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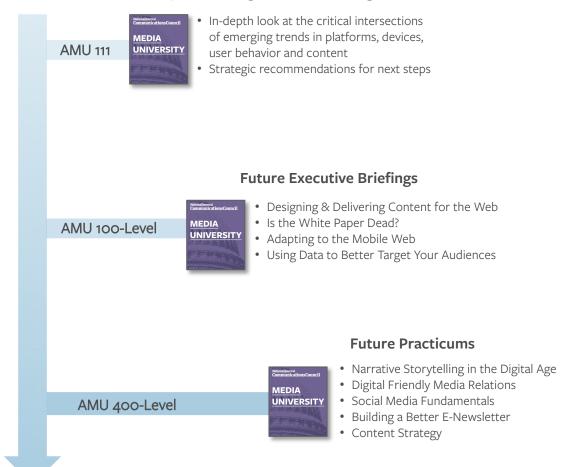
Media University

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January 16, 2015 /

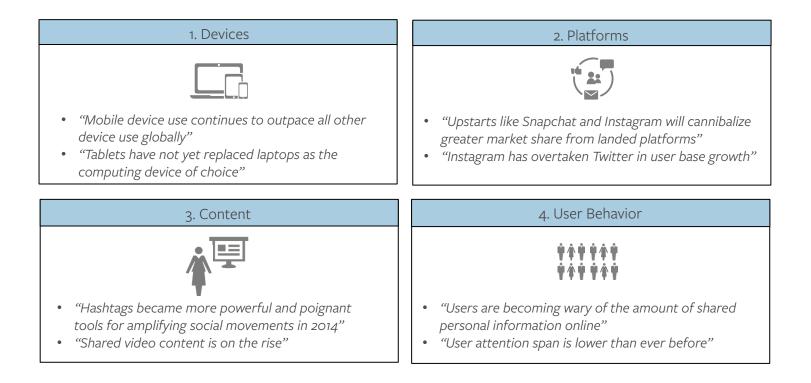
# Mapping the Media University Curriculum



### Today: Predicting the Future of Digital Media

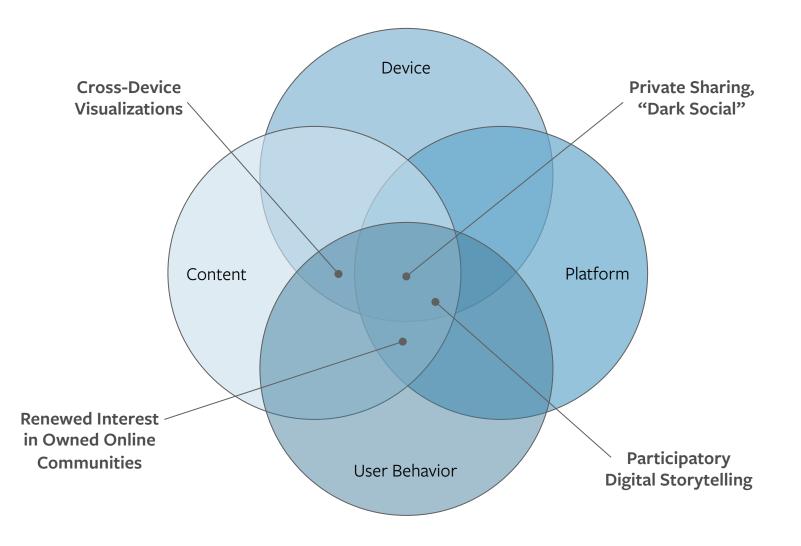
# Tendency to Categorize Key Digital Media Trends in Isolation

When Siloed, Four Key Verticals Set Stage for Dissecting New Media Landscape



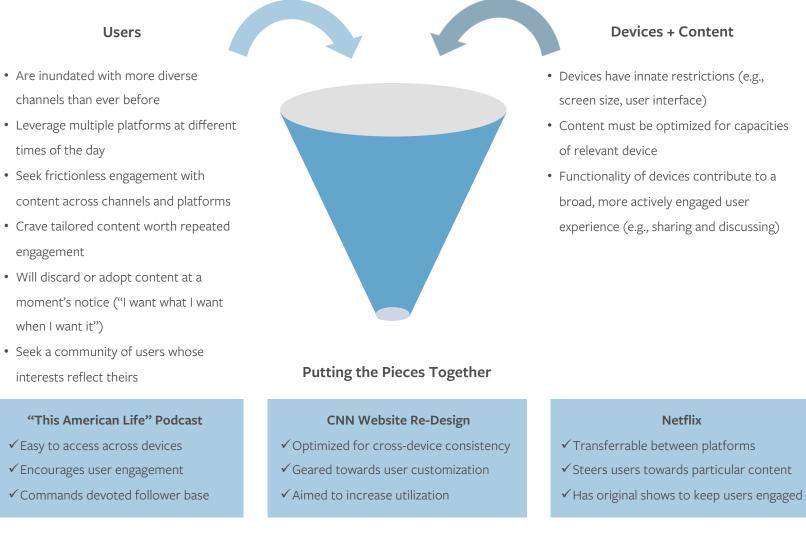
# Integrate the Approach to Understand Actionable Trends

Intersections of Each Vertical Reveal Valuable Insights



# Media Companies Operating in the Intersection

Hyper Targeted, Personalized Content and Experiences a Result of User Expectations and Device Limitations



times of the day

engagement

when I want it")

### **Devices + Content**

- Devices have innate restrictions (e.g., screen size, user interface)
- Content must be optimized for capacities
- · Functionality of devices contribute to a broad, more actively engaged user experience (e.g., sharing and discussing)

#### Source: Forbes article, "Retail's New Battleground: The I Want What I Want When I Want It Generation," NiemanLab article, "Consumer-Aware, Context-Aware," National Journal Communications Council research and analysis. 5 © 2015 National Journal

# Staying Ahead of the Changes in Digital Media

### Taking Back Ownership of Online Communities

### **Key Themes**

- The evolving role of Facebook in the overall digital mix
- Key success metrics favor breadth over depth
- Qualities of successful branded online communities

### Understanding the Unbundled Mindset

### Key Themes

- The diversification of platforms leading to more specific use cases
- Motivations for public vs. private sharing on social media
- Opportunities to promote private peer-to-peer exchange

### Seizing Cross-Device Visual Opportunities

### **Key Themes**

- Gateway visual content that garners attention vs. sustains it
- Data journalism as a consistent source of visual content
- The ongoing importance of text on predominantly visual media

### Pushing Traditional Storytelling Boundaries

### Key Themes

- Audience orientation to story structures and heroes
- The disaggregation of story artifacts to entice user interaction
- Practical implications of participatory storytelling

### Prioritizing Right-Sized Mobile

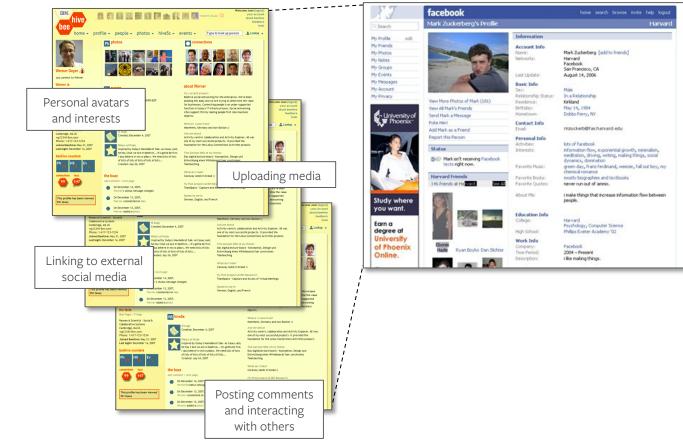
### **Key Themes**

- Effects of mobile favoritism
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- Opportunities to lend organizational content to create mobile moments via partnerships

