INFLUENCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN NIGERIA: A REVOLUTION OR A THREAT?

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SEPTEMBER,2025

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION,FACULTY OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF ARTS(BA) DEGREE IN MASS COMMUNICATION.

DECLARATION

This project work is based on a study undertaken by Kanabe Bashirat Omoyemhe under the supervision of Dr.(Mrs) M. G. Akintaro in the Department of Mass Communication.

All the ideas are products of my personal research with the views of others as well with all duly acknowledged.

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Kanabe Bashirat Omoyemhe

CERTIFICATION

This is to clarify that the research work **INFLUENCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN NIGERIA: A REVOLUTION OR A THREAT?** was carried out by Kanabe Bashirat Omoyemhe with the matriculation number ART2100968 and submitted to the Department of Mass Communication, Faculty of Arts, University of Benin, Edo State.

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Dr. (Mrs) M. G. Akintaro **Date**

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Head of Department

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to Almighty Allah, whose infinite mercy, wisdom, and strength guided me throughout this academic journey.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to my mentor, Mr. Sadiku Kanabe, whose unwavering support and guidance have been invaluable to me. To my father, whose love and encouragement have been a constant source of inspiration. And to my Mom who couldn't wait to see me to the end before she left.

STUDENT'S THESIS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My humble appreciation goes to God Almighty for his infinite mercy and strength throughout my undergraduate program. To my mentor, Mr. Sadiku Kanabe. Thank you for your support, love, and acceptance. May God bless you in a way you never imagined.

My sincere appreciation also goes to my amazing supervisor Dr. (Mrs) M. G. Akintaro, for her guidance, Patience, corrections, that made this work a success. Thank you for your calmness and patiently going through my work making sure it meet a good standard. I can't thank you enough.

To my siblings: Aminat, Nurudeen, Razak, Kudirat, Lateefah, Ahmeed, Idris, it's a pleasure to have you all in my life. To my Uncles Mr. Salif, Mr. Nasir, Mr. Shaka, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Lucky, Mr Festus, I appreciate you all.

I also want to appreciate the Head Of Department Mass Communication, Prof. Daniel Ekhareafo. To the academic staff of the Department of Mass Communication, University of Benin, Prof. Marcel Okhakhu Prof. Ezekiel S. Asemah, Prof. (Mrs). EneObaje, Prof. Ambrose Uchenunu, Mr.Sunday Ekerikevwe, Dr. Collins Kediehor, Pro. Festus Olise, Dr. Chukwunonso Nnabuife, Prof. Dr. (Mrs) M. G. Akintaro, Mrs. Gloria Ogono, Miss Uduak Ekpeyong, Mrs.Amenze Bazuaye,Dr. Umoru Ndubuisi and Mr. Femi Johnson. I'm grateful for the knowledge, Discipline and skills impacted in me since my Academic journey.

To my amazing friends Wisdom, Nafisat, Deborah, Evonne, and those who have been with me throughout this journey. God bless you all.

To Mr. Godsent, I say thank you.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates The Influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI)in investigative journalism in Nigeria, with a limited focus to Edo state, to know whether it serves as a Revolution or a Threat. The study examine How artificial intelligence(AI) enhance investigative journalism in Nigeria. It explores the challenges associated with the use of AI in investigative journalism. To determine if AI acts as a facilitator of press freedom or a tool for media and misinformation. The study also asses journalists' views on AI as either a groundbreaking support or a danger to their profession. To accomplish this, a mixed-method approach was employed, using survey method and in-depth interviews with journalists in Edo State. The results showed that many view AI mainly as a help to investigative journalism, particularly helping in tasks like data analysis, verification of facts, fact-checking, and the dissemination of information. Yet, respondents also pointed some possible drawbacks, including ethical concerns, misinformation, Accessibility. In summary, the study suggests that while AI marks a turning point in journalism practice, its usage in Nigeria requires vigilance and ethical guidelines to protect press freedom and maintain professional standards. The study concludes with recommendations on how to address the challenges associated with the use of AI tools. These includes Training, accessibility and availability of infrastructural equipment, human management, Privacy protection, ethical standards and regulation.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Foundation of a strong democracy notably depends on investigative journalism, which is The vital for holding influential organizations accountable by exposing corrupt activities and educating the public on crucial issues (de Burgh, H.,&Lashmar,P. 2008). However, in the age of digital technology, traditional journalism encounters increasing obstacles, especially with the emergence of social media, the proliferation of misinformation, and the complications of extensive datasets.In light of these changes, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is progressively revolutionizing various sectors, including media and journalism.Diakopoulos (2019) contends that AI technologies improve efficiency and the handling of data in journalism, thus facilitating more effective investigative efforts.Worldwide, AI is currently utilized in journalism for automated content generation, immediate fact-checking, sentiment analysis, and data mining (Graefe, 2016). For example, during the Panama Papers inquiry, the international Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) employed AI-driven tools to sort through millions of documents, showcasing the vast potential of AI for large-scale, international investigations (Guevara, 2019). Even though AI has a lot of benefits, using it in journalism brings some challenges. Journalists confront hurdles related to transparency, ethical reporting, and accountability. Financial constraints, skill deficiencies, and high upkeep costs further hinder AI adoption, particularly in developing nations. Nigerian journalists have a strong legacy of investigative reporting, but they encounter issues such as political influence, scarce financial resources, and limited access to advanced technologies (Akinwale, 2010). While media organizations play an essential role in revealing corruption and human rights abuses, investigative journalists frequently operate under challenging circumstances—facing threats, intimidation, and legal obstacles (Freedom House, 2023).

Nonetheless, emerging media technologies, involving AI, offer possibilities for enhancing investigative journalism in Nigeria. Recent research study how AI can help progress.For instance, Guanah,Agbanu, and Obi (2020) explored the views of journalists in Benin City, Edo State, and found a strong belief in AI's ability to enrich investigative reporting. This optimism indicates a growing acknowledgment among journalists regarding AI's capacity to transform journalism practices in Nigeria.

1.2 **Statement of the Problem**

Investigative journalism is important for holding those in power responsible, revealing corruption, and educating the public about important societal issues the capability to improve investigative journalism through enhanced data analysis, automated fact-checking, and better news distribution(Stray J.,2021), there are ongoing concerns (de Burgh&Lashmar2008). In Nigeria, where investigative journalism has been vital in exposing political scandals, corporate wrongdoing, and violations of human rights, the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in newsrooms introduces both benefits and effects. Although AI has regarding its ethical implications, effects on employment, and the potential for spreading misinformation (Tambini,2021).Asignificant challenge is the tension between efficiency and authenticity. AI-powered tools can analyze huge volumes of data much quicker than human journalists, simplifying the process of revealing hidden patterns in financial records, leaked documents, and trends on social media. Nonetheless, the accuracy and dependability of AI-based investigative journalism are still questionable, as AI technique can exhibit biases, be manipulated, or misinterpret information (Broussard, 2018). Moreover, content generated by AI lacks the human insight, contextual comprehension, and ethical discernment that experienced investigative journalists offer (Zhang &Dafoe, 2020). significant concerns regarding the integrity of investigative journalism. Although AI can

Furthermore, the role of AI in spreading misinformation and deepfake technology raises assist in fact-checking, it can also be misused to propagate false narratives through AI-generated deepfake videos, counterfeit evidence, or misleading reports(Chesney &Citron,2019). In Nigeria, where misinformation rapidly circulates on social media and shapes public opinion, the application of AI in investigative journalism must be meticulously regulated to safeguard trust in the media. This research aims to explore whether AI serves as a revolutionary force that enhances investigative journalism in Nigeria or poses a threat to its fundamental principles.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This research will look at how Artificial Intelligence (AI) influence investigative journalism in Nigeria, especially Edo State,. It will examine whether AI is a helpful tool or a threat to journalism. The study will look at how AI changes the way journalists work, the benefits it offers, the challenges it presents, and what journalists think about its impact. The following are the research objectives:

1. To examine how artificial intelligence (AI) enhances investigative journalism in Nigeria.
2. To examine the challenges associated with the use of AI in investigative journalism.
3. To determine if AI acts as a facilitator of press freedom or a tool for media and misinformation.
4. To assess journalists' views on AI as either a groundbreaking support or a danger to their profession.

Research Questions

1. How does artificial intelligence (AI) enhances investigative journalism in Nigeria?
2. What are the challenges associated with the use of AI in investigative journalism?

3. Does AI acts as a facilitator of press freedom or a tool for media and misinformation?
4. What are journalists' views on AI as either a groundbreaking support or a danger to their profession?

1.5. **Significance of the Study**

This study is important because it explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping investigative journalism in Nigeria, either as a powerful tool for progress or a potential threat to its core values. In academia, the research adds to current knowledge by examining the real-world impact of AI on journalism in a Nigerian context. It offers a basis for further studies on technology, media ethics, and digital reporting, and can help improve journalism education to meet today's technological demands. For society, the study matters because investigative journalism plays a vital role in exposing corruption and informing the public. As AI becomes more involved in news production, it is essential to understand how it affects truth, trust, and the quality of information that shapes public opinion. The significance of this study in the media industry, will provide practical insights into how AI can help or hinder the work of journalists. It highlights both the potential, like faster data analysis and fact-checking and the risks, such as job loss, ethical concerns, and misinformation. These insights can guide newsrooms in using AI responsibly. For government and policymakers, the study draws attention to the urgent need for clear regulations and support systems. As AI grows in influence, there must be policies that protect press freedom, prevent misuse, and ensure technology strengthens rather than weakens democratic accountability. In succinct summation, this study helps all stakeholders, scholars, journalists, the public, and policymakers better understand the role of AI in shaping the future of investigative journalism in Nigeria.

