed light on land issues in Yogyakarta, particularly focusing on the Sultan Ground's land ownership policy. The collaborators include Dipna Videlia Putsanra from Tirto.id, Abdus Somad from Jaring.id, Fajar Nugraha from projectmultatuli.org, Irawan Sapto Adhi from kompas.com, and members of a special coverage team from Suara.com.

The series of investigative journalistic works produced by this collaborative newsroom resulted in three series of coverage published simultaneously across the five online media platforms from September 20 to 22, 2021. This collaborative coverage of land issues in Yogyakarta is part of the ongoing Agrarian Issues Investigation Collaborative Coverage project organized by the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Yogyakarta and the Kurawal Foundation. Notably, this collaboration differs from previous practices as it does not rely on external funding to finance the reporting process.

Dipna Videlia Putsanra, a Tirto.id journalist involved in the collaboration, mentioned that the idea for reporting on agrarian issues in Yogyakarta emerged from a collaboration between AJI Yogyakarta and the Kurawal Foundation, aiming to address long-standing land issues in DIY. The agreed-upon

coverage topic is executed under the supervision of project mentors and undergoes layered editing at the editorial level in each participating media outlet.

Table 5. Results of Collaborative Coverage on Yogyakarta Land Issues Series 1

Journalist/Media	News Title	Link
Dipna Videlia Putsanra - Tirto.id	Silang Sengkarut Village Land Rental in Yogyakarta	https://tirto.id/silang-sengkarut-sewa-tanah-desa-di-yogyakarta-gjDV
Abdus Somad - Jaring.id	Remaining Land Rental Issues	https://jaring.id/sis-problem-ringtanah-desa/
Fajar Nugraha - Project Multatuli	Village Land in the Vortex of Business and Power of the Yogyakarta Palace	https://projectmultatuli.org/tanah-desa-dalam-pusaran-bisnis-dan-kuasa-keraton-yogyakarta/
Irawan Sapto Adhi - Kompas.com	The Face of the Palace in Land Use in Yogyakarta (1)	https://regional.kompas.com/read/2021/09/20/134726478/hadap-keraton-dalam-pecepatan-tanah-di-yogyakarta-1
Suara.com (author mentioned in terms of special coverage team)	Village Land Control in Yogyakarta,	https://jogja.Suara.com/read/2021/09/20/131500/peng-uaian-tanah-desa-di-yogyakarta-dari-keraton-anggaran-investor

Source: Processed by the author from media collaborators

As per Dipna's account, the reporting process commenced with coordination with mentors to establish the angle. Subsequently, journalists ventured into the field together to conduct reporting and gather their respective data. The initial coverage topic originates from journalists and is further refined by mentors. Following this, the topic undergoes collective discussion at each meeting to sharpen angles and track coverage progress. The mentor's oversight as gatekeeper in this collaborative coverage also distinguishes it from collaborative endeavors conducted without external funding.

Table 6. Results of Collaborative Coverage on Yogyakarta Land Issues Series 2

Journalist/Media	News Title	Link
Dipna Videlia Putsanra - Tirto.id	Deletion of Village Land Certificates and Poor Legal Basis	https://tirto.id/pencoretan-sertifikat-tanah-desa-dan-dasar-Hukum-yang-tak-kuat-gjFK
Abdus Somad - Jaring.id	Play Scribbles in the Name of the Sultanate	https://jaring.id/main-coret-atas-nama-kesultanan/
Irawan Sapto Adhi - Kompas.com	Concerns Behind Yogyakarta Land Certification	https://regional.kompas.com/read/2021/09/20/173510378/kekhawatiran-di-Balik-sistem-tanah-desa-oleh-keraton-yogyakarta-1?page=all
Irawan Sapto Adhi - Kompas.com	The Face of the Palace in Land Use in Yogyakarta (2)	https://regional.kompas.com/read/2021/09/20/144700378/hadap-keraton-dalam-pecepatan-tanah-di-yogyakarta-2
Suara.com (author mentioned in terms of special coverage team)	Dispute regarding the certification of village land as property of the palace	https://jogja.Suara.com/read/2021/09/21/122500/sengkarut-ertification-tanah-desa-jadi-hak-mili-keraton

Source: Processed by the author from media collaborators

In collaborative processes involving funding, the journalists and media entities involved typically remain constant and consistent. Despite addressing a local issue in Yogyakarta, collaborating journalists may also originate from outside the city, such as Solo. Despite the geographical proximity, coordination of coverage primarily occurs through technological platforms like Zoom conferences and messaging applications.

This collaborative approach aligns with the findings of Walters' (2024) research, wherein collaborative journalism practices facilitate partnerships between organizations, with at least one

committed to traditional journalistic values such as truth, verification, independence, and public service. In this context, the integration of non-journalistic partners significantly enables collaboration, potentially exerting extramedia influences that impact journalism at the organizational level (Walters, 2024).