# Past Strategy: Following the Facebook Trail

First-Generation Branded Communities Emulated the "Master"

### Co-Opting Key Features...



### ...But Worth the Investment?

Intuitive use because of borrowed features

### Moderated peer-to-peer conversations gave some degree of control, yet maintained some authenticity

Required dedicated time and resources to develop and seed an entirely new community

### $\bigcirc$

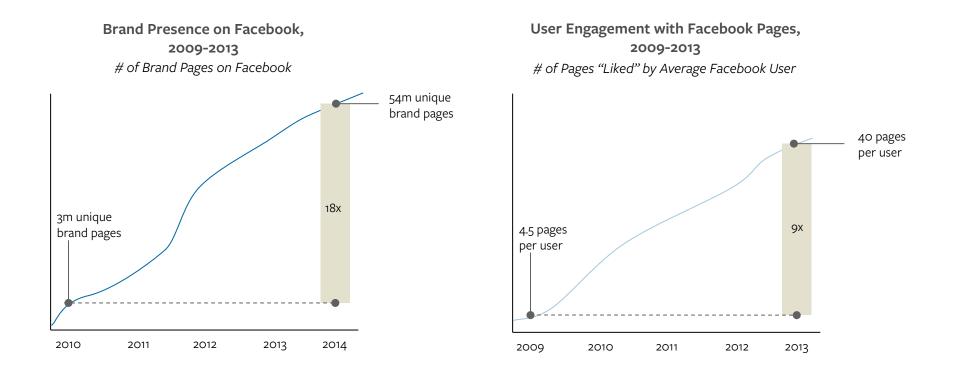
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Efforts to replace (rather than supplement) reliance on Facebook ultimately failed because of powerfully ingrained user habits

# **Making Facebook the Center**

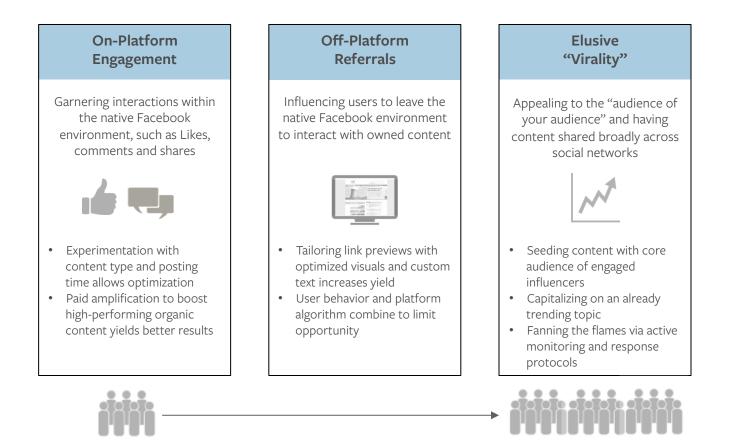
Brand Presence on Facebook and User Engagement with Brands Growing Exponentially Over Time



Source: Socialbakers article, "Cutting through the Crowds on Facebook News Feeds," Statisticbrain.com, Digital Buzz Blog article, "Facebook: Facts and Figures for 2010, National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

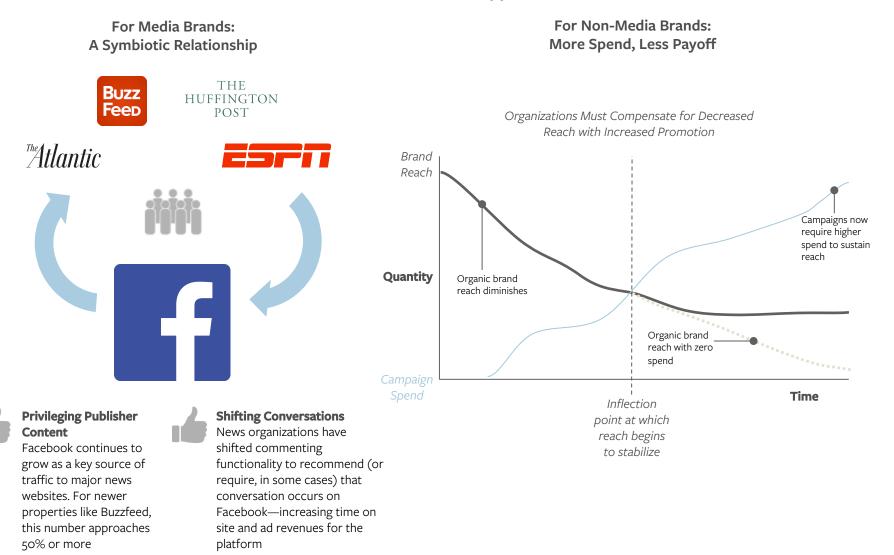
# **Current Measures of Effectiveness**

Key Success Metrics Favor Audience Reach, Awareness Building



# **Two Roads Diverged**

Media Brands Rewarded While Others Approach Facebook Zero



# **The Pendulum Swings Back**

2015 Will See a Return to Owned Brand Communities

	Leased Community	Owned Community 1.0	Owned Community 2.0
Design	Standardized design and user experience; oriented around user relationships to one another	Custom branded design; standardized user experience; oriented around user relationships to organization and one another	Custom, dynamic user experience; oriented around user relationship to organization
Content	Fixed options for content creation and delivery for both user and organization	Flexible options for creation and delivery for both user and organization	Flexible options for creation and dynamic delivery based on user preferences and context
User Control	Profiles populated by user- contributed information and content	Profiles populated primarily by user-contributed information with some connection to organizational databases	 Profiles dynamically populated by both user and organizational data, including location, engagement history
User Data	Limited access to platform user data	Full access to data, but limited meaningful metrics beyond engagement	Full access to data and real- time analysis to allow for customization
	P	γ ast	Future

# **Personalized Content Recommendations**

### **Users Enter Flavor Preferences...**



- Users are encouraged to enter more data with the promise of delivering further tailored recommendations— and actionable insight for McCormick
- The quiz is fun, engaging, and fully optimized across mobile and desktop platforms
- Once complete, users can opt to further refine suggested content by adding and tailoring their profiles

...Which Are Used to Generate Custom Content Recommendations...



