STEVEN PETROW

Columnist, *The Washington Post*

“Measuring Population Aging: Aging and the Media”

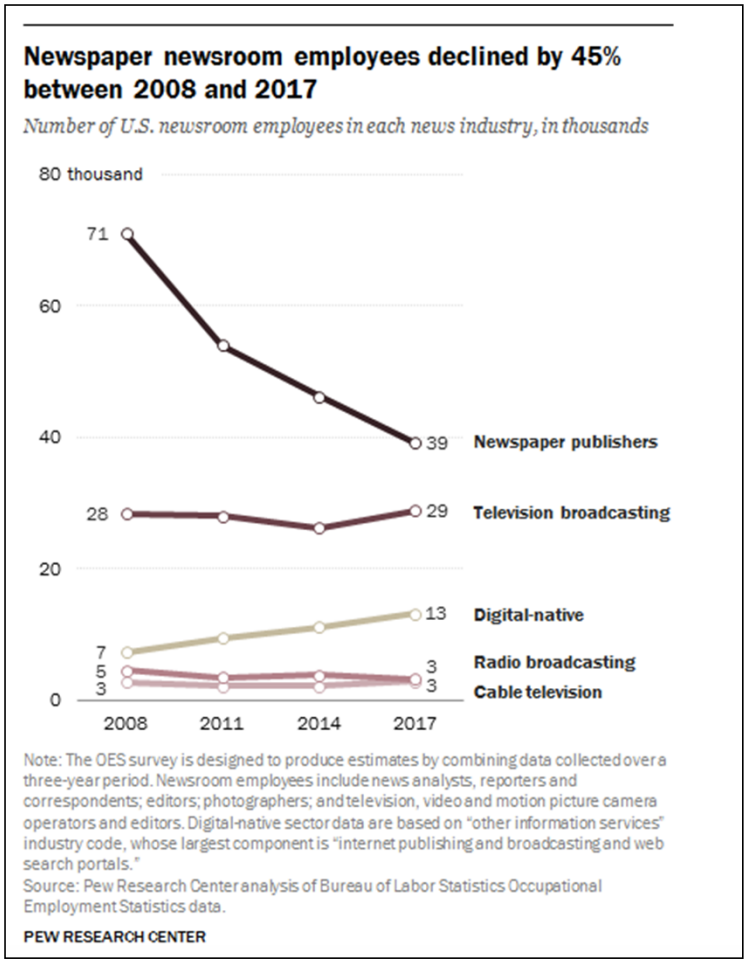
Bangkok, February 25-26, 2019

Newspaper Layoffs Threaten Democracy and Scientific Reporting

JULY 30, 2018

Newsroom employment dropped nearly a quarter in less than 10 years, with greatest decline at newspapers

Source: Pew Research Center



Source: Columbia Journalism Review

CNN BUSINESS
Markets Tech Media Success Perspectives Video
U.S. Edition
Media industry loses about 1,000 jobs as layoffs hit news organizations
By Oliver Darcy and Tom Kludt, CNN Business
Updated 6:52 PM ET, Thu January 24, 2019

Source: CNN

#enemyofthepeople

Sources: Twitter, The New York Times

AP Pipe bombs target Democrats, CNN as political tensions mount Top Stories Topics

Pipe bombs target Democrats, CNN as political tensions mount

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and COLLEEN LONG October 24, 2018

F

FIRST PERSON

A reader became my stalker. Is this the new normal for journalists?

