

# Project Kerckhoff

IRI Project Presentation

## More than 2,400 people lost their jobs in a media landslide so far this year

Benjamin Goggin Mar. 29, 2019, 9:13 PM



Mike Blake/Michael Kovac/Lara O'Reilly/INSIDER

- In March, New York Media annou 32 job. That brought the number

## In News Industry, a Stark Divide Between Haves and Have-Nots

Local newspapers are failing to make the digital transition larger players did — and are in danger of vanishing



The Salt Lake Tribune

## ‘Local news is not a business anymore’ — Observers react to The Salt Lake Tribune going nonprofit



## High School Journalists Land a Scoop, and the Principal Resigns



### When local newspapers shrink, fewer people bother to run for mayor

"In a well-functioning system, citizens need to be actively engaged in their government and aware of decisions made by their elected representatives. Newspapers are a means of citizen engagement, and this study provides evidence of the importance of this link."

By **JOSHUA BENTON** @jbenton April 9, 2019, 3:30 p.m.



What do strong local newspapers do? Well, past research has shown they increase voter turnout, reduce government corruption, make cities financially healthier, make citizens more knowledgeable about politics and more likely to engage with local government, force local TV to raise its game, encourage split-ticket (and thus less uniformly partisan) voting, make elected officials more responsive and efficient, and bake the most delicious apple pies. Okay, not that last one.

Gina Pitts



NOVEMBER 3, 2016



### Civic Engagement Strongly Tied to Local News Habits

*Local voters and those who feel attached to their communities stand out*

UCLA professor emeritus pleads no contest to sexual assault charges

BY MELISSA MORRIS  
Posted: May 2, 2019 12:10 pm

CAMPUS, NEWS

volunteer and connect  
now and to what degree

and James L. Knight  
are likely than the less  
vic engagement stand

# BREAKING NEWS

dailybruin.com



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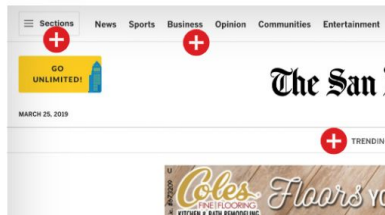
This post was updated May 6 at 6:14 p.m.

A UCLA professor emeritus pleaded no contest to two charges of sexual assault of children under 14 years old.

Thomas Fairleigh Denove, a professor emeritus in the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, was arraigned Nov. 9, according to court documents. He was charged under

ABOUT UNION-TRIBUNE

# State-of-the-art publishing system powers faster, sleeker Union-Tribune website



The Guardian

The source code of the world's leading liberal voice

London https://www.theguardian.com/

Repositories 1,310 People 31 Projects 0

Pinned repositories



frontend

The Guardian Dot Com.

HTML ★ 5.3k 639



grid

The Guardian's image management system

Scala ★ 1.3k 106



proud

Looks after your pull requests, tells you when they're live

Scala ★ 121 11



play-secret-rotation

Rotate your Application Secret on an active cluster of Play app servers

Scala ★ 5

Find a repository...

Type: All

Language: All

frontend

The Guardian Dot Com.

journalism

HTML ★ 5,286 539 Updated 19 minutes ago



Open

All the Code That's Fit to Print

## Scoop: A Glimpse Into the NYTimes CMS

BY LUKE VNENCHAK JUNE 17, 2014 2:15 PM 24



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You know the importance of technology to the future of journalism has become a widely accepted fact when a prominent editor decides to join a new company because of its content management system. That's what Ezra Klein told The New York Times about [his decision](#) to leave The Washington Post for Vox Media, a digital publisher with a fancy, custom-built CMS. Klein couldn't quite describe what made the Vox system so special, but the fact that a journalist said he loved, let alone even tolerated, his CMS was all you needed to know that the world has changed.

Suddenly, the CMS, an often derided but necessary tool of modern journalism, is cool. Vox uses its CMS as a recruiting tool. Google is not-so-secretly [building a CMS](#) for the news industry. Times media columnist David Carr recently devoted an [entire column](#) to the up-and-coming blogging platform/CMS called Medium, and proclaimed that "the content management system is destiny."