- Content recommendations transparently reveal the algorithm, giving users insight into why it might be a good fit or be particularly useful information
- Options to rate and review content to further customize recommendations, which yields useful feedback and user data (both individual and aggregate) for the organization

# ...And Highlight Organizational Products, Services, Value & Brand

Overview	Directions				
Ingredients		🔒 Cooking Tips			
Directions	<ol> <li>Prepare cake mix as directed on package, adding vanilla.</li> <li>Bake as directed on package for oupcakes. Cool cupcakes on wire</li> </ol>	Test Kitchen Tips: For easier measurement, 1/4 tsp. Food Color = 20 to 25			
Featured Flavor	rack. 3. Tint frosting black with 1/2 teaspoon black food color. Frost	drops			
Ratings and Reviews	or time interrupt gave and the subsport test test of pupping the control of the subsport test of test				
More recipes you'll love	f им соокни коми им срока ром				
	Featured Flavor				
Mexican Chocolate Brownies 36 36 36 36 36 Recipe by McCornick	This recipe features Black Food Color. Here are a few more delicio ways to use it.	US			
94 <sup>%</sup> Concolutey Match Sweet		Soccer Ball Cookies ***** Recipe by McConnick Black Velvet Whoople			
		Pies 大大大大 Recipe by McCornick			
	Black Food Color				

- Content is full of value-added tips to help users get the most out of the experience and products
- Pages contain links to related content, garnering increased depth of visits
- Sharing is encouraged across a variety of platforms, with custom calls-to-action

### Potential Member Application: Dynamic Knowledge Center

- Users create a profile to track issues and preferences
- Organization can serve up tailored content recommendations and opportunities to interact (rate, comment, share)
- Organization can then use data to build out targeted list of influencers and potential advocates

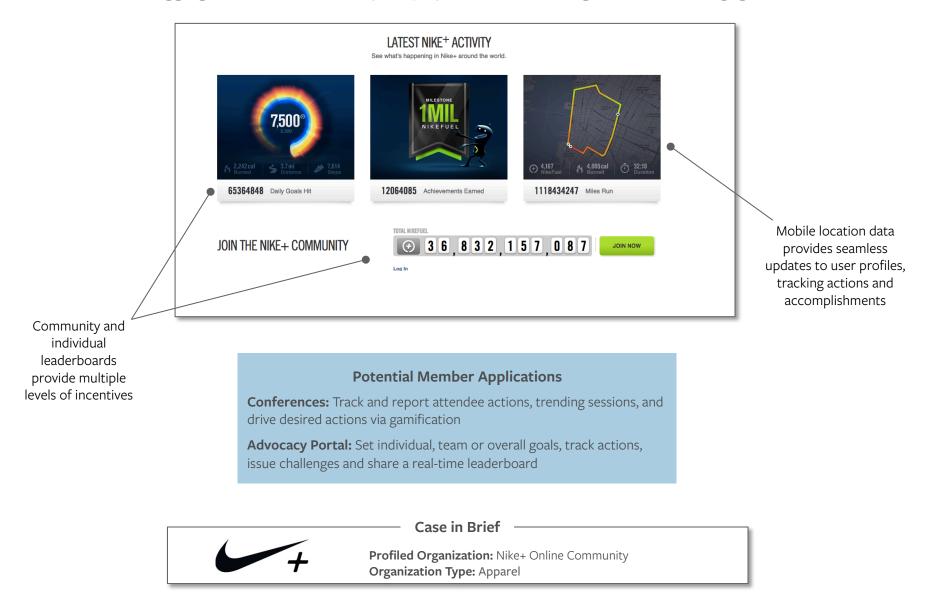


### Case in Brief

**Profiled Organization:** McCormick & Company's "FlavorPrint" Platform **Organization Type:** Food & Beverage

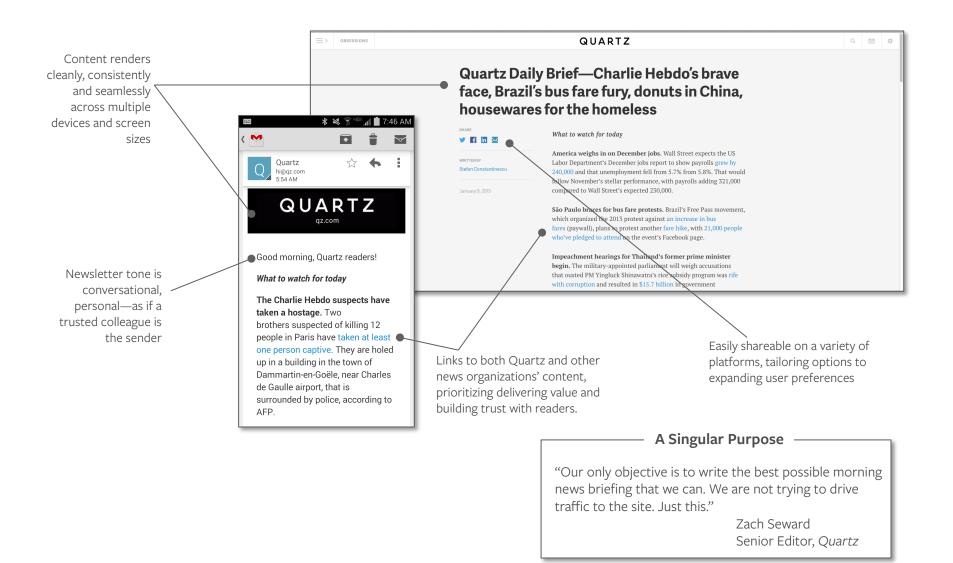
# **Automated Location and Activity Tracking**

Geotagging Features and Publicly-Displayed Goals Encourage Active User Engagement



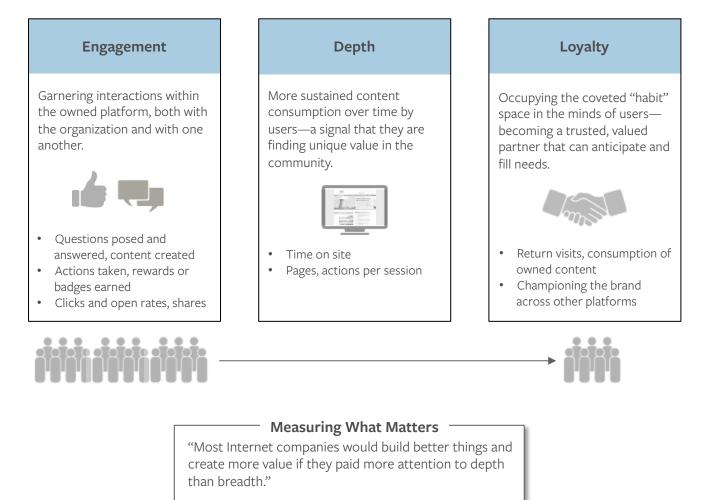
# An Overlooked Owned Channel

Humble E-Newsletter Making a Comeback in 2015



# **Updated Measures of Effectiveness**

Key Metrics Favor Building Relationships Within Niche Communities



Evan Williams Co-Founder, Twitter

# A Roadmap to Adoption

#1

Monitoring Audience Needs



- Owned communities are most successful when there is demonstrated need that is not being met across existing platform options
- Create user personas to track the ways in which content, device, user behavior and platform intersect; then design your community to serve these very specific scenarios

**#2** 

A Balanced Approach to Investing



- Reduce, but don't eliminate, reliance on Facebook as a central tool. Shift from investing in content creation for the platform to content promotion which will counter effects of ongoing algorithm changes
- Managing a community requires a unique blend of skills that must be refreshed to keep up with trends; customer service, content creation, design and development, and tech troubleshooting are among the most important