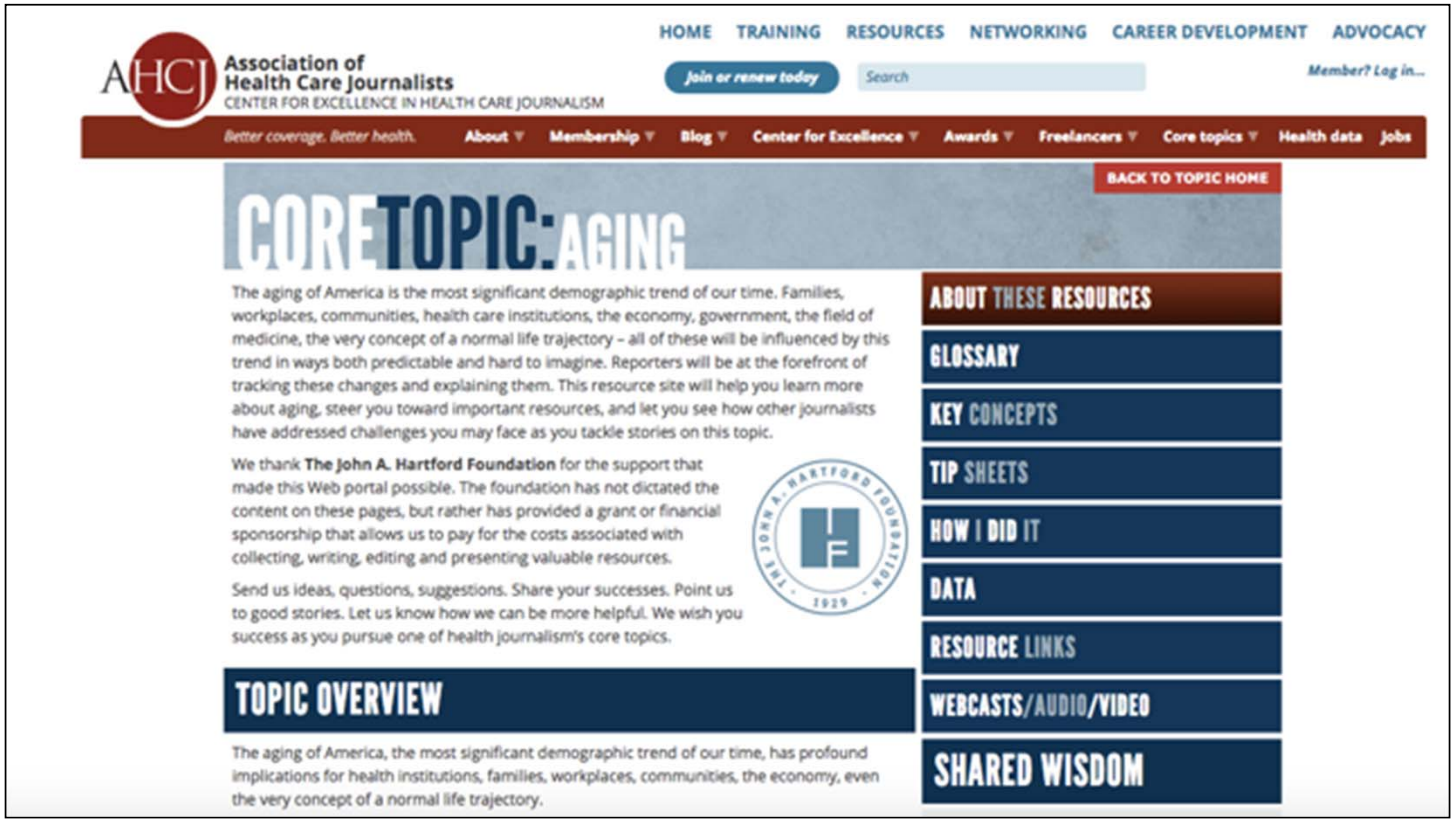
Sources: The New York Times , Columbia Journalism Review

Journalists Lack Scientific/Health Knowledge

> Journalists face a number of pressures that can prevent them from accurately depicting competing scientific claims in terms of their credibility within the scientific community as a whole. First, reporters must often deal with editors who reflexively cry out for "balance." Meanwhile, determining how much weight to give different sides in a scientific debate requires considerable expertise on the issue at hand. Few journalists have real scientific knowledge, and even beat reporters who know a great deal about certain scientific issues may know little about other ones they're suddenly asked to cover.