1.6 **Scope of the Study**

This researchlooks at the influence of artificial intelligence on investigative journalism in Nigeria, with a Specific focus in Edo state. It explores the role in news gathering, fact-checking, and content creation. It assesses how AI impacts the work of journalists and addresses the ethical considerations that arise. The research focuses on both practicing journalists and journalism students.

1.7. **Definition of Terms**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the use of computer systems or programs that can perform tasks usually done by humans. In journalism, AI includes tools for data analysis, content generation, fact-checking, pattern recognition, and automation of repetitive tasks.

Investigative Journalism: A form of in-depth journalism that involves thorough research and fact-finding to uncover hidden truths, expose corruption, hold powerful entities accountable, and inform the public about issues of significant interest or concern.

Influence: The capacity of AI to affect or change the processes, practices, and outcomes of investigative journalism, either positively (as a support tool) or negatively (as a threat to ethics, employment, or credibility).

Revolution: In this context, revolution refers to a transformative and positive change in investigative journalism driven by AI such as increased efficiency, better data handling, and deeper investigative capabilities.

Threat: A potential danger or risk posed by AI to the principles and practice of investigative journalism, including issues such as misinformation, job displacement, ethical concerns, bias, and reduced human judgment in reporting.

Misinformation: Refers to misleading information, particularly that which is spread without the purpose to deceive.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Conceptual review

In this chapter, several ideas were introduced that need to be explained because they are important for understanding the study.

A deeper understanding of these factors will enhance clarity and provide greater insight into the perspectives of the writers in their contributions.

2.1 Historical Review

2.1.1 History of Investigative Journalism in Nigeria

The media landscape in Nigeria is well-known for its dynamism. Throughout the years, the country has nurtured independent journalists, skilled critical thinkers who embody a tradition of strong journalism. During the 1930s, when newspapers were very influential, local newspapers became a strong force for the nationalist movement and worked against British rule. For example, under John Bright-Davies's guidance, newspaperslike the Times of Nigeria, The Lagos Daily News, which was owned by journalists and politicians Herbert Macaulay and The West African Pilot was establishedin 1937 by NnamdiAzikiwe frequently challenged the colonial government (Uche, 1989). These newspapers, alongside the African Challenger and Lagos Weekly Record, spearheaded the promotion of anti-colonial, pan-African ideals while delivering well-researched exclusives regarding covert policies and misdeeds of the colonialists, as well as exposing local corruption, official misconduct, and the unethical practices within the business sector (Uche, 1989). Their unwavering dedication to investigative journalism, although viewed as troublesome by colonial authorities, effectively

raised public awareness and mobilized resistance against some harmful policies of that time (Omu, 1978; Uche, 1989; Jibo&Okoosi-Simbine, 2003). The determination of early newspapers, particularly their ability to produce investigative stories, set a benchmark for impactful journalism (Uche, 1989).The legacy of investigative journalism persisted beyond independence in the early 1960s and during the 29 years of oppressive military regimes in the 1990s. Investigative journalism became a prominent characteristic of Nigeria's media scene especially during the second military regime from 1983 to 1999 and throughout the third republic, as brave journalists from outlets like News Watch, Tell, The News, Tempo, and other independent magazines regularly produced groundbreaking stories that revealed the wrongdoings of the military and their civilian partners (Onyenankeya&Salawu, 2020;).

Whether during the military regimes of Generals Babangida or Abubakar, these magazines consistently held the government accountable for its decisions (Olukotun, 2004). Even during the brutal regime of Abacha, regarded as the “most oppressive and corrupt regime in Nigeria’s history,” these weeklies, especially News Watch, set new benchmarks for assertive investigative journalism (Ekpu, 1990; Bourne, 2015, p.167). When journalists faced harassment from security forces, they turned to “guerrilla journalism,” continuing to stealthily report and publish stories that further unsettled the military junta.Premium Times and, to a lesser extent, The Cable are the two newspapers that remain dedicated to publishing investigative reports in Nigeria. It was Premium Times that revealed that former finance minister Kemi Adeosun avoided the compulsory National Youth Service Corps for graduates and falsified her service certificate. Because of the strange anger from the public, the minister had to step down from her job.

Generally, larger and better-resourced newspapers have tended to overlook investigative reporting.

2.1.2 **Evolution of investigative journalism in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, the media has played a crucial role in shaping the country's political landscape, especially during the fight for independence from British colonial rule. Over the years, investigative journalism has been more prominent in the magazine sector than in newspapers. While newspapers have had some involvement, the growth of investigative journalism in the broadcasting sector only gained momentum in recent years, with Channels Television in Lagos leading the way as a mentor in the field.

A defining moment for investigative journalism in Nigeria came in the 1980s and 1990s, during the tense political climate under Generals Ibrahim Babangida and Sani Abacha. Ethical and fearless investigative journalists like Dele Giwa, Ray Ekpu, Dan Agbese, and Yakubu Mohammed took bold steps in exposing corruption and threats to national development. Their powerful writing style and relentless pursuit of truth set a new standard for investigative reporting in Nigeria (Muhammed, 2025).

Since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999 after years of military rule, journalists have continued to expose corruption in governance. The press has played a key role in uncovering fraudulent activities in the political sphere. Some notable cases include the scandal involving AlhajiSalisuBuhari, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, who was exposed in 1999 for falsifying his age and qualifications. Other high-profile investigations involved former governors DiepreyeAlamieyeseigha, AyodeleFayose, and Joshua Dariye.

Several reports in major publications have also highlighted corruption among Nigerian politicians. For example, The New Humanitarian, covered the scandal that led to the removal of Senate President ChubaOkadigbo (The New Humanitarian, 200). Similarly, Ogala (2018) reported that bribes were offered to House of Representatives members to fast-track the removal of Speaker Umar GhaliNa'Abba, with former President Olusegun Obasanjo and ex-Rivers State Governor Peter Odili allegedly involved. Despite these efforts, some scholars

argue that investigative journalism in Nigeria is not as vibrant as it should be. Eze (2023) expressed concern that investigative journalism has been sidelined at a time when it is most needed. As noted by Yusha'u (2009), the media in Nigeria encounters considerable obstacles in investigative journalism, resulting in its performance being less robust and effective compared to its peers in other African nations like South Africa and Ghana.

Investigative journalism plays a key role in making sure those in power are held responsible. While Nigerian journalists have made significant contributions to exposing corruption, there is still a need for stronger, more consistent investigative reporting to ensure transparency and good governance.

2.2 Conceptual Review

2.2.1 Journalistic practice: Meaning and Overview

Journalism deals with the gathering, writing or announcing, compiling, editing and distribution of news, stories of different kinds and formats, information to satisfy the information needs of different audience types, using different media types or genres. Journalism is the act of gathering, checking, and sharing information about important events and issues for the public. It involves asking key questions such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? to ensure accurate and clear reporting. Journalists collect, choose, and report on news and current events through various media, like print, radio, TV, and online platforms. This work helps the public get reliable information needed for making informed decisions and participating actively in their communities (Kovach &Rosenstiel, 2014). Further, it deals with collecting, analyzing, verifying or confirming, and presentation of news of current events, trends, issues and people. Practitioners of journalism are journalists. Hasan, (2013), citing McQuail,(2013) explains that journalism is writing that is paid for and done for public media, focusing on real and current events that matter to the public. Related to this,

John Thompson In his work The Media and Modernity: A Social Theory of the Media (1995), he characterizes mass media as:The channels through which information is conveyed to extensive, diverse, and widely scattered audiences.

Broadcasting has shifted from using old-fashioned and outdated tools to modern, technology-based equipment that meets the needs of the information superhighway. The implication is that journalistic practice is ongoing and thriving in Nigeria. It has further been improved by adding digital tools to make it easier to produce and receive messages from various types of media.

2.2.2. **Investigative Journalism: Meaning and Overview**

The term investigative journalism is complex (Houston, 2010). This type of journalism is also called exposé journalism, adversarial journalism, in-depth journalism, muckraking journalism, advocacy journalism, public service journalism, watchdog journalism, and journalism of outrage.These terms have different meanings, looking at a range of interpretations. For the general public, investigative journalism usually brings to mind crime reporting. Some believe that any news qualifies as investigative because it needs research before the reporter writing the story. Nevertheless, there are difference between daily news and investigative journalism, particularly regarding their depth, covered issues, focus, and even the techniques used for gathering information.

Global Investigative Journalism Network (n.d.).says Investigative journalism is characterized as thorough, detailed, and original investigation and reporting, frequently involving the discovery of hidden information and extensive use of public documents, with an emphasis on social justice and accountability.

This definition visibly creates standards for investigative reports concerning particular requirements, the procedure for carrying out this reporting, and the focus that differentiates it

from other forms of journalism. Scholars who agree with this opinion emphasize the use of the reporter's initiative in finding issues and carrying out investigations freely, rather than reporting on investigations carried out by authorities. Nonetheless, scholars like Waisbord (2000) argue that the American model of investigative journalism is highly effective but not the sole approach. He claimed that the interpretation of investigative journalism differs based on different press traditions and conditions for journalistic practice in various countries. Scholars such as Ettemaet al(1992) finalized that investigative journalism is the journalism of anger because the outcome of such reporting often lead to societal improvements and have a close relationship with agenda setting. However, scholars and practitioners all over the world have diverse views on investigative journalism, formed by various influences such as their values, experiences, and the specific conditions of their media environments.