## Popular Modern Tools

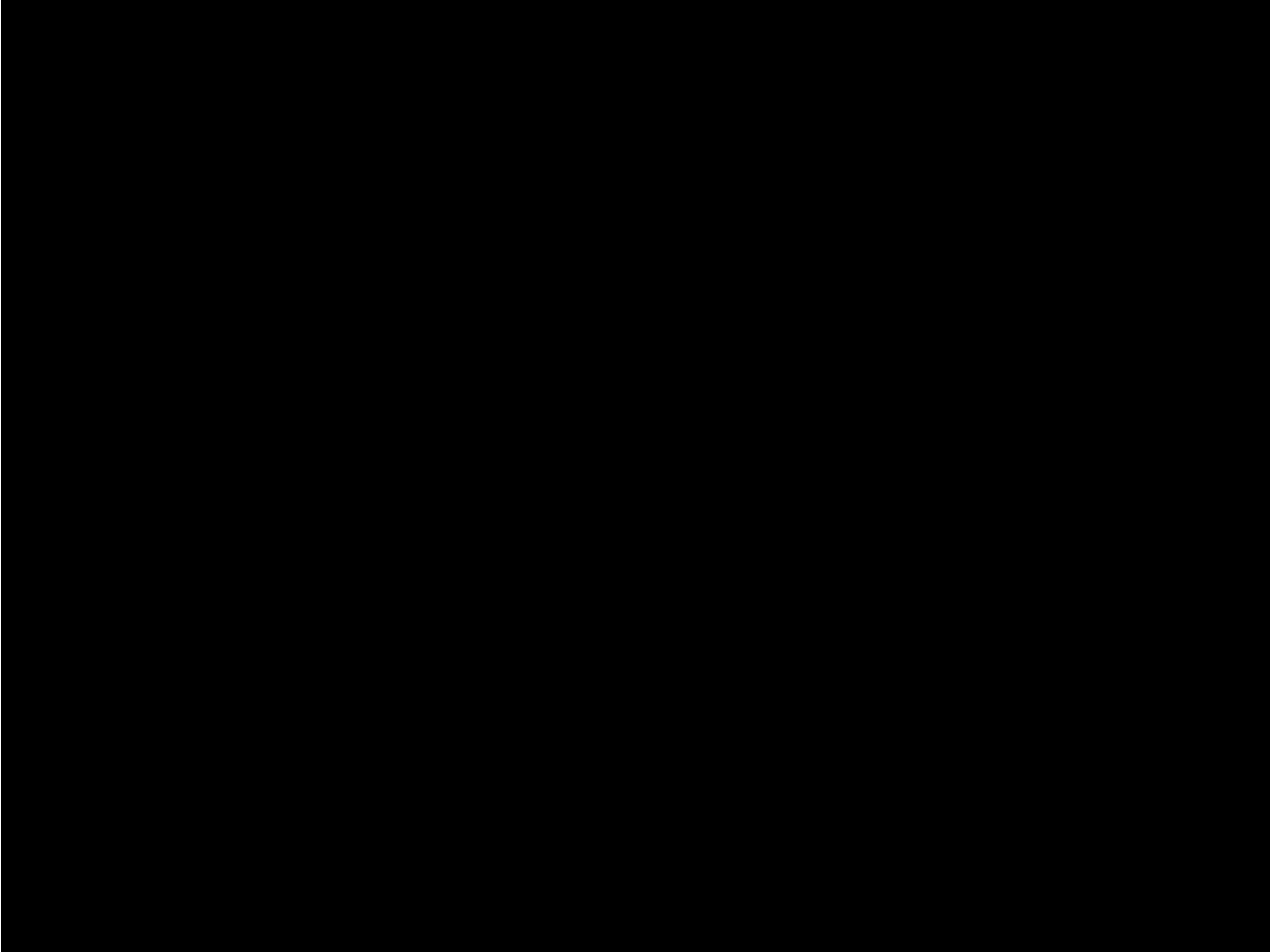
- + Well liked, well understood
- + Collaborative, cheap
- Not suited for publishing needs



## Traditional Publishing Software

- + Powerful, functional, reliable
- Expensive
- Proprietary - Vendor Lock-In
- Hard to extend and use for different platforms

**DEMO**



## ***Topic***

Helping small/medium newsrooms modernize and make the digital transition.

- Falling revenue and consumption of local news
  - newsrooms are resource strapped
- Changing reading habits and publishing environments
- Demand for higher quality, interactive journalism at lower and lower price points

## ***Ideas***

An open-source, fully extensible content management system

- Developed, collaborated on by the community, rather than being built by a single corporate entity
  - distributes the development cost and time over many smaller resource pools
- Integration with the tools writers/editors are familiar with, and allow the platform to publish to many different places

## ***Process***

Start small, gain traction, expand

- Organized a team of 5 student volunteer developers at UCLA (freshman-senior)
- Pilot with the Daily Bruin's prime magazine project, and one off features
- Iterate design and features based off feedback from initial users and expand upon those areas
- Needs reliability + reputation in the product
- Plans for continuity and future development

## ***Results***

Core functionality complete, ease of use, QOL improvements next

- Main functionality in place (lacking polish in some areas)
- Needs more work in making it easier to use and deploy for organizations wanting to try it out without commitment/resources to set it up themselves
- Extra functionality to improve the experience of using the CMS