Table 7. Results of Collaborative Coverage on Yogyakarta Land Issues Series 3

Journalist/Media	News Title	Link
Dipna Videlia - Putsanra - Tirto.id	The Origin of Village Land: From State Property to Palace Property	https://tirto.id/asal-ulus-tanah-desa-dari-kepunyaan-negara-jadi-klik-keraton-gjHZ
Abdus Somad - Jaring.id	ATR/BPN: The origins of the Sultanate's land need to be cross-checked	https://jaring.id/atr-bpn-asal-ulus-tanah-kesultanan-perlu-dikroscek/
Fajar Nugraha - Project Multatuli	Strategy to Annex Village Land in the Name of Yogyakarta Specialties	https://projectmultatuli.org/siasat-mencaplok-tanah-desa-atas-nama-keistimewaan-yogyakarta/
Irawan Sapto Adhi - Kompas.com	The Face of the Palace in Land Use in Yogyakarta (2)	https://regional.kompas.com/read/2021/09/20/154700278/hadap-keraton-dalam-pecepatan-tanah-di-yogyakarta-3
Suara.com (author mentioned in terms of special coverage team)	Village Land Certification by the Palace, Is it True that Villages Are Still Powerful?	https://jogja.suara.com/read/2021/09/21/125000/ertific-ation-tanah-desa-oleh-keraton-besarkah-desa-masih-berdaya

Source: Processed by the author from media collaborators

The coverage of the third collaborative series concludes a series of land investigation processes in Yogyakarta. It was acknowledged that the continuity of collaboration coverage stopped after project funding was completed. Communication is only carried out in the context of relations between journalists in their daily duties in the field.

Collaborative Newsroom Yogyakarta Journalist Investigative Coverage

Collaborative newsroom practices undertaken by journalists in Yogyakarta can be categorized into two types based on initiators: those initiated by individual journalists and those initiated by funding or third-party projects. Both types share similarities with the collaborative journalism model outlined by Stonbely (2017), specifically falling under the temporary and separate model. During the collaboration period, the coverage is temporary, aligning with the objectives of the ongoing projects.

For instance, in collaborative coverage of the pandemic, journalists collaborate based on the same project issue, and the collaboration is temporary, contingent upon the completion of the coverage of the issue at hand. After reaching the third series of pandemic coverage, the collaborative project concludes.

“The reason is more due to busyness, it feels a bit difficult to put it back together because investigative reporting really requires a lot of concentration, the work takes a long time and for example, there is one team that has missed a series of collaborative work, so reconnecting the flow of coverage is a bit difficult,” (Haris Firdaus, 2023).

The temporary nature of collaboration also occurs in funding-based projects. However, the background factor for stopping the project was not based on the completion of the issues covered, but rather in accordance with the completion of the funding contract with a third party.

“Communication is still continuing, but collaboration in the media has been completed in accordance with the applicable contract,” (Dipna Videlia, 2023).

The collaboration carried out is also carried out separately between journalists from various media in Yogyakarta with the content of journalistic work carried out by each in accordance with the editorial policies of each media and the characteristics of each media platform. The mechanism or

flow of journalist collaboration in DIY is slightly different from collaborations at the national level such as collaboration Indonesian League and others. The difference lies in each journalist's personal agreement to carry out the collaboration. The reason is that in several national and international collaborations, agreements to collaborate emerged or became initiatives from the respective newsrooms and media editors.

“So it really started from the problems in the field, our anxiety in the field, so we ourselves called it a collaboration, not a media collaboration but a journalist/personal collaboration. Although of course in its development, all of us who are members must ask for approval from our respective editorial staff. But in essence, those who work in this collaboration are individuals, so the level is indeed the journalists. For example, at the national level, I imagine that the journalists involved could be anyone as long as the media is the same/the same newsroom and the journalists sent can be anyone. Well, if we don't do that, we start from personal friendship networks,” (Haris Firdaus, 2023).

“The initiators of this collaboration idea are AJI Yogyakarta and Kurawal. The idea for the coverage came from AJI Yogyakarta and was then agreed upon together with Kurawal. The editor knows but does not provide angle direction, only provides diction direction for the title and in the article,” (Dipna Videlia, 2023)

Collaboration plays a crucial role in data journalism, as it often necessitates specialized skills and resources that may not be readily available within a single organization (de-Lima-Santos, 2024). Proficiency in data processing and technology not only enables small newsrooms to produce higher-quality news but also facilitates the pooling of resources and the establishment of collaborative newsrooms for conducting intricate cross-border investigations (Houston, 2023).

In applying the principles of data journalism to collaborative endeavors, journalists in DIY undertake several key steps. These include: a) collectively agreeing on and discussing coverage themes, b) jointly planning coverage strategies, c) conducting coverage activities together, such as interviews or on-site reporting, and d) collaboratively collecting, processing, and analyzing data. Collaborative coverage predominantly revolves around data, which is processed, verified, and analyzed in accordance with journalistic standards and protocols. Moreover, this data-centric collaboration adheres to a system of distributing collaborative tasks among journalists.