2.2.3 **Artificial Intelligence: Meaning and Overview**

As mentioned before, people have always wondered how inanimate objects can become alive, and this idea has become real with research and advancements in robotics by institutions, funding nations and countries in the West. At a conference held in New Hampshire in 1956, John McCarthy et al introduced the phrase artificial intelligence to describe the technology that was developing at that time.With growth and progress made in studies done in the area, AI has become applied to various sectors including financial, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, engineering, medicine and other industries. Recently, the fields of media and journalism have incorporated AI to perform various journalistic roles and responsibilities.

The introduction of this technology is crucial since it has influenced the earnings and profitability of companies. SarbjitNahal,as cited in the World Economic Forum (2016), artificial intelligence is poised to become the primary force driving technology in the coming

decade. During this growth phase, numerous creative industries will likely experience some level of automation through AI, as their value chains operate similarly.

They all begin with creating or gathering content, proceed to processing and editing, and conclude with the distribution of that content. As soon as artificial intelligence understands the mechanics of one creative process, it can swiftly be utilized for another. By implication, the adoption of AI creates room for its spread within a sector, or related ones.

There is a dependence on technology to analyze data in order to identify patterns and communicate findings through various types of media.The implication of this is that data journalism practice is a growing field which currently assist, empowers journalists through the application of artificial intelligence tools.These offer journalists profound understandings of current events by utilizing data analysis made simpler and more accessible through machine learning. In detail, the Washington Post noted that automated journalists generated 850 articles in one year, while in China, the state-controlled news agency Xinhua introduced the world's first AI news presenter.

In a similar manner, Reuters has reported more than 50 significant news stories through its News Tracer system (Thomson Reuter,2016).Albeanu,(2016) who previously led innovation at the Norwegian News Agency, NTB, noted that automation has enabled NTB to provide a much wider range of news coverage, including reports on matches of a lower level that they previously did not have the ability to handle. Other benefits include the ability of algorithms to assist journalists in making initial edits of videos, detect voice patterns, recognize faces within a crowd, and interact with readers through programmed chat features (chatbots) and answer queries.Automation in journalism has begun to be applied in some countries, and in Africa, experimental practices in application of artificial intelligence has taken place in Namibia and South Africa. However, it is yet to become commonly used and entrenched in different sectors across industries in most African countries.

Although AI technology has brought numerous benefits to various sectors, its widespread implementation across Africa remains limited, particularly in Nigeria, where it is even less prevalent asa result ofthe high expense associated with its production and upkeep. Furthermore, media organizations might lack the ability to significantly enhance the newsroom. Automated journalism or application of AI into journalistic practices has had positive results, and it can be adapted to suit needs of different genres of journalism.

2.3 Importance of Investigative Journalism in Nigeria

Investigative journalism is important to Nigeria's democratic processes and development because it exposes corruption, holds those in power accountable, and strengthens the voices of marginalized groups. Here are key reasons for its importance as cited in Uche (2021, p. 56) :

Ensuring Responsibility: Investigative journalism makes sure that government officials, corporations, and powerful individuals are held responsible for their actions.It sheds light on instances of corruption, abuse of power, and human rights violations, compelling authorities to take necessary measures.

Uncovering Corruption and Fraud: Nigeria has long grappled with corruption, and investigative journalists play a crucial role in exposing financial mismanagement, fraudulent activities, and embezzlement. Their reports have prompted significant changes in policy, led to resignations, and initiated criminal investigations.

Fortifying Democracy: By providing accurate and comprehensive information, investigative journalism empowers citizens to make informed decisions, especially during elections. It combats misinformation and promotes transparency within governance.

Amplifying Marginalized Voices: Investigative reporters frequently spotlight social injustices, such as police violence, gender-based abuse, and inadequate living conditions.

Their work draws national and global attention to the challenges faced by underserved communities.

Stimulating Policy Changes: Well-researched investigative journalism has catalyzed amendments to laws and policies. For instance, inquiries into environmental degradation, unsafe working conditions, and human trafficking have spurred governments and organizations to take action.

Advancing Ethical Standards in Journalism: By emphasizing fact-based and thoroughly researched reporting, investigative journalism enhances the overall quality of journalism in Nigeria, promoting professionalism and trust in the media sector.

2.3.1 AI-Powered Tools for Investigative Journalism

Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are increasingly employed by media professionals to assist in the selection and organization of news content. The application of AI goes beyond traditional search engines, incorporating specialized search methods and systematic evaluations of digital data archives or sources. This technology is essential for investigative data journalism, enabling the thorough and accurate examination of intricate issues, research based on satellite images, and analysis of movement patterns. Moreover, AI systems help in finding relevant content to ensure a balanced flow of information and to mitigate biased or one-complex reporting, including the identification of fake news. AI tools are becoming important in investigative journalism, facilitating journalists in expeditious and precise collection and analysis of data and information. Here are frequently used AI tools in investigative journalism:

Dataminr: This innovative platform is designed to enhance the news-gathering processes of journalists, irrespective of their geographical location. Dataminr utilizes more than 150,000

publicly available data sources to detect early signs of emerging news stories, enabling prompt and precise reporting.(Dewar, 2020)

Maltego: is a strong analytical tool, Maltego focuses on graphical link analysis while offering real-time data extraction and information integration functionalities. By visualizing data within a modular graph framework, the tool enables users to effectively discern patterns and complex interconnections among various data points. Maltego enables investigators globally to hasten and refine the accuracy of their inquiries by integrating information into a cohesive interface. Since its inception in 2007,Maltego has become a vital resource for over one million investigations worldwide, serving a diverse range of applications including threat intelligence, fraud detection, and investigative journalism, thus attracting users from various professional backgrounds such as safety experts, journalists, and market analysts.(Maltego Technologies GmbH, n.d.)

DocumentCloud: Journalism is more trustworthy when sources are transparent. DocumentCloud acts as a crucial platform for journalists to distribute, assess, analyze, and release source documents online.Operated under the guidance of the Muck Rock Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit committed to promoting trust and transparency, DocumentCloud inherently aims to serve the public good. (MuckRock Foundation, n.d.)

The TruthBuzz Program: Inspired by the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) Knight Fellowships, the Truth Buzz Program seeks to equip journalists with effective storytelling methodologies that enhance the impact and reach of fact-checking endeavors. By aiming to vaccinate audiences against misinformation. This initiative empowers reporters to disseminate information in an engaging and shareable manner. It actively recruits full-time fellows to operate within newsrooms across four of the world's largest democracies, Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the United States and partners with Proto in India to investigate the dissemination of misinformation in that region. Initially launched as a global competition

aimed at identifying innovative strategies for distributing verified information, the Truth Buzz initiative is dedicated to combating misinformation and promoting transparent fact-checking practices. (International Center for Journalists, n.d.)

TinEye: employing advanced artificial intelligence, TinEye analyzes images to identify similar visual content online, rendering it a valuable resource in the field of investigative journalism for the identification of image sources and the validation of their authenticity. (Idée Inc., n.d.)

2.3.2 AI and Investigative Journalism in Nigeria: Current State and Challenges

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is gradually shaping investigative journalism in Nigeria by offering new tools that improve efficiency, accuracy, and storytelling. However, the integration of AI in the Nigerian media space is still in its early stages, with notable progress as well as significant challenges (Nwanyanwu&Nwanyanwu, 2021; Guanah, Agbanu& Obi, 2020).

Current State of AI in Investigative Journalism

According to Almakaty (2024); Diakopoulos (2019), some Nigerian media organizations have begun adopting AI tools to enhance their investigative work in the following ways:

Data Analysis: AI enables journalists to process large volumes of data quickly, helping to uncover hidden patterns, trends, and irregularities essential for deep investigative reporting.

Fact-Checking: AI-powered platforms assist in verifying claims and detecting misinformation, supporting accuracy and credibility in journalistic content.

Content Generation: AI is used to automate routine news writing, such as financial updates or weather reports, allowing journalists to focus more on complex investigative stories.

2.4 Changing structure of the News Room

Marconi, (2016) argues that implementing any new system will disrupt the existing workflow of the newsroom. He further posits that AI could completely transform the newsroom and the work of journalist demanding new technical skills among journalist and the need for new better work flows. The changes will be gradual and should be kept in mind particularly now that we are anticipating digital revolution.Marconi &Seigman (2017) notes that positions in the newsroom such as 'Automation Editor' and 'Computational Journalist' are becoming more common as there is a growing interest in courses related to digital and data journalism.This implies that in no distant future it will not be enough for journalists to simply conduct profile interviews and complete 750 – words write ups.

Leveraging machine intelligence within newsrooms can enhance efficiency in our content creation processes. Journalists often express frustration over the repetitive and tedious tasks they face while catering to various audiences across multiple platforms. AI can help diminish these tasks. News organizations such as Bloomberg and the Associated Press utilize Wordsmith by Automated Insights, a platform that analyzes data and generates reports on sports outcomes and corporate earnings. AI-generated smart templates enable them to produce this "commodity news" on a significantly larger scale than before, achieving up to 12 times the output in the case of AP. There is considerable concern that the integration of machine intelligence will reduce journalists to mere database administrators. However, experiments and applications of AI in prominent news organizations, like the AP, indicate the contrary, allowing journalists to reclaim up to 20 percent of their time. This enables them to concentrate on producing content and dedicating more time to their primary skill: reporting. Numerous examples of enhancement are already in existence. Transcription tools powered by speech-to-text technology, such as Trint or recordly, can greatly simplify the process,

eliminating hours spent on transcribing interviews. Companies like Clarifai and Vidrovr employ computer vision to automatically identify content in images, tag it, and uncover similar themes, thus accelerating the workflow for image editors.