<sup>#</sup>3

Allowing Patience in Community Development



- Slow and steady wins the race. Temper growth expectations and focus on success metrics (both quantitative and qualitative; see page 15) that assess depth and loyalty rather than reach
- Utilize all available communications channels to support the launch of a new owned community, and clearly articulate the value proposition and expectations for users

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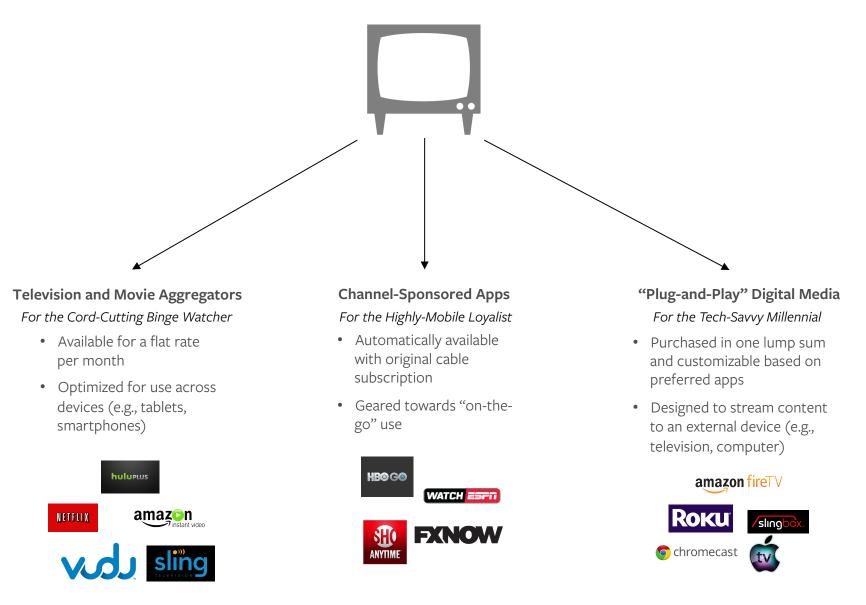
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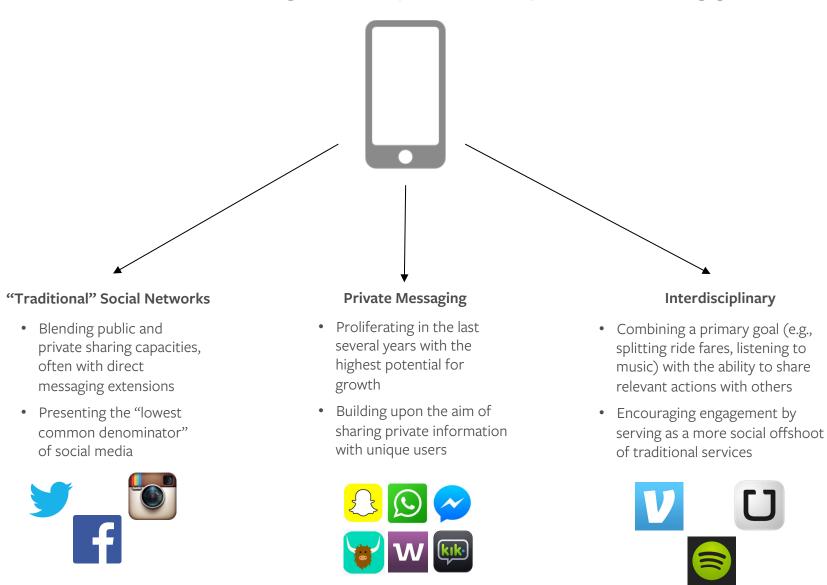
# The "Great Unbundling" of TV and Video Channels

Consumers Rapidly Migrating from Traditional Media Outlets to Digital-Friendly Offshoots



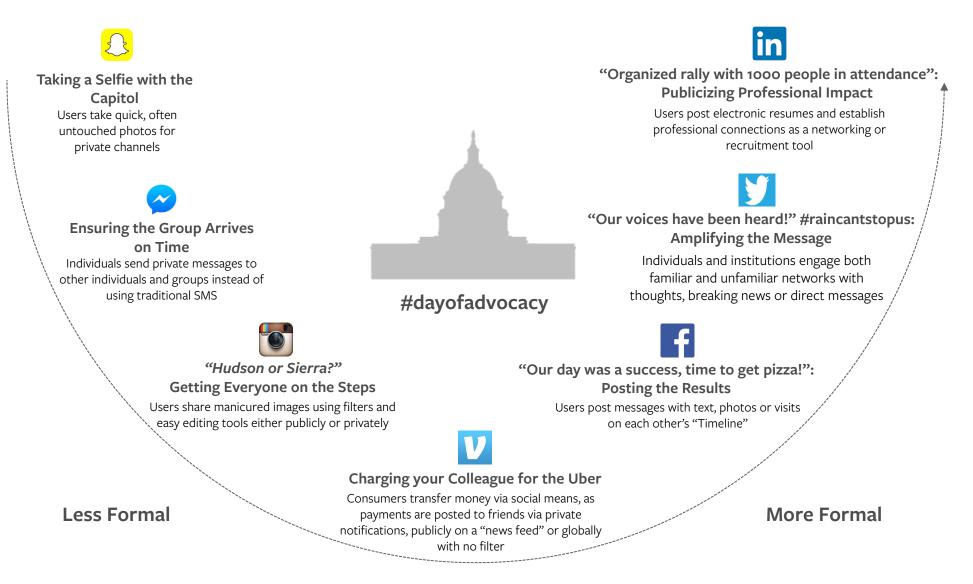
# The Parallel Unbundling of Social Media Platforms

Institutional Platforms Ceding Ground to Upstarts with Unique Modes of User Engagement



# On The Hill: A Day in Digital

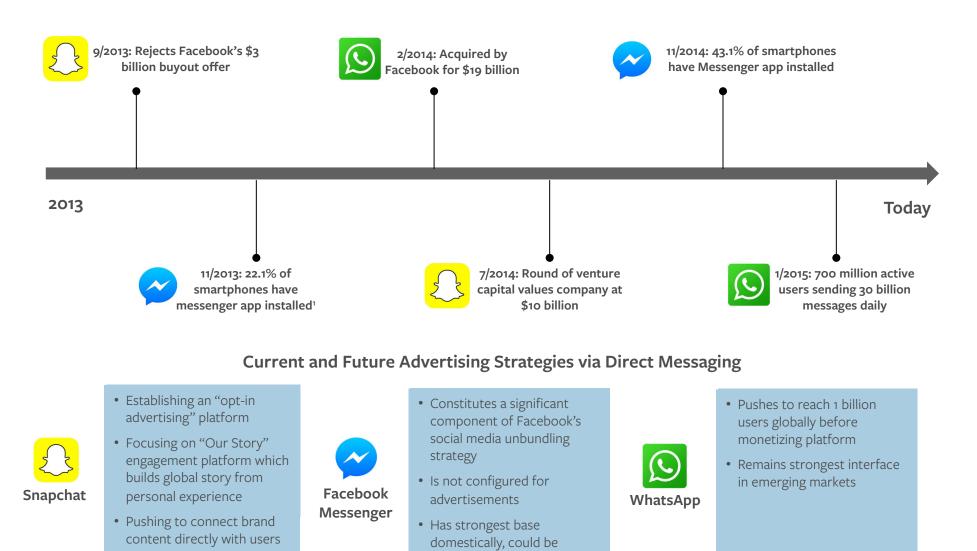
The Fragmentation of Social Media Channels Extends into Public Policy Advocacy