“So there are friends who in some of these reports are given a bigger role, for example in terms of collecting, processing and analyzing data, then there are other friends who play an important role in lobbying sources. This lobbying is also important because in some reports we have to get data that is actually not open or open by the government in our opinion, so we have to “guerrilla” several people to get that data. The collaboration process stops when writing. Each person is free to write in their own way and style. “So even though we actually agree on a kind of writing flow or problem map in this coverage, the execution is left to each individual who must also be responsible for the writing,” (Haris Firdaus, 2023).

“In collaboration, each group must share the results of field coverage in the form of interviews, photos, recordings, etc. Take turns backing up if someone can't go to the field and then write together. “The results of the coverage are done individually by each journalist, then undergo an editing process by mentors and then editing by new media and released in each mass media,” (Dipna Videlia, 2023).

Collaborative coverage produced several important findings. One of them is the change in policy for handling the pandemic in DIY which began to be felt after news of the third collaboration was published. The DIY Regional Government has made several data corrections or improvements to data related to the pandemic with input from the results of collaborative coverage. For example, previously it did not include the number of residents who had undergone tests, which is why the database is important data today for analyzing the Covid condition in DIY. On the one hand, citizens are expected to be more concerned in the context of handling the pandemic.

“Incidentally, I share every report on social media and there are lots of responses from the public. “Because Jogja nationally is always claimed to be the best, our coverage wants to balance out the many other problems behind it,” (Haris Firdaus, 2023).

On the agrarian issue which discusses the issue of land ownership in Yogyakarta, it is acknowledged that the impact of collaboration-based investigative coverage has not been felt directly. However, collaborating journalists believe that the more massive the reporting is carried out simultaneously, the more public and stakeholder awareness it is hoped will be.

“So far there has been no concrete impact in the form of policies or changes to regulations in DIY, but through collaborative coverage there is public awareness about land issues in DIY,” (Dipna Videlia, 2023).

In relation to the issue of exclusivity in media reporting, the collaborative practice of journalists in DIY has proven that the role of journalists in the investigative reporting process which is closely related to the great public interest actually holds a more important position than mere exclusivity.

“We agree that in this context there are other interests that are greater than the interest of exclusivity. This interest is the public interest or our interest in voicing a problem strongly. “We think that if one issue is written by one media, the voice will be louder and more heard when it is written by many media,” (Bhekti Suryani, 2022)

In Aligned with a study conducted by Mesquita et al., which investigated collaborative journalism practices in three projects in America, collaborative practices contribute to a new modus operandi within the news ecosystem, where collaborative journalism encompasses the production, circulation, and distribution of investigative reporting (Mesquita et al., 2024). Collaborative journalism effectively addresses the limitations of journalistic practice, such as minimal media resources and the individual journalist's limited capacity to gather and verify data. Through collaboration, journalistic endeavors become more streamlined, resulting in data-rich coverage with a broad perspective and enhanced credibility, while the verification process is facilitated by simultaneous efforts.

Drawing on the collaboration model outlined by Jenkins & Graves, investigative collaboration practices among journalists in Yogyakarta adhere to the short-term collaboration on a single topic model. In this context, collaboration revolves around addressing a specific series of issues collectively, is temporary for a brief duration, and involves publications that align with the editorial policies of each collaborating media outlet.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and data findings from the field, several practical conclusions emerged regarding collaborative newsroom practices. Journalists in Yogyakarta predominantly adopt a temporary and separate model in their investigative reporting efforts. In this approach, journalists from diverse media outlets collaborate on specific issues, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and agrarian concerns in Yogyakarta, which are temporary and cease upon the completion of the project. Additionally, while the data collection and coverage theme determination processes are conducted simultaneously, the resulting journalistic outputs remain separate and distinct, attributed to individual media newsrooms.

Moreover, the collaborative practices of local journalists in Yogyakarta diverge from those observed in Indonesian media, often characterized by collaborations within media organizations under the same ownership or network of large companies. Instead, collaboration among Yogyakarta journalists stems from a shared vision among individual journalists regarding regional issues, devoid of editorial intervention and solely driven by ideological alignment.

Furthermore, collaborative journalism entails dividing reporting tasks and pooling resources to produce comprehensive, in-depth, and data-driven news coverage. By transcending personal media exclusivity, collaborative journalism strives to pursue truth journalism in the public interest. Leveraging data-based investigative techniques, collaborative journalism has the potential to unveil

previously obscured investigative data, influencing local government policies in addressing the Covid-19 outbreak in DIY and raising public awareness about land issues in Yogyakarta.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Doctoral Program in Communication Sciences at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, and the Center for Research, Community Service, and Cooperation (P3MK) at Mercu Buana University, Yogyakarta. We would like to express our appreciation to the journalists who graciously participated in this study: Haris Firdaus, Bhukti Suryani, and Dipna Videlia Putsanra. Additionally, we thank the Communication Science Study Program at the Faculty of Communication and Multimedia, Mercu Buana University, Yogyakarta, for their assistance and cooperation throughout this endeavor.

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