2.4.1 Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Investigative Journalism

Three significant ways in which AI is transforming journalism are through the automating routine report, Delivering quicker insights, and Lowering barriers to entry.

(i). **Automating routing reports**: This involves utilizing AI to quickly increase coverage. AI in this context can save the time of journalists in news coverage particularly in the area of conducting interviews with real people. As reported by the Associated Press (2025), artificial intelligence is being utilized more frequently to automate standard reporting tasks, which enables journalists to concentrate on more intricate investigative work.

(ii). **Delivering quicker insights**: AI has the ability to respond to real-time data by outlining a narrative.

The implementation of AI allows for the completion of an organization's quarterly reports, which traditionally take a considerable amount of time, in just a few minutes. The Washington Post (2025) emphasizes that AI facilitates the quicker creation of stories from intricate datasets, greatly decreasing the time needed for reporting.

(iii). **Lowering barriers to entry**:Artificial intelligence can diminish the human aspect in the process of creating content. Despite the numerous benefits of AI in journalism, it is pertinent to X-ray the challenges which should be addressed in the interest of both journalism profession and the society at large. The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (2024) indicates that AI technologies reduce obstacles in news creation,

enabling independent journalists and smaller news organizations to contend with larger media companies.

Godwin Okorobia&IfeyinwaNsude(2020) summarizes the challenges of AI in journalism in seven concrete ways and they are as follows:

Technical challenges

(i). **Availability of data:** Machine learning is facilitated by sufficient data to enable it pick on patterns, learn from them and optimize the system accordingly. Everything needs substantial amounts of data to determine what the appropriate response should be.Without the availability of data, the ability of AI is limited.

(ii). **Comprehending unstructured data**: AI finds it challenging to process unstructured data. Tabulated results of sports games or earning data for instance can be easily translated into articles by using standardized templates, but if AI is to become more wide spread in the creative economy, it will definitely need to harness and synthesize unstructured data, which make up most of the data available today.

(iii). **Lack of self awareness**: AI does not have the ability to explain its output. For instance why it wrote what it did and how it got there.

(iv). **Verifying authenticity**: AI cannot distinguish whether the input it receives is accurate or not (Stefan If it receives false input, the output will equally be influenced negatively.

Governance challenges

(v). **Redefining copyright and fair us**e: Recent advancements in technology have often tested the limits of copyright regulations within the creative sectors. Machine learning may introduce a novel conflict, as it entails artificial intelligence drawing insights from human-created expressive works, such as collections of articles, paintings, or music. This raises questions about the legal understanding of ‘fair use,’ which allows

for the incorporation of copyrighted material to create new and 'transformative' content without obtaining permission or paying royalties.

(vi). **Ensuring corporate accountabilit**y: Since AI cannot be held legally accountable so human accountability should be entrenched in all stages of the content value chain.

(vii). **Exacerbating asymmetrical powe**r: The new trend in the modern society is that the biggest newsrooms are building their own AI but smaller platforms may not be able to build theirs because of high cost and technical expertise. The implication is that they would be forced to license proprietary content.

2.4.2 Need for Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria's Investigative Journalism

The individual who first employed the phrase artificial intelligence (AI) to describe machines capable of independent thought was John McCarthy (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d.). He further explains AI as getting a computer to do things which when done by people, are said to involve intelligence. Artificial Intelligence(AI)according toTechcopediaAI is characterized as "systems that enable computers to replicate human cognitive functions or carry out tasks that to be performed by humans."SAS states that artificial intelligence enables machines to learn from their experiences, adapt to new information, and carry out tasks similar to those performed by humans.

Furthermore, Encyclopedia Britannica, posits that AI will define the next generation of software solutions. He highlighted the definitions of AI such as the ability of a digital computer or computer – controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to software technologies that make a robot or computer act or think like a human. There is a significant demand for AI in developing nations, including Nigeria. This is due to the expected industrial or digital transformation.Many scholars believe that coping will be challenging without AI.

Also, Some researchers believe that AI can enhance various aspects of life, including agriculture, safety, healthcare, entertainment, education, business, aviation, finance, and transportation, among others. Although the term artificial intelligence may sound quite technical to many, it is something we utilize in our daily lives.Examples of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in everyday life show that we are already using it on daily basis both online and offline (The Manifest, Sept 26, 2018). Some of the areas where AI are used include e-mail operations, smart replies in g-mail, nudging reminders in g-mail, media operations, chat bots, Facebook proactive detection, web searchers, Google predictive searchers, algorithm, product and music recommendations.

Additional sectors involve smartphones, video games, security and surveillance, mobile banking, financial services, commercial airline operations, and Uber applications (Dan Faggella, 2017). The necessity for the implementation of AI has been recognized in both developed and developing nations.That is why many organizations particularly in developed countries today deploy (AI) for higher productivity. However, Alajemba and James, (2018) posit that though Nigeria as a country has seen the need for deployment of (AI) but it is still not part of technological life in Nigeria. Supporting the necessity for artificial intelligence, Mamudu and Mustaph (2017).IFR suggests that robots are generating new, lucrative jobs that necessitate skill development while taking the place of low-skill workers.

The researchers provided instances from the manufacturing sector where robots handle cognitive tasks like sorting raw materials, transporting goods, and stocking items, allowing humans to concentrate on more skilled tasks. The International Federation of Robotics (IFR, 2017) buttresses the fact that robot increases productivity and competitiveness thereby leading to increased demand and creation of new job opportunities. Jim (2020) summarizes the importance of artificial intelligence in the following ways:

(i). AI streamlines repetitive learning and exploration using data and consistently executes high-volume computer tasks efficiently without experiencing fatigue. Nonetheless, human investigation is essential for setting up the system and crafting the right questions.

(ii). AI adds intelligence to existing products. Typically, AI will not be available for purchase as a standalone application. Rather, products already in use will be improved with AI capabilities. For instance, Siri was added as a feature to a new generation of Apple products.

(iii). AI employs progressive learning algorithms to allow the data to dictate the programming.The algorithm transforms into a classifier or predictor, enabling it to learn independently which product to suggest next online.

(iv). AI processes larger and more complex datasets through neural networks containing numerous hidden layers. Not long ago, creating an effective fraud detection system was unfeasible, but recent advancements in computing power and big data have made it possible. The accuracy of these systems improves with the increase in data volume.

(v). AI reaches remarkable precision by utilizing deep neural networks, a feat that was once unattainable.Today AI technique from deep learning, image classification and object recognition can now be used to find cancer on MRLs with the same accuracy as highly trained radiologists.

(vi). AI gets the most out of data. When algorithms are capable of learning on their own, the data itself may be considered intellectual property. The insights lie within the data; you simply need to utilize AI to extract them. In a competitive industry, possessing superior data can lead to success, even if all players are using similar methods. Nonetheless, it's important to recognize that there are specific tasks that artificial

intelligence is unable to accomplish, highlighting the necessity for collaboration between humans and AI.

2.4.3 AI and journalism in developing countries

The adoption of Artificial Intelligence technologies in journalism reveals significant geographical disparities, particularly among developing nations that exhibit unique differences. The challenges of implementing AI in journalism are particularly pronounced in many African countries due to limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of skilled professionals, as noted by UNESCO (2017). This disparity highlights the difficulties faced by developing nations as they attempt to keep pace with technological advancements in the media industry. The professional and ethical challenges encountered by journalists pose issues that hinder their creative potential (Bello, Ishola and Umeaku, 2023). According to Nwanyanwu and Nwanyanwu (2021), journalists in emerging countries like Nigeria must adjust to the changes brought about by AI.

These difficulties emphasize the necessity for developing countries to adopt specific strategies that encourage the ethical use of AI in journalism, ensuring its effective application.

2.4.4 Challenges of AI Utilization in Investigative Journalism

AI has a lot of potential, but it also creates challenges for investigative journalism. Errors from AI tools can lead to misinformation and less accountability, making human oversight essential. Experts often divide these problems into professional and ethical issues, both of which are important in Nigerian media.

1. **Professional Challenges**

• Undermining of Human Creativity

Creativity is fundamental to investigative journalism, requiring not only accurate reporting but also in-depth interpretation, emotional depth, and critical analysis. As Latar (2018, p.24) points out, AI algorithms are constrained by the conceptual limits imposed by their human developers and cannot demonstrate authentic creativity. They are unable to navigate into new, unstructured conceptual territories, a capability that is often essential in investigative journalism, where reporters must think creatively to expose hidden truths.

In Nigeria, where journalists frequently operate under challenging and nuanced circumstances such as dealing with political pressures, corruption, or societal taboos. The capacity to creatively articulate a story or connect seemingly unrelated points is vital. AI cannot mimic the instinctive and intuitive abilities that journalists draw upon when reacting to unfolding events, conducting street interviews, or uncovering intricate corruption cases.

•Absence of Human Judgment and Monitoring

Journalism serves as a guardian of society: A role that necessitates human judgment, ethical deliberation, and the ability to recognize subtle societal shifts or threats. Latar (2018) indicates that AI systems are unable to effectively monitor or react to unforeseen developments, as they lack the human ability to make connections beyond pre-defined patterns.

