

21H.418
Fall 2005

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT # 8
Digitizing the News: Innovation in Online Newspapers

Please submit responses to the following questions to the professor by 5PM on the day of Lec # 12.

- 1) Pablo Boczkowski is not a technological determinist, which is to say, in the context of newspapers in print and online in the 1990s, that he does not think the advent of a new technology by itself radically changed newspapers. What factors, in addition to the introduction of the web, does he consider when explaining the “digitizing of the news?”
- 2) While Boczkowski provides an intriguing view of the journalists and technicians who worked in the newly digitized newspaper environment in the 1990s, he does not consider the users of the news “products” they created. Do you see this neglect of readers, which runs opposite to the methodology used by Elizabeth Long in *Book Clubs*, as a flaw in the study? Would Boczkowski’s thesis have changed in any significant way had he consulted users of the sites he studies?
- 3) Analyze one of the three web sites studied in *Digitizing the News*. Boczkowski was in the field from 1997 to 1999. How has the web site you selected evolved since his field work, in terms of its proximity to, or distance from, the print world? Be prepared to discuss and demonstrate your observations in class.