

*Submission to the 2024 Computation + Journalism Symposium October 25<sup>th</sup> – October 27<sup>th</sup> 2024  
at Northeastern University Boston, Massachusetts*

**AI Innovation in the Newsroom**  
**A Design Thinking Workshop to Support New Approaches to Responsible AI**

**Contributed Workshop**

## AI Innovation in the Newsroom: A Design Thinking Workshop to Support New Approaches to Responsible AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and rule-based automation technologies offer opportunities for local journalists to generate and distribute stories more efficiently. While such applications could increase economic efficiency, they also should contribute to journalism's democratic role in society by adhering to journalistic values and quality standards.

Against the background of many local news organizations not feeling ready for AI technologies (Rinehart & Kung, 2022), design thinking could offer new possibilities to overcome too narrow technical thinking (Lindberg et al., 2011) and facilitate a development process between journalism practitioners and computer scientists. Especially the five-stage design thinking model developed by Stanford University provides a reliable foundation for generating concrete requirements for a responsible AI prototype.

Against this background, the main goal of this design thinking workshop is to incorporate the participants' specific points of view into responsible AI tools in local journalism, with the expected outcome of a low-fidelity prototype.

Such a workshop was previously conducted with students from the German School of Journalism and journalists, social media editors, and product managers from Rheinische Post, a local German news media organization. A working space for at most twelve participants with several tables and a screen or projector is needed to conduct the workshop.

This workshop contributes to previous research by exploring the potential use of responsible AI in local journalism and introducing design thinking as a valid method within interdisciplinary research to describe complex issues.

### References

- Lindberg, T., Meinel, C., & Wagner, R. (2011). Design thinking: A fruitful concept for IT development? In C. Meinel, L. Leifer, & H. Plattner (Eds.), *Design thinking: Understand—Improve—Apply* (pp. 3–18). Springer.
- Rinehart, A., & Kung, E. (2022). *Artificial intelligence in local news: A survey of US newsrooms' AI readiness*. The Associated Press.