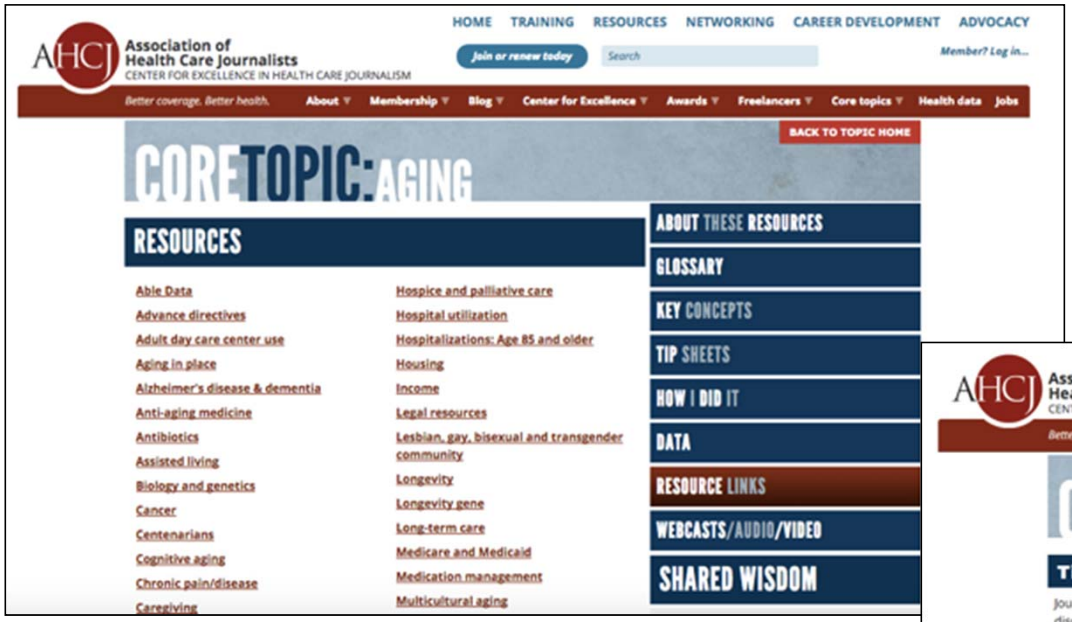
Source: Center for Scientific Accountability