In Nigeria, where investigative journalism often confronts unpredictable and sensitive topics, such as insurgency in the North-East, police brutality, or electoral fraud, human engagement is crucial. AI may overlook significant developments or interpret information without cultural or contextual awareness, which could lead to misinformation or erroneous conclusions.

•Bias and Ethical Risks

One of the most significant dangers posed by AI in journalism is algorithmic bias. Since AI systems are trained on data chosen by humans, they can unintentionally reflect and amplify

societal biases. Larson (2017) and Koolen& Van (2017) have noted how biases related to race and gender can infiltrate AI tools, while Osoba&Welser (2017) caution about the unregulated dangers these biases present when AI takes on major roles in society. In Nigeria, this issue becomes particularly perilous. AI tools created outside of Africa may not adequately represent the diversity of Nigerian society, which could result in misrepresentations or systemic exclusion of specific ethnic or social groups. This compromises the integrity and fairness of investigative journalism and could exacerbate existing inequalities if not addressed. Real-world incidents such as Google's photo-tagging mistake in 2015 or the racially biased COMPAS software in the U.S. (Angwin et al., 2016) underscore the threats of unregulated AI systems. A cautionary tale for Nigerian media outlets that might consider adopting foreign-developed AI technologies without appropriate local adjustments or monitoring.

2. **Ethical Challenges**

•Transparency

In investigative journalism, transparency is vital for establishing trust with the audience. When AI is utilized in writing or assisting with investigative articles, it is important for readers to know whether the content was generated by a human journalist or an algorithm. In Nigeria, where public confidence in the media can be quite tenuous, failing to disclose the use of AI in journalism could further erode skepticism and damage the credibility of investigations.

• Fact-Checking

The foundation of investigative journalism is accuracy and verification. If AI tools are employed to analyze data or create content, it is essential for readers (and editors) to comprehend how the data is selected, processed, and verified. In Nigeria, where the media can be affected by misinformation and political bias, improper oversight of AI could result in

the dissemination of errors or biased narratives, thereby compromising the investigative process.

• **Fairness**

AI systems have the potential to unintentionally replicate biases found in their training data. This poses a significant challenge in investigative journalism, where fairness is critical. For example, AI may give priority to stories or language that uphold stereotypes whether racial, religious, or gender-related particularly in the context of Nigeria's diverse populace.

• **Data Utilization**

This represents a significant area of concern. Investigative journalism frequently depends on sensitive or classified information. If AI tools are not regulated by stringent privacy laws and ethical guidelines, the improper use of personal data could lead to severe repercussions, such as surveillance, privacy violations, or manipulation. In Nigeria, where fears about government surveillance and data misuse are escalating, this risk becomes even more urgent.

•**Data Quality**

In investigative journalism, having accurate and trustworthy data is very important. When AI tools use unreliable data, they can produce misleading results, which can harm the integrity of investigations. This problem gets worse if AI can't check where the information comes from or whether it's correct. The Ethical Code of Conduct on Robotics, created by the European Parliament, highlights the need for data privacy and responsible use, showing that strong ethical standards are essential to maintain trust and truth in investigative journalism.

2.5 Empirical review

Clerwall (2014) carried out a study titled "Enter the Robot Journalist" to examine how readers perceive news content generated by software compared to that written by human

journalists. The study aimed to find out if people trust articles written by AI the same way they trust those written by humans. In the experiment, participants read both types of articles without knowing who wrote them. The results showed that readers had a hard time telling them apart, and they generally found both types to be equally credible.

This research relates to the study by offering insights into how the audience sees AI-generated content, which is important for evaluating whether AI in investigative journalism is seen as an innovative tool or regarded with doubt. While the emphasis is not solely on investigative journalism, the results concerning credibility play a significant role in analyzing AI's possible influence on trust and acceptance in journalism in Nigeria.

Wölker and Powell (2018) investigated how European audiences perceive different forms of journalism human-written, AI-generated, and a hybrid of both. Their study, "Algorithm in the Newsroom? Perceived Credibility and Selection of Automated Journalism," aimed to explore how news consumers view credibility and make selections regarding AI in journalism. Using an experimental methodology, the research revealed that credibility assessments were largely consistent across all formats. Nevertheless, in the realm of sports journalism specifically, automated articles were seen as somewhat more credible compared to those written by humans. The findings indicated that beliefs about credibility did not play a significant role in determining whether readers chose to engage with or steer clear of certain news types.

This research shows how different styles of journalism can influence how trustworthy people think AI-generated content is. While it mainly looked at European sports journalism, it also points out how AI is viewed differently in various types of journalism. This helps understand the positive or negative effects of AI on investigative journalism in Nigeria.

Diakopoulos (2019), in his book "Automating the News," examined how algorithms and machine learning affect investigative journalism. The aim was to evaluate the influence

of computational tools on investigative methods, especially regarding efficiency, transparency, and journalistic ethics. Through qualitative research and case studies from newsrooms, the findings indicated that AI is increasingly utilized in areas like data mining, pattern detection, and story generation. While these technologies have improved reporting capabilities, the study also highlighted concerns about responsibility and the necessity for transparency in algorithmic operations.

This research is relevant because it focuses on investigative journalism and how AI tools are changing it. It highlights how AI can improve reporting by making it more efficient and in-depth but also stresses the need to think about ethical issues.

Guanah, J. S., Agbanu, V. N., & Obi, I. (2020) conducted research titled "Artificial Intelligence and Journalism Practice in Nigeria: Perception of Journalists in Benin City, Edo State." This study aimed to evaluate how journalists perceive the influence of AI on journalism practices in Benin City, Nigeria. Employing a mixed-methods strategy, the study collected responses from 152 journalists associated with the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Benin City Chapter and conducted comprehensive interviews.The results indicated that journalists recognized AI-driven media tools as improvements over traditional manual reporting techniques, suggesting a favorable view of AI's contribution to enhancing journalistic efficiency. Nevertheless, apprehensions were expressed regarding job stability and the potential diminishing of human-centric storytelling as a result of automation. The research concluded that although AI offers groundbreaking opportunities for journalism, it also introduces challenges that require proactive adjustments.

This research is important for this study because it was done in Benin City, Nigeria, the same area we're focusing on. It shows how Nigerian journalists feel about AI, including their hopes and concerns about using it. The findings gives a basis to assess if AI could be a useful tool or a threat to investigative journalism in Nigeria.

2.6 Theoretical Review

1. Technological Determinism Theory

Technological determinism suggests that new technologies shape how people think, act, and interact, which affects culture and social structures (McLuhan, 1964; Smith & Marx, 1994). This theory views technology not just as tools but as powerful influences that can change human behavior and organizations. In this study, the Theory of Technological Determinism is used to look at how Artificial Intelligence (AI) affects investigative journalism in Nigeria. The theory indicates that as AI develops, it will change how journalists gather, analyze, and share news. This could lead to significant changes in the media by making data analysis faster, spotting trends, and allowing automated reporting, ultimately changing the journalist's role.

However, this shift in technology can also bring risks. If AI is used without enough human supervision, ethics, or technology support, it could threaten journalistic independence, diminish investigative skills, or create biases in reporting. These concerns are especially important in Nigeria, where technology understanding and regulations are still growing. By applying this theory, the study looks at whether AI is causing necessary changes in investigative journalism, either by helping journalists do more (a positive change) or by threatening their ethics, jobs, and credibility (a negative change).

The Technological Determinism Theory helps to:

Talk about how AI is helping to shape the future of news reporting.

Analyze how technology affects journalistic practices and ethics.

Evaluate whether journalists and media companies are adapting to these changes.

Examine if the changes brought by AI are good or bad for investigative journalism in Nigeria.

2. Gatekeeping Theory

Gatekeeping Theory, introduced by Kurt Lewin in 1947 and updated by David White in 1950, explains how media professionals filter and choose information before sharing it with the public. In journalism, gatekeepers like editors and reporters decide which news stories get reported, how they are presented, and what information is available to the audience.

In investigative journalism, gatekeeping is important in several ways:

- Choosing which investigations to pursue.
- Evaluating the credibility of sources.
- Deciding how to present findings.
- Finding out whether the stories question strong organizations or support the way things are right now.

With the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in journalism, traditional gatekeeping is changing. AI can generate content, analyze large data sets, and predict which stories might attract public attention based on algorithms instead of just journalistic judgment. This shift brings up important questions:

- Who is the gatekeeper now? human editors or AI systems?
- Can AI make news decisions that reflect human ethics and values?
- Does AI worsen existing biases, or does it help uncover the truth?
- Are Nigerian investigative journalists losing or strengthening their role as watchdogs due to AI?

In Nigeria's media landscape, where investigative journalism faces various challenges, AI could either improve the gatekeeping process by providing better tools or weaken it by focusing too much on efficiency and profits instead of the public interest.

Gatekeeping Theory helps us to:

Look at how AI affects the choice and reporting of investigative stories in Nigeria.

Assess if AI enhances or weakens journalists' control over content.

