Tow-Knight Center
for Entrepreneurial Journalism

NEWMARK **J** SCHOOL | CUNY

HACKS/ HACKERS

Introducing the NewsQ Initiative

An initiative of the Tow Knight Center at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, with support from international grassroots journalism organization Hacks/Hackers, NewsQ seeks to boost quality journalism when algorithms rank and recommend online news articles.

NewsQ approaches this task by engaging in design-thinking activities in collaboration with technologists, journalists, academics and members of other communities across civil society.

The NewsQ initiative aims to achieve three broad outcomes:

1. Technical Definitions
While online news and social media algorithms operate according to defined rules, how quality is actually defined remains opaque. In response, NewsQ asks journalists, researchers, technologists and other specialists to use journalistic standards and civic frameworks to clarify how news should be defined and framed for online realms. NewsQ then documents and shares the technical definitions around the principles and metrics of online news quality that online platforms can in turn more readily incorporate into their algorithmic processes.

2. Ideation through Data
NewsQ uses data to "ideate" or foster new ideas that help clarify what constitutes -- and what defines -- "quality" when algorithms rank and recommend news. We collect two types of data to create opportunities for insight:

1. A database of signal data across 12,000+ information outlets
2. An archive of screen captures of news ranking and recommendations from various platforms and applications

3. Creative Prototypes
NewsQ facilitates the development of solution prototypes to address the challenge of news ranking and recommendation. Examples of NewsQ's creative prototyping activities include hackathons and seed grants for data projects that are aimed at conceptualizing journalistic standards for news ranking and news recommendation systems.

Learn More About the NewsQ Initiative
The NewsQ Initiative was launched out of the awareness that shared definitions, data, and conversations are essential when addressing the challenge of supporting quality journalism as revenues that once supported news organizations continue to decline. Following a participatory approach, the NewsQ initiative hopes to promote constructive steps towards solutions.

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