Source: National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

# **Direct Messaging Apps Key to Future of Social Media**

Selective Sharing Interfaces Rapidly Emerging as Channels of Choice for Primary User Engagement

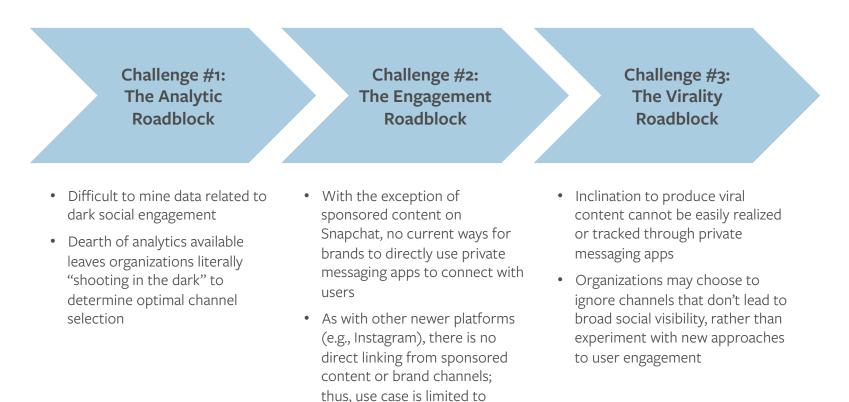


Source: VentureBeat statistics, Statista data, Bloomberg article, "Facebook \$22 Billion WhatsApp Deal Buys \$10 Million in Sales," National Journal Communications Council research and analysis. 21

monetized

# **Rise of "Dark Social" Presents New Challenges**

Organizations Must Monitor and Pursue Opportunities to Leverage Peer-to-Peer Sharing



### **Member Opportunities in Dark Social**

awareness-building

- **Peer-to-Peer Relationships:** Incorporate private messaging apps into brand advocate activations; resulting peer-to-peer exchanges are authentic, personal and actionable
- Share Icons for Emerging Platforms: Encourage user sharing via these channels by adding share icons and extensions to web content; anecdotally, some media brands have seen higher utilization of text messaging share widgets than Twitter

# A Roadmap to Adoption

### <sup>#</sup>1

### Knowing What to Tune Out



- Despite the attention given to their emergence, private messaging apps are still in the nascent stage—both in terms of broader adoption among audiences, and of organizational opportunities to leverage in campaign strategies
- Take simple steps to optimize where possible (e.g., adding share options for these apps to owned channels) and continue to monitor trends in adoption and functionality

### Updating Team Capabilities

#2



 To fully exploit sharing on "dark social" and other private messaging applications, web developers and analysts will be in high demand—the former to make sure that content is shareable via these channels, and the latter to decipher the metrics that accompany sharing <sup>#</sup>3

### Monitoring Opportunities for Peer-to-Peer Engagement



- When crafting content, assess whether it will appeal to public or private motivations for sharing; then, customize calls-to-action accordingly
- Informally survey key supporters periodically to assess private messaging adoption and openness to using this as an advocacy tool; consider using platforms like Snapchat if an appropriate opportunity arises

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# **Evolving Social Media Landscape Privileges Images Over Text**

Social Media Platforms are Responding to User Appetite for Graphical Content

	Height of Pre-Textual Revolution (2009)	Height of Post-Textual Revolution (2014)
facebook	<ul> <li>No "News Feed"</li> <li>Less space for profile photo</li> <li>Blocky, text-heavy interface</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cover photo / photo albums most prominent part of profile</li> <li>Timeline and video chat are introduced</li> <li>Acquisition of Instagram</li> </ul>
twitter	<ul> <li>Little to no advertising platform</li> <li>Incapable of embedding media</li> <li>Dominated by blank space</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>More colorful, vibrant graphical interface emerged</li> <li>Reimagined as platform for sharing diverse types of media</li> <li>Acquisition of Vine</li> </ul>
Linked in	<ul> <li>Defined by two blocky columns filled with text</li> <li>Homepage lacked prominent images</li> <li>Few diverse graphics</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Large, colorful images accompany homepage posts</li> <li>Photos of present and future connections dominate right side of page</li> <li>More consistent yet robust font</li> </ul>
Most Rapidly- Growing Social Media Platforms	<ul> <li>Facebook, Blogger, MySpace and LinkedIn</li> <li>Characterized by largely text-heavy engagement</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Vine, Pinterest, Instagram and Snapchat</li> <li>Characterized by largely image- heavy engagement (videos and photos)</li> </ul>

# **Audiences Reward Compelling Visuals**

Significant Number of Most Popular Articles and Social Media Posts Contain Graphical Context

### The Chart That Should Accompany All Discussions of the Debt Ceiling (1) 17 Films to Look Forward to in 2012 A Photo that Encapsulates the Horror of Egypt's Crackdown the Atlantic Top 100 Capturing a Full Day in a Single Photograph (2) In the Throes of Creation: Color Photos of New York from the 1940s 20% of posts Picture of the Day: Shanghai in 1990 and 2010 (3) My Favorite Photo Ever: A Military Dog Jumping Out of a Helicopter My Favorite Chart Ever An Architect Squeezes 24 Rooms into 344 Square Feet The 12 States of America (4) Lincoln: An Iconic Car Defines Its Generation BUSH THE 12 STATES: MEDIAN F.

### The Visual Multiplier

Policy Changes Under Two Presidents Iraq, Afghanistan wars and defense \$1.469 Bush tax cuts \$1.812

12 13

15

17 18

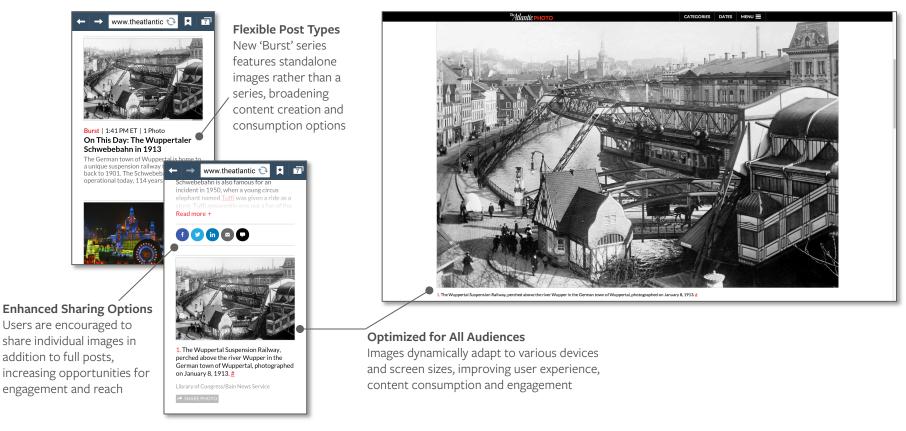






Source: National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

# **Planning Visual Content for Multiple Devices**



### Case in Brief

Profiled Organization: The Atlantic Organization Type: Media Company

- Redesign and rebrand of the popular online photo essay blog "In Focus"
- Response to increased consumption across mobile devices and need to more closely integrate with overall Atlantic online brand
- Flexible design and content formats expected to increase mobile engagement and overall audience size

the Atlantic

# **Moving Beyond Gateway Visuals**

Nuanced Images Encourage Sustained Interest, Deeper Engagement

### Visual Content Can....

2. Humanize



The White House Council of Economic Advisors' 2014 report on Millennials was noteworthy for its inclusion of emojis in the more traditional infographic format—in what some criticized as an oversimplification.