Explore whether AI supports editorial independence or creates new gatekeepers like tech platforms or algorithms.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter focuses on the research methodologies of this study. Therefore, it explains the following:

- Research Design
- Population of the Study
- Sample Size
- Sampling Technique
- Description of Research Instrument
- Method of Data Collection
- Validity of Research Instrument
- Reliability of Research Instrument
- Method of Data Analysis

3.1 Research Design

Research design is the plan and approach used to conduct an investigation, whichis organized to gather information that helps answer the research question. This approach enables the researcher to evaluate the research question and reach a conclusive decision regarding the study. The research will employ a mixed-methods design, seamlessly integrating both qualitative and quantitative approaches to examine the impact of AI on investigative journalism in Nigeria. The qualitative component will involve conducting in-depth interviews with journalists/academic staffs and media experts to gain insights into their perceptions of AI as either a tool or a threat. The quantitative component will use surveys to collect measurable data related to AI adoption, challenges, and benefits, thereby ensuring a comprehensive analysis of its influence.

3.2 Population of the Study

Population refers to all instances, individuals, or groups that fulfill specific criteria (Ohaja, 2003). The study focuses on Mass Communication students and staff at the University of Benin, Ekehuan Campus as well as journalists/media experts. This group was selected because they have valuable knowledge and experience in journalism topics like investigative journalism, media ethics, and communication technology. According to records of Mass Communication examination office (2024), there are 810 students in the Mass Communication Department(100-400 level) and 18 academic staff members. Therefore, the total population for the quantitative aspect of the study is 828.

For the qualitative aspect of this research, the sample consists of journalists and media professionals located in Benin City, Edo State, who are chosen from established media organizations. Information obtained from industry contacts indicates that Nigerian Television Authority (NTA Benin) has 18 journalists while Independent Television (ITV Benin) has 24

accredited journalists, as reported by the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ). These result amounts to a total population of 42 journalists.

3.3 Sample Size

The sample size for this study will be 270 which was derived from the Taro Yamene formula. The formula is expressed as follow:

TARO YAMENE FORMULA:

n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)

Where:

n = sample size

N = population size (828)

e = margin of error (0.05)

Hence:

n = 828 / (1 + 828(0.05)^2)

n = 828/ (1 + 828(0.0025))

n = 828/ (1 + 2.075)

n = 828 / 3.07

n =269.71

The sample size is approximately 270

Qualitative Aspect

Information obtained from industry contacts indicates that Nigerian Television Authority (NTA Benin) has 18 journalists while Independent Television (ITV Benin) has 24 accredited journalists, as reported by the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ). These result amounts to a total population of 42 journalists. However, due to limitations in time and resources, a sample size of 6 journalists/media professionals will be selected from the population for interviews.

This approach enables concentrated engagement and the gathering of in-depth insights that are pertinent to the aims of the study.

3.4 Sampling Technique

The primary aim of sampling is to select a small subset of a larger population to draw insights about the entire group. The researcher will employ the purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is a non-probability approach that involves choosing participants based on their expertise, experience, or unique characteristics that make them relevant to the research topic. In the context of this study, purposive sampling allows the researcher to engage with specific individuals who have practical experience with AI in investigative journalism.

3.5 Instrument of Data Collection

This approach is used to collect data or insights from a targeted group of respondents. In this research, questionnaire and in-depth interview will be employed as the primary tools for data collection. The questionnaire is structured into four sections: demographic information, awareness and use of AI, practices in investigative journalism, and attitudes and perceptions. The in-depth interview will be used to gain deeper insights into participants' views and experiences, complementing the data obtained from the questionnaire.

3.6 Research Validity

Okwechime (2011) posits that the validity of a study fundamentally hinges on one key question: Is the research instrument employed in the study effective in measuring what it is

intended to measure? To address this question, the researcher will submit the study's questionnaire for approval by the project supervisor, thereby assessing the reliability of the instrument and ensuring the study's validity.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

The research will make use of empty tables and percentages, as well as descriptive methods, to analyze all the data collected from the respondents to help provide understandable answers to the overall research data collected.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter looks at the information gathered fromthe research instruments (questionnaire and interview),relating it to the research questions asked in this study. Below is a detailed breakdown:

4.2 Data PresentationFor Questionnaire

Table 1: Administered Questionnaire

Variable	Respondents	Percentage
Retrieved	270	100

Unretrieved	-	-
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

A total of 270 questionnaires were distributed, 270 were collected, and none were excluded. This means that all participants provided suitable responses to the questions, showing that the research tool was reliable.

Table 2: Age of Respondent

Variables	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Below 20	65	24.2
21-30	167	61.7
31-40	15	5.6
41-50	7	2.6
50 and above	16	5.9
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

This table shows that majority of the respondents falls under the age of 21-30 with 167 responses, giving a percentage of 61.7 of the total. This shows that most respondents are young adult

Table 3: Gender of Respondent

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Male	104	38.5
Female	145	53.7
Prefer not to say	21	7 Table.8

Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Findings shows that most of the respondents are female.

Table 4: Level/Status

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
100lv	58	21.5
200lv	55	20.4
300lv	64	23.7
400lv	75	27.7
Academic staff	18	6.7
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

This reveals that 400level students participated more in the study.

Table 5: Do you have prior knowledge of Artificial(AI)?

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Yes	227	84
No	43	16
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

A large number of respondents, 84%,said they had prior knowledge of Artificial Intelligence.

Table 6: Have you used or interacted with any AI tool in journalism practice (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, GoogleAI tools,etc.)?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	210	78.2
No	60	21.8
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

This table shows that about 78.2% of respondents have used AI tools like ChatGPT andGrammarly.

Table 7: AI can enhance investigative journalism through faster data analysis

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	69	25.6
Agree	130	48.1
Neutral	38	14.1
Disagree	31	11.5
Strongly Disagree	2	0.7
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Most respondents (48.1 and 25.6) agreed and strongly agreed with this statement.

Table 8: AI helps in detecting patterns in complex data that journalists may miss

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	68	25.2
Agree	126	46.6
Neutral	42	15.6
Disagree	34	12.6
Strongly Disagree	0	0
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Many respondents believe that AI can spot patterns that human journalists might miss.

Table 9: AI tools improve fact-checking and reduce misinformation

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	53	19.6
Agree	109	40.4
Neutral	74	27.4
Disagree	29	10.7
Strongly Disagree	5	1.9
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Over half of the respondents agreed that AI improves fact-checking

Table 10: Automation through AI allows to focus on more in-depth stories

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	42	15.6
Agree	112	41.6
Neutral	75	27.9
Disagree	33	12.3
Strongly Disagree	8	2.6
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

The table shows that most respondents agreed that AI-driven automation helps journalists focus on deeper reporting.

Table 11: AI has improved the quality and accuracy of investigative journalism

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	37	13.8
Agree	107	39.7
Neutral	86	32
Disagree	35	13
Strongly Disagree	5	1.5
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Most respondents agreed that AI has impacted investigative journalism positively

Table 12: AI generated content lacks the human insight required for investigative journalism

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	51	18.9
Agree	100	37.1
Neutral	81	30
Disagree	36	13.3
Strongly Disagree	2	0.7
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

The study shows that majority of the respondents agreed that AI doesn't have the human insight required for investigative journalism

Table 13: AI tools can be biased and lead to misleading conclusions

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	47	17.5
Agree	103	38.2
Neutral	76	28.2
Disagree	37	13.8
Strongly Disagree	7	2.3
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Most respondents showed concern about bias in AI. 38.2 agreed that it is an issue, and 17.5 strongly agreed

Table 14: The use of AI in journalism could lead to job losses

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly Agree	54	20
Agree	94	34.8
Neutral	74	27.4
Disagree	40	14.8
Strongly Disagree	8	3
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

A large percentage of the study agreed that AI might pose risk to jobs in journalism.

Table 15: Nigeria newsroom lack the infrastructure to fully adopt AI tools

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly Agree	46	17.1
Agree	102	37.9
Neutral	89	33.1
Disagree	30	10.8
Strongly Disagree	3	1.1
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

The table shows that majority of respondents agreed that there are infrastructural challenges in Nigerian newsroom

Table 16: Ethical concerns limit the use of AI in investigative journalism in Nigeria

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	39	14.4
Agree	111	41.2
Neutral	80	29.6
Disagree	30	11.1
Strongly Disagree	10	3.7
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

A large number of respondents agreed that ethical concerns set boundaries on the use of Artificial Intelligence

Table 17: AI can be used to strengthen press through objective reporting

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	40	14.9
Agree	121	45
Neutral	78	29
Disagree	27	10
Strongly Disagree	4	1.1
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

There is a strong confidence in AI's ability to enhance objective journalism

Table 18: AI increases the risk of spreading fake news or deepfake content

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	48	17.8
Agree	93	34.4
Neutral	80	29.6
Disagree	42	15.6
Strongly Disagree	7	2.6
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Most respondents strongly agreed or agreed that AI increases the risk of spreading misinformation.

Table 19: Regulations are necessary to prevent AI misuse in journalism

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	53	19.8
Agree	118	44
Neutral	76	28
Disagree	21	7.5
Strongly Disagree	2	0.7
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

The table shows that majority of the respondents agreed that regulation are necessary to prevent the misuse of AI.

Table 20: AI threatens the integrity of investigative journalism

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	32	11.9
Agree	102	37.9
Neutral	95	35.3
Disagree	35	13
Strongly Disagree	6	1.9
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

49.8% of the respondents agreed that AI threatens the integrity of investigative journalism

Table 21: Without ethical controls, AI could manipulate public opinion

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	52	19.3
Agree	116	43
Neutral	70	25.9
Disagree	30	11.1
Strongly Disagree	2	0.7
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

In the table, about 62.3 of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed on how AI could manipulate public opinion without ethical control

Table 22: AI represent a revolutionary tool for journalism development

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly Agree	30	11.1
Agree	130	48
Neutral	78	29
Disagree	28	20.4
Strongly Disagree	4	1.5
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

59.1% of the respondents agreed that AI can change journalism

Table 23: AI is more of a threat than a benefit to investigative journalism

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly Agree	29	10.8
Agree	90	33.2
Neutral	92	34.3
Disagree	48	17.5
Strongly Disagree	11	4.2
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

This table shows AI as a double-edge sword. In the study, 44% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed. while 34.3 were neutral and 21.7 disagreed.