Resources

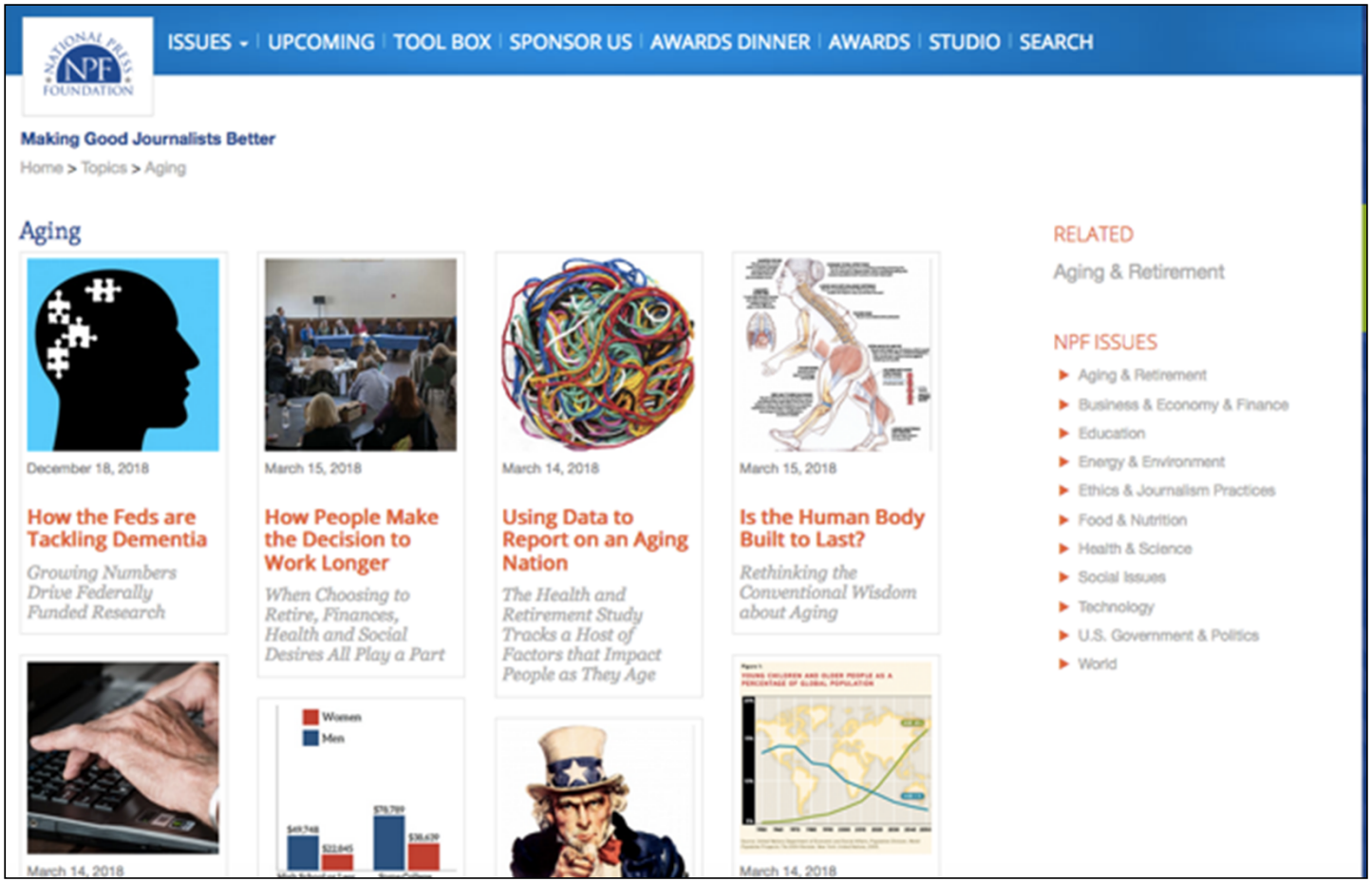


Source: AHJC

Resources for Journalists



Source: AHJC



Source: National Press Foundation

March 14, 2018

New Views of the Aging Mind and Brain

A fresh look at aging and the decline of the cognitive and neural systems

October 17, 2017

Why We Are Living Longer

Longer Lives More Common, But Reasons Why Uncertain

October 15, 2017

Covering Age Discrimination

Barriers Often Prevent Older Americans from the Jobs They Want – or Need

March 13, 2018

Reporter-to-Reporter Tips on Covering an Aging Workforce

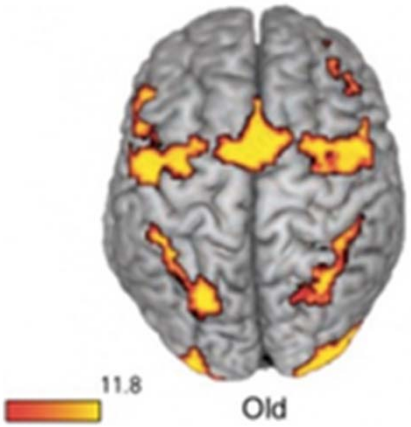
How to Document an America Getting Older

Source: National Press Foundation

March 14, 2018

Using Data to Report on an Aging Nation

The Health and Retirement Study Tracks a Host of Factors that Impact People as They Age



October 18, 2017

When Does Memory Fade?