- Infographics like this continue to gain popularity as a means of conveying complex information quickly and easily
- Infographics, charts and graphs travel well around the social web, as they're easily shareable pieces of content
- Data journalism is an ongoing opportunity for member associations with compelling industry data to translate it to a visual narrative



Google's 2010 "Parisian Love" advertisement uses simple visuals (the Google search interface) to tell a story of how the company's services can impact real people.

- Puts a human face on the company, even though the visual content never shows any actual faces
- Is inherently shareable because it appeals to one of the key proven motivations for social media sharing: emotion
- Demonstrates the power of combining simple images with audio to heighten impact

### 3. Shock & Awe



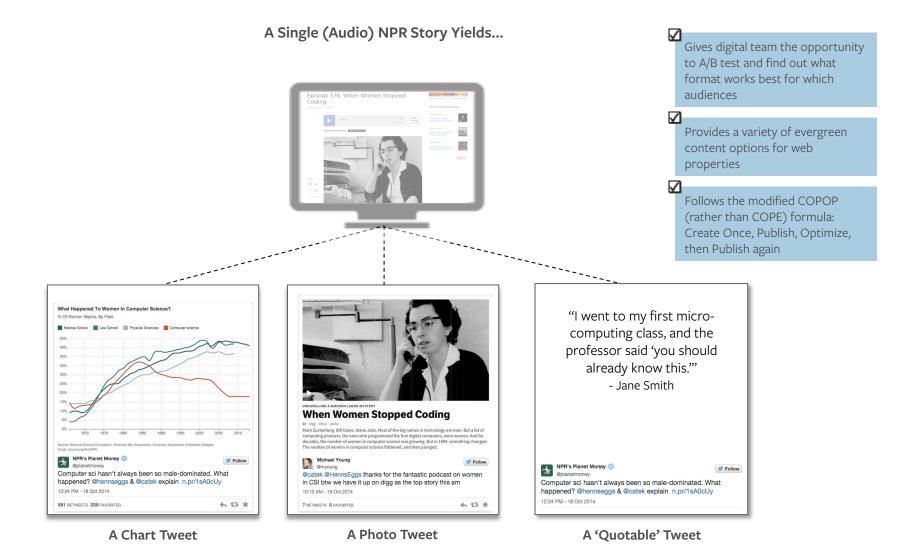
The official TSA account on Instagram regularly posts candid photos of items found in—and confiscated from— passenger carry-on luggage.

- Utilizes a high engagement approach, injected with personality and humor
- Reinforces a TSA strategic messaging priority: the crucial (and oftmisunderstood) role of screeners in the post-9/11 airline safety environment
- Started as a blog post series, but Instagram proved a better platform for its immediacy and aggregation capability

Source: White House Council of Economic Advisors website, Transportation Service Authority Instagram, National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

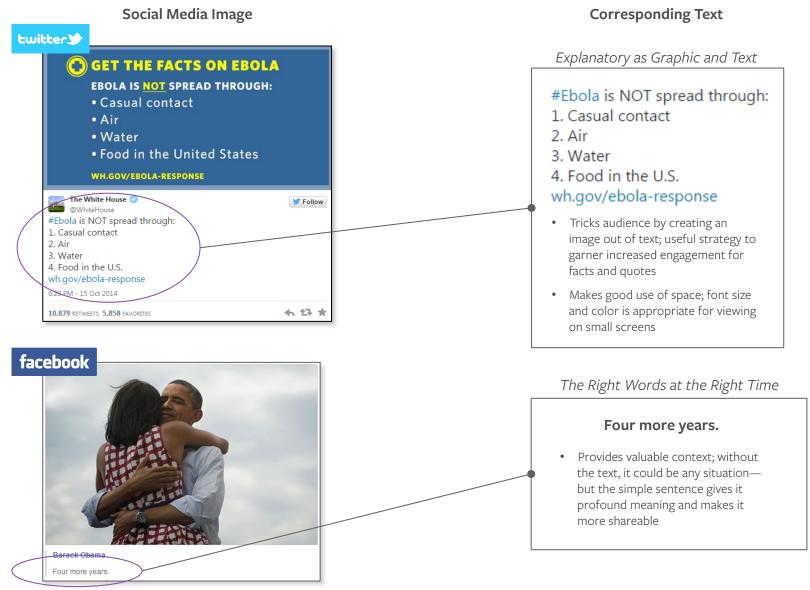
# Variety is the Spice of Social

Creating Multiple Images Per Story is No Longer an Option, But an Imperative



# **Text Remains Key Component of Effective Social Media Use**

Best Social Media Posts Leverage Strong Images with Minimal Yet Appropriate Language



Source: White House Facebook post, White House tweet, National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

# A Roadmap to Adoption

#1

Investing in Skills, Technology



 In-house graphic design, photography and photo editing skills are quickly becoming musthave capabilities for any communications team; these individuals also must be able to collaborate with researchers and other communications team members to provide proper visual support to key messages Aligning Internal Editorial Processes

#2



- Work toward incorporating multiple visuals into every piece of content or news posted to the organization's website; sync internal processes for creating and storing visual content for easy access across the team and organization
- Enforce uniform design standards that will render visual content cleanly across multiple devices and screen sizes
- Standardize and streamline the approval process for new visual content so that the team can quickly—and visually—respond to emerging issues

#3

Evaluating Emerging Visual Platforms



• Consider use case, audience adoption and bandwidth constraints when looking at platforms like Instagram, Pinterest and others

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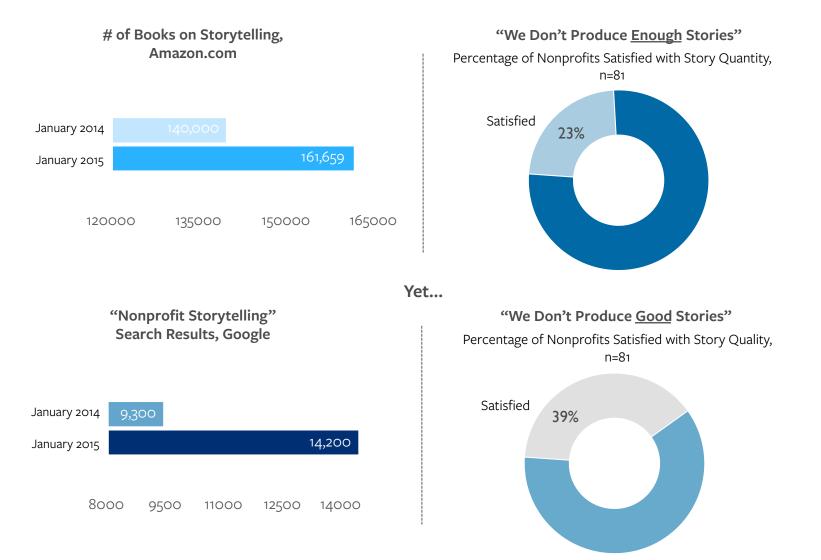
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# Storytelling at the Forefront