Table 24: Journalists should receive training on AI tools and Ethical Usage

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly Agree	59	21.8
Agree	114	42.5
Neutral	69	25.5
Disagree	23	8.3
Strongly Disagree	5	1.9
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Majority of the respondents agreed that journalists should be trained on AI tools and ethical usage.

Table 25: The benefits of AI in journalism outweigh the drawbacks

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly Agree	42	15.6
Agree	106	39
Neutral	88	32.8
Disagree	27	10
Strongly Disagree	7	2.6
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Many of the respondents agreed on AI's benefits in journalism outweigh the drawbacks

Table 26: AI will play a sufficient role in the future of journalism in Nigeria

Variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly Agree	46	16.8
Agree	121	45.2
Neutral	74	27.2
Disagree	23	8.6
Strongly Disagree	6	2.2
Total	**270**	**100**

Source: field Survey 2025

Most respondents agreedor strongly agreed that they have high hopes for AI to improve development in journalism and make operations better.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF QUALITATIVE DATA FROM IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW

This part of the study focuses on the thematic explanation of the interviews carried out with Journalists in the media houses selected, using Yin explanation building model.

Perceived benefits of artificial intelligence in journalism

Majority of the journalists interviewed believes that AI is beneficial to journalism. Journalists mentioned that AI helps to process data faster and verify facts. It provides a better and more effective way of gathering and presenting stories. Some also describe AI as a remedy for misinformation. It transforms and increases the efficiency of news reporting.

They added that AI helps journalists prepare transcripts, gather data for presentation and get in-depth reporting.

AI's effectiveness in Journalism

The interview shows that journalists sees AI as a valuable tool in today's journalism. They mentioned that AI sift through thousands of documents, detect anomalies and identify misinformation across social media. Journalists see AI as a visible assistant that helps go deeper, faster and more accurately. Also, it helps with data processing, social media monitoring and contents analysis. Journalists also pointed out that AI enhances transparency, accountability and efficiency.

Difficulties of AI in journalism

Majority of the journalists interviewed showed concern on the difficulties they face when using AI tools to carry out their journalistic duties. These difficulties include: Accessibility- journalists indicates that not every journalist or newsroom in Nigeria can afford or navigate AI tools easily. They also Pointed the issue of Training. To them media houses should train their journalists on how to use these tools responsibly, without bias, and within ethical limits. Many also raised concerns on internet connectivity, deepfakes, privacy, algorithmic bias and lack of transparency.

Artificial intelligence enhances press freedom

Majority of the Journalists agreed that AI can enhance press freedom in Nigeria. They point out that, it uncovers hidden truth, analyses complex data and evades censorship. Majority also believes that AI straightens watchdog journalism as well as protect whistle blowers. They also mentioned that it helps anonymize sensitive source or detect digital threats. It creates safe haven for journalists.

AI as a tool for misleading information

Journalists expressed serious concerns about AI's ability to distort the truth and impact the media. Most journalists agreed that AI can be used to create deepfakes, spread propaganda and automate fake news at a terrifying scale. Journalists also mentioned that AI is a weapon of misinformation. Algorithm can be manipulated to suppress certain voices or amplify bias contents. They also made mention of yellow journalism.

Perception of AI as an aid or risk

Journalists have a careful view of how AI affects their work. They see AI as an aid that requires vigilance. Majority of the journalists pointed out AI as a blessing and a curse. They believe the real risk comes from how people use the technology, not the technology itself. Why they think AI will not replace them, they worry that using it incorrectly could create serious ethical problem in reporting.

4.3 Discussion of Finding

As earlier mentioned, the study research questions will be examined in relations to the responses collected in order to achieve the goal of the study.

Research Question 1: How does artificial intelligence (AI) enhance investigative journalism in Nigeria?

The analysis in Tables 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 answers the research question. From the findings, it shows that 73.7% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that AI can enhance investigative journalism through faster data analysis, while 12.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed. This means that an ample percentage of the respondents believe AI is a valuable resource to enhance investigative journalism. This is consistent with existing literature showing that AI-powered data tools have been successfully applied in investigative work to process large volumes of information and uncover patterns that would be difficult for humans

to detect manually, as demonstrated in the work of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) using Datashare and Neo4j for massive leaks analysis (International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, 2024).

Tables 8, 9, 10, and 11 further indicate that AI helps to detect patterns in complex data, improves fact-checking, enables automation to allow focus on in-depth stories, and enhances the quality and accuracy of reports. This aligns with a literature review on AI and cybersecurity in investigative journalism, which found that AI-powered fact-checking and verification tools significantly reduce the time and effort required to verify information while improving accuracy (Ademola&Somorin 2024). Similarly, automated fact-checking platforms, such as those tested in research by Thorne et al. (2019), have demonstrated real-world usability by retrieving relevant evidence and delivering correct verdicts in a majority of cases.

On the qualitative side, questions two and three of the interviews addressed the first research question. As stated by the interviewees, AI enhances investigative journalism in many ways: faster data analysis, verification of facts, a more effective and efficient way of gathering and presenting stories, efficiency in news reporting, and the ability to scan through a large volume of documents in a short time. These views are in line with findings by JournalismAI (2024), which reported that over 75% of newsrooms globally use AI for functions such as transcription, tagging, and news writing, with some leveraging it to support deeper investigative work.

The findings from both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the study indicate that AI has a positive influence on investigative journalism by improving data analysis, fact-checking, and in-depthstories, thereby leading to the birth of journalism. However, the findings also mirror cautionary notes from scholars and industry observers. For example, the Washington Post (2025) reported on Il Foglio's AI-only edition, which revealed that while AI

can produce content quickly, it often suffers from factual errors, plagiarism, and a lack of originality reinforcing that journalism requires human oversight. Furthermore, a Thomas Reuters Foundation(2025) survey showed that while AI adoption is growing, only about a quarter of journalists believe it genuinely enhances investigative journalism, and a slightly higher percentage view it as a potential threat to journalistic integrity.

In light of this, while AI appears to be a transformative tool that can support investigative journalism through efficiency, pattern detection, and enhanced fact-checking, it should not replace the human instincts of curiosity, empathy, and ethical responsibility that define great reporting. This is echoed in studies highlighting that audience trust depends heavily on transparency, with over 80% of news consumers insisting they should be informed when AI is used in journalism (Newman et al, 2024).

Research Question 2: What are the challenges associated with the use of AI in investigative journalism?

The research shows several benefits, but it also points out major challenges.Respondents agreed on several issues, including lack of human insight in AI-generated content, bias in AI tools, potential job losses, lack of infrastructural equipment, and ethical concerns that limit AI usage. These findings reflect a careful and often cautious perspective among journalists toward AI adoption. This is consistent with the Beckett (2024) global survey, which noted that while AI adoption in newsrooms is growing, ethical concerns and trust deficits remain among the most significant barriers.Tables 12–16 address the question of what challenges are associated with the use of AI in investigative journalism.

The responses from interviewees confirm that there are multiple hurdles in AI integration. One of the most cited is accessibility, not all newsrooms can afford advanced AI tools due to financial constraints. Similar observations were made in a study by Beckett (2024), which highlighted that AI adoption in smaller or underfunded newsrooms is limited due to cost, lack of technical expertise, and inadequate infrastructure.

Another concern raised is privacy, the large-scale data collection performed by AI can violate privacy laws and journalistic ethical standards. According to Diakopoulos (2019), automated data scraping for investigative reporting can cross ethical lines if safeguards are not in place. Similarly, algorithmic bias remains a critical challenge, as AI systems can replicate and amplify prejudices present in their training data (Crawford &Paglen, 2021). The rise of deepfakes also poses a major threat to truth-based reporting, with research by Paris and Donovan (2019) warning that synthetic media could undermine trust in journalism entirely.

Some journalists also expressed concern that AI is gradually eroding the human element in journalism. They worry that over-reliance on automation could dull critical thinking and weaken the intuition and investigative instincts that are hallmarks of great reporting. This echoes critiques from the New Yorker (Rothman, 2025),which stressed that while AI can mimic journalistic tasks, it cannot replace the nuanced qualities like judgment, empathy, and ethical thinking that people naturally use in their work.

The interview responses, particularly question four, emphasize these concerns. The research shows that while AI can assist investigative journalism, journalists face significant challenges in its use. They remain wary of bias, ethical pitfalls, limited accessibility, and the potential loss of human intuition. As scholars such as Olanipekun(2025) argue, addressing these issues through better transparency, inclusive training datasets, robust ethical guidelines, and equitable access is essential to ensure AI is used responsibly and fairly in journalism.

Research Questions 3: Does AI act as a facilitator of press freedom or a tool for media and misinformation?

The observation points to a twofold understanding. From one perspective, respondents agreed that AI has the ability to strengthen press freedom by enabling more objective and in-depth reporting. This aligns with findings by Marconi (2020), who argue that AI-driven tools can help journalists process complex datasets, detect hidden patterns, and uncover stories that would otherwise stay anonymous, which helps the media keep a close watch.