As People Age, Cognitive Function Declines – But Not Always

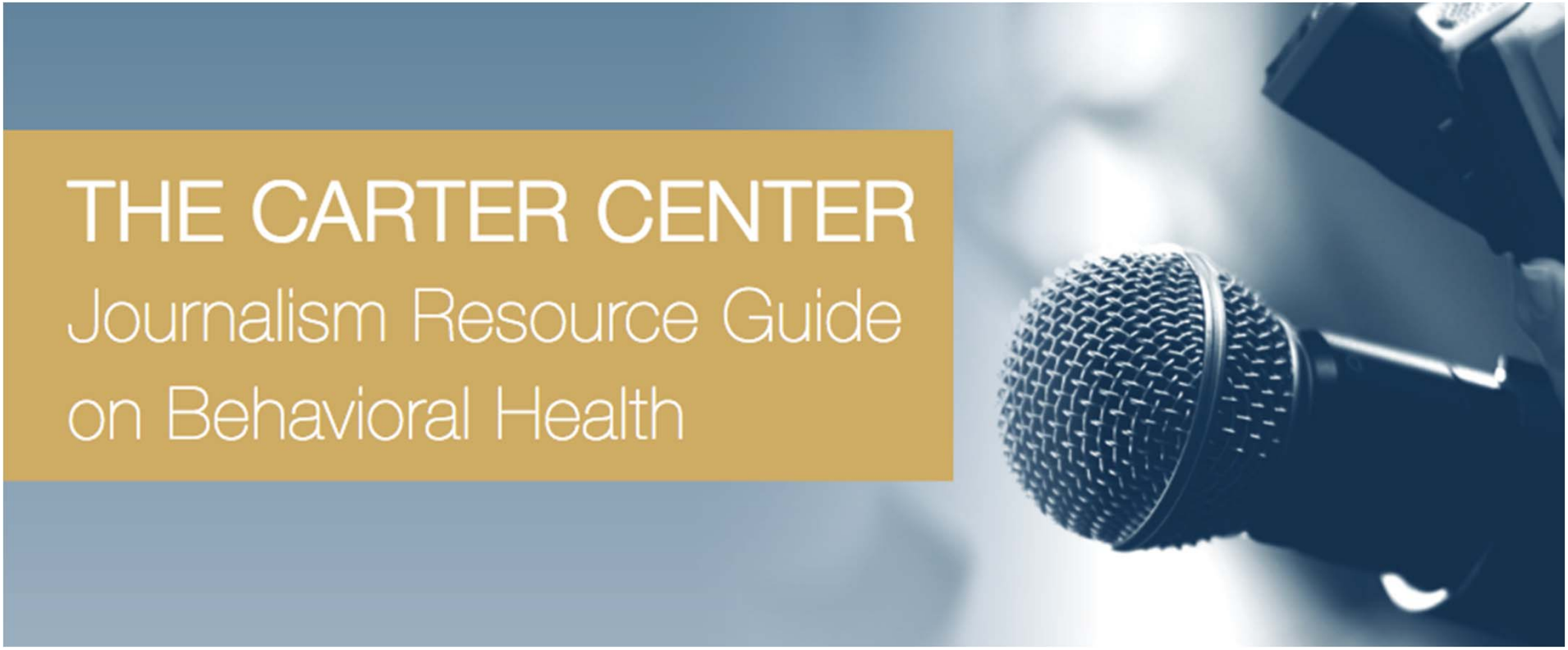
March 12, 2018

How Work is Affected by Caregiving

As Adult Children Are Called on to Tend to Ailing Parents, Retirements Suffer

Source: National Press Foundation

A Model for the Future



WORDS MATTER

As a journalist, you know firsthand that language and the meanings attached to words often impact, influence, develop, and change the attitudes toward the subjects of discussion. Your word choices can help tell your story in a manner that illuminates and creates greater understanding of these mental or substance use disorders and, by doing so, make it more likely people in need will seek help, or conversely, your choice of words can perpetuate stereotyping and discrimination. Use of "Person first" language—words that describe a person as having a condition and not as the condition itself (e.g., a person with schizophrenia vs. a schizophrenic, people with a mental illness vs. the mentally ill)—helps humanize the issue by placing the focus on the person living with a health condition. "Stigma" has been an all-purpose term for the negative attitudes faced by people with behavioral health issues. However, increasingly reporters are using more precise terms, when warranted, such as "prejudice," "bias," "social exclusion," or "discrimination." The terms listed below may have subtle differences; however, the use of one in place of another can make a significant difference in how people perceive themselves and how the public understands their conditions.

Avoid saying:	Instead, say:
Mentally ill Lunatic Psycho Schizophrenic (Schizo)	"a person with ____" [a mental illness diagnosis]
Wacko Looney Mad Crazy Nuts	"a person is ____" [disoriented, depressed, delusional, paranoid, hallucinating, etc.]

COMMON MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION INDEX[26]

CONDITION	DESCRIPTION OF SYMPTOMS
Attention Deficit Disorder/ Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD)	Inattention or difficulty staying focused, hyperactivity or constantly being in motion or talking, impulsivity (e.g., often not thinking before acting)
Autism Spectrum Disorders	Impaired communication, cognition, social interaction, with various levels of restricted, repetitive behavior, focus, and actions. Includes Autism, Asperger's Disorder, Rett's Disorder, and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
Bipolar Disorder	Recurrent episodes of highs (mania) and lows (depression) in mood; changes in energy and behavior; extreme irritable or elevated mood; an inflated sense of self-importance; risky behaviors, distractibility, increased energy and a decreased need for sleep
Borderline Personality Disorder	Intense emotions and mood swings; harmful, impulsive behaviors; relationship problems; low self-worth; a frantic fear of being left alone (abandoned); aggressive behavior
Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)	An overwhelming sense of worry and tension; physical symptoms including fatigue, headaches, muscle tension, muscle aches, trouble swallowing, trembling, twitching, irritability, sweating, lightheadedness, nausea, and hot flashes
Major Depressive Disorder	A pervading sense of sadness and loss of interest or pleasure in most activities that interferes with the ability to work, study, sleep, and eat; negative impact on a person's thoughts, sense of self-worth, sleep, appetite, energy, and concentration

How to Reach Steven Petrow

- Web: www.stevenpetrow.com
- Email: sp@stevenpetrow.com
- Twitter: @stevenpetrow
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/stevenpetrow
- Thank you.