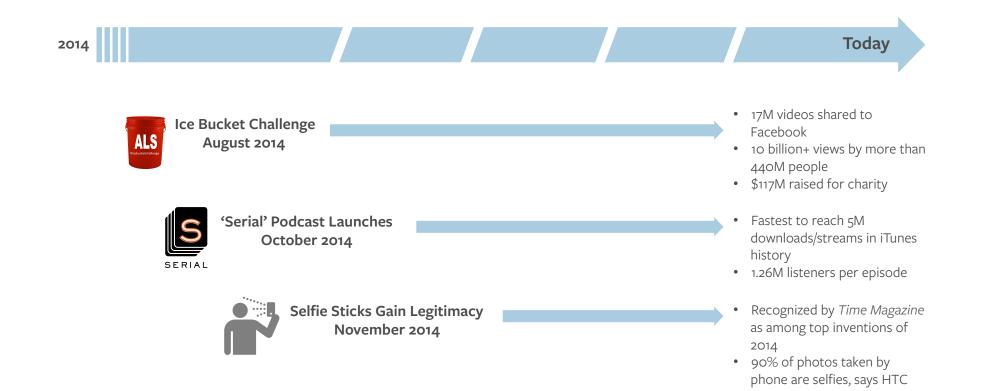
A Glut of Resources, But No Real Guidance for Communicators



Source: "Stories Worth Telling" research report, Meyer Foundation & Georgetown University, National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

# How Did We Get Here?

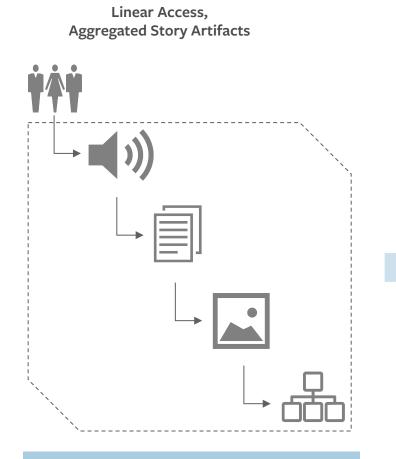
Unexpected Storytelling Innovations in 2014 Set the Tone for Future Media Developments



**NationalJournalCommunicationsCouncil** 

# **Disaggregation of Storytelling**

What We Can Learn From Serial's Success



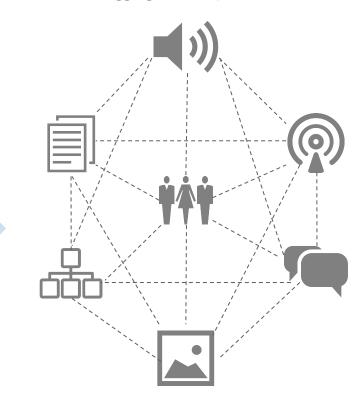
All or Nothing: Story design provides guardrails to ensure that it is consumed in the intended order by audiences. Audience is a third party—acted upon by the story system, rather than being an active part of creating or consuming it.

**Example:** The New York Times' 'Snowfall' multimedia story

Ehe New Hork

Eimes

Non-Linear Access, Disaggregated Story Artifacts



**Parts of the Whole:** Audience is integrated into the story system, creating and consuming content in unique—and often incomplete—patterns. Main narrative does not include all artifacts, allowing for non-linear discovery and interaction.

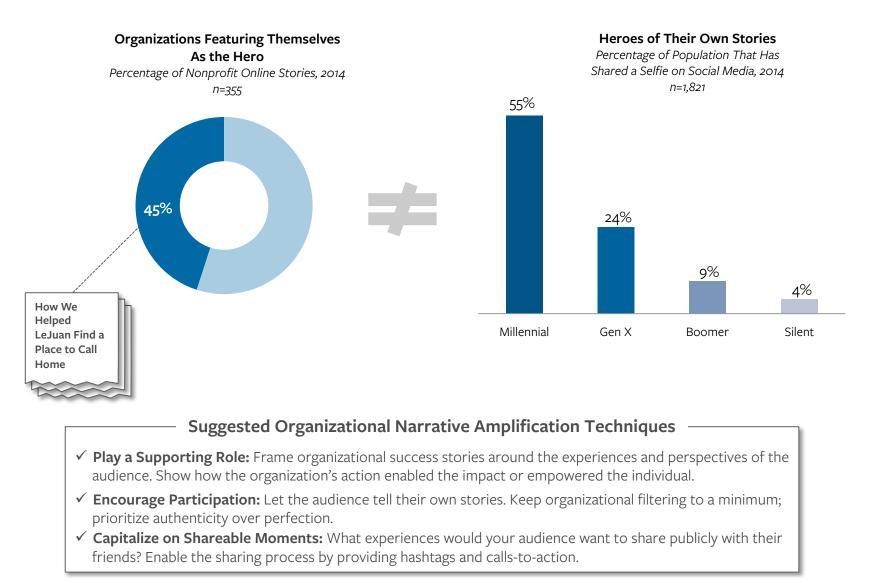
**Example:** 'Serial' podcast and website by Chicago Public Media



Source: Images from the Noun Project, National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

# **Centering Organizational Narratives**

Audiences Want To See Themselves in Stories

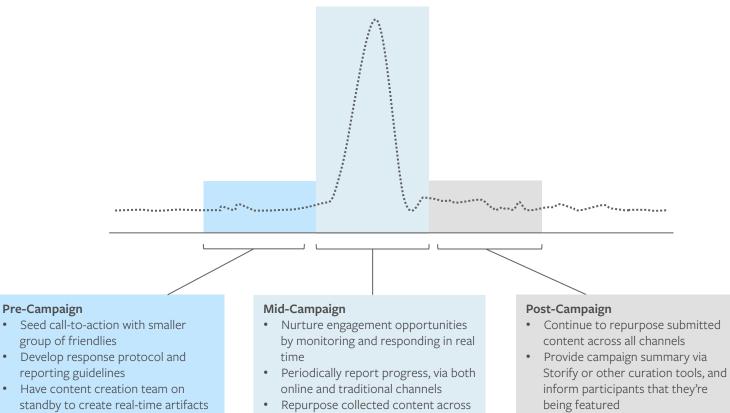


Source: "Stories Worth Telling" research report, Meyer Foundation & Georgetown University research, Pew Research Center, 2014; National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

# **Real-Time Storytelling Parallels a Crisis Response**

What We Can Learn From the Ice Bucket Challenge

User-Generated Content Campaigns: Ceding Control Requires Careful Planning



Document takeaways and lessons
 learned

Confirm approval processes

online and traditional channels to

sustain momentum

# A Roadmap to Adoption

### #1

### Investing in the Process



- For quality storytelling to be sustained, there must be an organization-wide investment in the systems that support it: story banks, story collection tools, internal guidelines for creation and sharing, and reporting
- Treat user-generated content campaigns like a crisis situation: plan, map out approval processes and response protocols, and assign monitoring and reporting duties

Tracking Success

#2



• Developing a clear business case for the use of stories will ensure that you're tracking the right metrics; before beginning the storytelling process, have a concrete idea of who the target audience is and what you want them to do <sup>#</sup>3