On the other hand, a large number of respondents expressed concern about AI being misused to spread misinformation or create deepfake content. Additionally, many respondents highlighted that the lack of ethical control and regulatory frameworks governing AI could make it a tool for manipulating public opinion and weakening the integrity of investigative journalism. Similar warnings appear in Diakopoulos (2019), who notes that without oversight, AI could amplify bias, automate propaganda, and facilitate large-scale disinformation campaigns.

Tables 17–21 address this question quantitatively. Two of the interview questions also explore it qualitatively: Question five focuses on AI's positive contributions, while question six highlights the negatives. Responses from interviewees affirm that AI can facilitate press freedom in multiple ways: uncovering hidden truths, analyzing complex data quickly, evading censorship, protecting whistleblowers, anonymizing sensitive sources, and providing a safe haven for journalists

Conversely, interviewees also acknowledged that AI can create deepfakes, spread propaganda, circulate fake news, and promote yellow journalism. This mirrors research from Chesney and Citron (2019), which emphasizes that AI-generated synthetic media poses a

“liar’s dividend,” allowing malicious actors to both fabricate content and dismiss legitimate journalism as fake.

The observation from both the quantitative and qualitative strands of the study reveals that AI is a double-edged tool in investigative journalism: it boosts press freedom, protects sources, and offers advanced capabilities for uncovering hidden truths, yet without strong ethical guidelines and regulatory oversight, it also has the potential to spread false information and damage trust in journalism.

Research Question 4: What are journalists' views on AI as either a groundbreaking support or a danger to their profession?

Respondents had dual sentiments, but the majority were hopeful, with some doubt about AI in journalism. The majority of the respondents agreed that AI is a revolutionary tool that can help journalism thrive, and they felt its benefits outweigh its drawbacks. This perspective is supported by Okoye et al. (2025), who found that journalists in Enugu State reported high awareness and usage of AI tools, with key benefits identified as time and resource savings and increased efficiency and productivity

Although some showed concern that AI could threaten investigative journalism and reduce the presence of humans in the workplace. Respondents agreed that it is important to educate journalists on how to use AI tool.This need is addressed by initiatives like the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism's training programs(2023), which aim to equip journalists with practical skills to leverage AI in enhancing the quality of their work. Respondents agreed that AI is probably going to influence how journalism works in Nigeria in the future.

This shows that while journalists see the capacity of AI,they are also aware of its threats. Table 22-26 answer's this question.

The responses gathered from the interview indicate that question seven of the interview addresses research question four. From the interview, respondents said that AI is a useful aid but requires vigilance; they believe that it won't replace journalists entirely. Rather, the risk lies not in the technology, but in how it is wielded. This perspective aligns with findings from a study by Cools and Diakopoulos (2024), which emphasizes that while AI can streamline journalistic workflows, it must be applied mindfully and responsibly to avoid ethical pitfalls.

The result above shows that participants see AI as a helpful tool for improving journalism, but they are careful about its risks. This cautious optimism is echoed in the work of Broussard et al. (2019), who advocate for critical AI literacy among journalists to ensure that AI enhances rather than undermines journalistic integrity.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION.

5.1 Summary

The study investigated **The Influence of Artificial Intelligence on Investigative Journalism in Nigeria: A Revolution or a Threat?** Chapter One looks at the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study, and operational definition of terms.Chapter Two includes: Conceptual review, Empirical review, and Theoretical framework.Chapter Three focuses on the Research design, Population of the study, Sample size, Sampling technique, Instrument of

data collection, Research validity, and method of data analysis.Chapter Four presents the data collected from the research instruments (questionnaire and interview) and discusses the findings.Chapter Five summarizes the study, concludes the research work, and gives recommendations.

5.2 Conclusion

This research analyzed the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on improving investigative journalism in Nigeria. It studied the ways in which AI tools help journalists with data analysis, verification of facts, creating content. Through interview with journalists, the study uncovered both the benefits and problems related to the use of AI- mentioning its ability to help in efficiency and reveal hidden truths, also pointing out worries such as algorithmic bias, privacy concerns, and a tool for misuse in spreading misinformation. The research considered whether AI facilitates press freedom or contributes to the spread of disinformation, pointing out a mixed opinion among journalists.

5.3 Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommends the following:

1. Training: media houses should train their journalists on how to use AI tools effectively, ensuring that they understand the moral , technical , and the ethical aspect of it.
2. Accessibility and Availability of Infrastructural equipment: Media houses should invest in budget-friendly AI tools and ensure its accessibility in the newsrooms, particularly in neglected areas

3. Ethical Standards and Regulation: There should be established rules and ethical guidelines guiding the use of AI in journalism to prevent abuses such as misinformation, Fake media content.
4. Human Management: Regardless of AI's abilities, humans should be the central control in investigative journalism to uphold empathy, precision, and accountability.
5. Tackling Misinformation: Media organizations can fight misinformation by checking facts before publishing, using reliable sources, teaching journalists how to spot fake news, quickly correcting mistakes, educating the public about media literacy.
6. Privacy Protection: Media houses can tackle privacy issues by clear guidelines, teaching journalists, using secure technologies, checking AI-generated content before publishing, being transparent about how they use data, and working with experts to encourage responsible practices.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Mass Communication,

University of Benin,

P. M. B 1154,

Benin City,

Dear Respondent,

REQUEST TO COMPLETE A QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is Kanabe Bashirat Omoyemhe, a final year student of Mass Communication department of the above named institution. I am conducting a research on the topic **"INFLUENCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN NIGERIA: A REVOLUTION OR A THREAT."** The study was done as part of the requirements to acquire a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Mass Communication.

I will appreciate your cooperation in getting the questionnaire completed in order to facilitate the research. I assure you all the information supplied are strictly for academic purposes and would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,
Kanabe .O. Bashirat
Researcher.

SECTION A: Demographic Information

Please tick [✓] where appropriate.

1. Gender

- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female
- [ ] Prefer not to say

2. Age

- [ ] Below 20

- [ ] 21–30

- [ ] 31–40

- [ ] 41–50

- [ ] 51 and above

3. Level/Status

- [ ] 100 Level

- [ ] 200 Level

- [ ] 300 Level

- [ ] 400 Level

- [ ] Academic Staff

4. Do you have prior knowledge of Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

- [ ] Yes

- [ ] No

5. Have you used or interacted with any AI tool in journalism practice (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Google AI tools, etc.)?

- [ ] Yes

- [ ] No

SECTION B: Perceived Benefits of AI in Investigative Journalism

Kindly rate using the scale below:

SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

1	AI can enhance investigative journalism through faster data analysis. SA() A() N() D() SD()	
2	AI helps in detecting patterns in complex data that journalists may miss. SA() A() N() D() SD()	

3 AI tools improve fact-checking and reduce misinformation. SA() A() N() D() SD()

4 Automation through AI allows to focus on more in-depth stories. SA() A() N() D() SD()

5 AI has improved the quality and accuracy of investigative journalism. SA() A() N() D() SD()

SECTION C: Challenges and Concerns

Kindly rate using the scale below:

SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

1 AI generated content lacks the human insight required for investigative journalism. SA() A() N() D() SD()

2 AI tools can be biased and lead to misleading conclusions. SA() A() N() D() SD()

3 The use of AI in journalism could lead to job losses. SA() A() N() D() SD()

4 Nigerian newsrooms lack the infrastructure to fully adopt AI tools. SA() A() N() D() SD()

5 Ethical concerns limit the use of AI in investigative journalism in Nigeria. SA() A() N() D() SD()

SECTION D: Press Freedom and Misinformation

Kindly rate using the scale below:

SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

1 AI can be used to strengthen press through objective reporting. SA() A() N() D() SD()

2 AI increases the risk of spreading fake news or deepfake content. SA() A() N() D() SD()

3 Regulations are necessary to prevent AI misuse in journalism. SA() A() N() D() SD()

4 AI threatens the integrity of investigative journalism. SA() A() N() D() SD()

5 Without ethical controls, AI could manipulate public opinion. SA() A() N() D() SD()

SECTION E: Perceptions and Future Outlook

Kindly rate using the scale below:

SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly

1 AI represent a revolutionary tool for journalism development. SA() A() N() D() SD()

2 AI is more of a threat than a benefit to investigative journalism. SA() A() N() D() SD()

3 Journalists should receive training on AI tools and ethical usage. SA() A() N() D() SD()

4 The benefits of AI in journalism outweigh the drawbacks. SA() A() N() D() SD()

5 AI will play a sufficient role in the future of journalism in Nigeria. SA() A() N() D() SD()

INTERVIEW GUIDE

It's a pleasure to meet you, and thank you for accepting to partake in this interview. I'm Kanabe Bashirat Omoyemhe, a final year undergraduate of Mass Communication in the University of Benin. At the moment I am carrying out a research titled: **THE INFLUENCE**

OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN NIGERIA: A REVOLUTION OR A THREAT? This interview aid as a part of my fact finding process.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Can you quickly tell us about yourself and your overview in journalism?
2. How do you see artificial intelligence in connection with journalism?
3. In your view, what role has AI played in enhancing the effectiveness or efficiency of investigative journalism in Nigeria?
4. What difficulties have you faced when using AI tools in investigative journalism?
5. Do you believe that AI tools can support and enhance press freedom in Nigeria?
6. Are there possible ways in which AI could be used to pass false information or manipulate the press?
7. How do you broadly see the impact of AI on journalism? Do you see it as more of an aid or a risk?