### **Aligning Internal Editorial Processes**



- Think broadly about the artifacts that could complement a given narrative; images, charts, graphs, documents, audio and video are all appropriate for telling pieces of a larger story but must be matched precisely to use case in order to be effective—and creation efforts must be coordinated across team members
- Disaggregated story content requires careful storage and tracking of artifacts; ensure that there's a process in place for cataloguing, tagging and saving content so that it can be easily accessed

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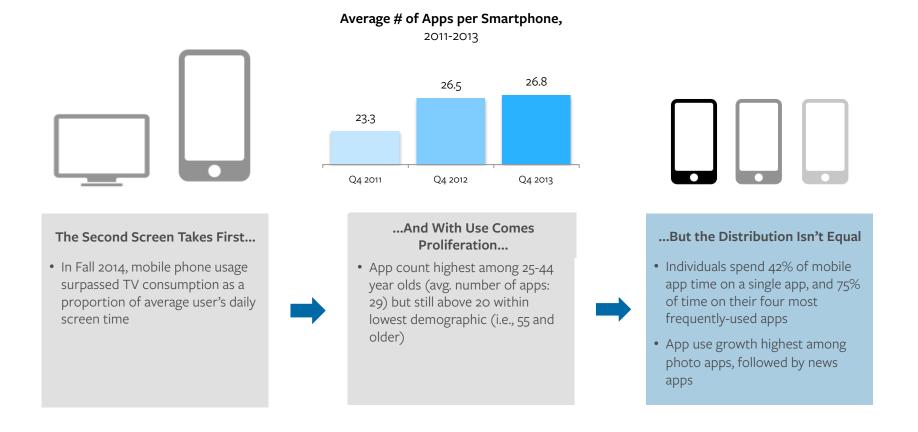
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# Work with Existing Mobile Assets Over Building New Apps

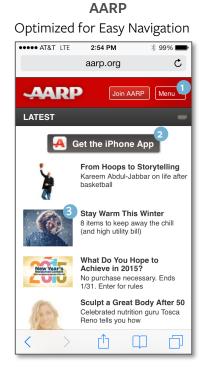
Easier to Refine Mobile Presence with Wider Reach than Build from Scratch



Source: Images from the Noun Project, Bloomberg Business Week article, "We Now Spend More Time Staring at Phones, Nielsen data, comScore data, National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

# Instead of Focusing on Apps, Prioritize Mobile Web Presence

As Initial Point of Reference, Easy-to-Navigate Web Pages Streamlined For Mobile Use Set Organizations Apart



- 1 Clear menu button at top of page
- Promotes iPhone app for crossplatform engagement
- 3 Image-heavy user interface supplements textual guidance



- **1** Search function most prominently **1** Encourages sharing with easy-todisplayed
- 2 Main graphic leads to an "About Us" page
- 3 Page launches into recent key issue areas

- **American Gas Association Optimized for Easy Sharing** ••••• AT&T LTE \* 3:09 PM \* 95% 💼 aga.org AGA LOG IN JOIN Q A Y 100 in W Natural Gas 101 Learn about natural gas and its essential role in America's energy mix. Learn More BROWSE TRENDING CONTENT BY CATEGORIES SOURCE SHOW ALL y AGA Tweets ↑ TOF RT @BCSECleanEnergy: ICYMI: @aga\_naturalgas has a new website.
- access social media icons
- 2 Detailed search function complements menu drop-down
- 3 First article highlights core subject matter for organization





- 1 Log-in functionality seamlessly paired with search and menu
- 2 Largest image briefly describes broader organizational focus
- 3 Colorful logos dig into organization's value

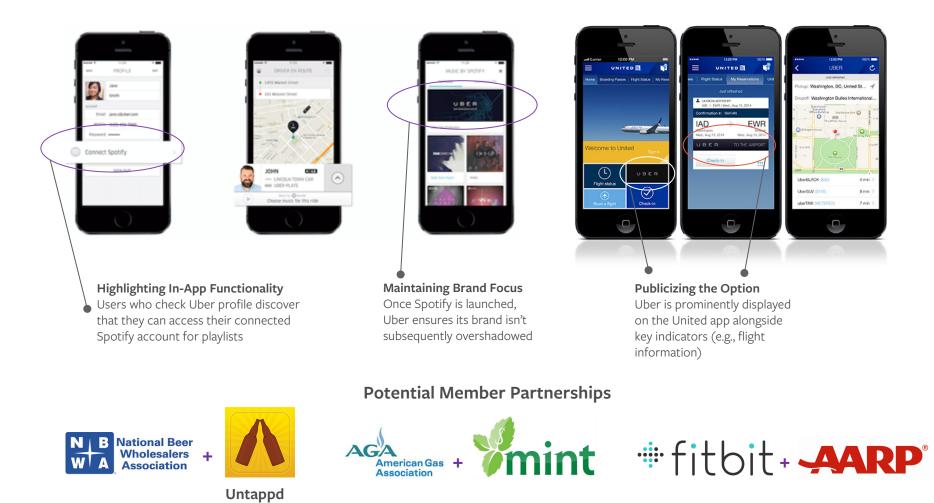
# **Borrowing Mobile Moments**

Institutions Will Capitalize on Partnerships that Amplify Engagement via Mobile Apps

### Uber Capitalizes on Key Opportunities

Strategic Relationship with Spotify

Brand Amplification with United



Source: Uber website, United Airlines website, National Journal Communications Council research and analysis.

### A Roadmap to Adoption

#1

### **Evaluating Mobile Efforts**



 Before devoting resources to developing a specialized mobile app, make sure that existing mobile experiences are optimized (e.g., a website that renders simply and cleanly and directs users appropriately; a newsletter that's easy to read on mobile) #**2** 

### Exploring Partnership Opportunities



• Evaluate opportunities to provide content that would be helpful at a specific moment, in a specific context; who are potential partners that could lend you those mobile moments?

# Prioritizing the Changes in Digital Media

#### **NJCC Heat Index**

High: Likely to impact organization in next 3-6 months; internal alignment and implementation a priority
Medium: 6-12 months; monitoring and internal alignment a priority
Low: 12-24 months; monitoring a priority

### Taking Back Ownership of Online Communities

### **Key Themes**

- The evolving role of Facebook in the overall digital mix
- Key success metrics favor breadth over depth
- Qualities of successful branded online communities

### Prioritizing Right-Sized Mobile

### **Key Themes**

- Effects of mobile favoritism
- The need to prioritize cleaner experiences across existing mobile options
- Opportunities to lend organizational content to create mobile moments via partnerships

### Pushing Traditional Storytelling Boundaries

### **Key Themes**

- Audience orientation to story structures and heroes
- The disaggregation of story artifacts to entice user interaction
- Practical implications of participatory storytelling

### Seizing Cross-Device Visual Opportunities

### **Key Themes**

- Gateway visual content that garners attention vs. sustains it
- Data journalism as a consistent source of visual content
- The ongoing importance of text on predominantly visual media

### Understanding the Unbundled Mindset

### **Key Themes**

- The diversification of platforms leading to more specific use cases
- Motivations for public vs. private sharing on social media
- Opportunities to promote private peer-to-peer exchange