

# CTEC

## Will e-readers save journalism?



**Amanda Sturgill**  
PF&R Chair

I was lucky enough to get an Amazon Kindle for my birthday last year, and I have enjoyed having it

while traveling. But one thing I have not used it for is newspapers and magazines, although they are available. E-readers and tablet readers and the like, in my view, have limitations and basic questions that leave it an open matter of whether they will, in fact save journalism.

It seems that there are multiple types of platforms that are competing for reader attention. The first are the e-readers like the Kindle or the Nook.

Designed and sold by book creators, these lightweight devices can store a variety of works, are small and lightweight, and have discount pricing on books and materials (\$9.99 or less for most books, \$5.99 and up per month for newspaper subscriptions).

The technology doesn't require a backlight and reads like ink on paper for the most part, and it has a long battery life. The device costs start at around \$250, and there are smaller- and larger-format readers.

Criticisms include difficulty knowing where you are in the work, and you can't resize to examine images

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more closely. In this way, some of the customs that book readers are used to, like keeping two parts of a book open at once, are lost. For magazine and newspaper readers, clues about content that would be carried through the design are lost.

A second platform is the tablet. These are not new devices, by any means, but they are experiencing a resurgence of interest because of the announcement of the Apple iPad, which combines features of e-readers with those of laptop computers.

Critics have said that it is a weakened version of a laptop, in part because a stylus is a cumbersome way to navigate a full-blown operating system, and without that, you essentially have a larger iPhone that doesn't make calls. The larger screen size allows preservation of some design components, although as envisioned, a more web-style presentation will be most likely to be available.

Abilene Christian University in Texas has announced that their student newspaper will publish an iPad version that will be available when the device is released on April 3.

A third variety is the Skiff, and

other proposed products like it. Technologically, the Skiff Reader offers E-ink, a tough, yet touch-screen display, and is intended to allow visual presentation of content from newspapers and magazines, although it will display other content.

As the company says, their reader and associated technology is, according to a company press release, intended to allow users to "display layouts, graphics, and content that people normally associate with periodicals, larger-format books and documents on e-paper screens of varying resolution and size." This is not surprising, given that one of its major partners is Hearst.

Will this next generation of devices save journalism, and if so, which one should publishers put their money on? Research is needed on the value of design elements in the presentation of news information, particularly in the portable market.

Although some readers have shown a clear willingness to get news in an information-first format like RSS, is this true for everyone? For people who make that choice, what is lost, if anything? What is gained? Answers to questions like these will help inform users, publishers and policy makers.

*Amanda Sturgill is an assistant professor at Baylor University. She can be reached at [amanda\\_sturgill@baylor.edu](mailto:amanda_sturgill@baylor.edu).*

# Division active in Midwinter conference



**Jacob Groshek**  
Midwinter  
Coordinator

The Gaylord  
College of Journal-  
ism and Mass  
Communication  
at the University

of Oklahoma once again served as host to the annual AEJMC Midwinter conference. This year, the Communication Technology division received a large number of submissions and was represented with 32 papers accepted for presentation. This figure is greater than in past years and made CTEC one of the most active divisions at the event.

Though having relatively large number of moderator and discussant positions to fill, I am happy to report that our sessions were well-attended and we had plenty of volunteers to moderate, discuss, and review. My heartfelt thanks go out to all who served the division in these capacities: Congratulations on a job well done!

The research interests of CTEC were varied as usual, but the prevalence of new media formats—especially Twitter—could not be ignored. Further, we had a whole slate of graduate student research presenta-

tions as well as faculty papers, panels, and attendees. Conversations following research topics were lively, interesting, and informal.

Many of those surely began at the warm opening reception put on by the host faculty at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on the Norman campus, and special thanks must go out to OU Assistant Professor Elanie Steyn for her tremendous role as conference organizer.

Altogether, the conference was quite a nice event (complete with refreshing, early-springtime weather) and the CTEC division made a good contribution.

Planning the next Midwinter conference will take place at the annual conference in Denver. Please consider submitting, volunteering, or even having your university host the event.

From the engaging panels and connecting with scholars to socializing and fine dining with new and old friends alike, you will be glad you did. Best wishes for the upcoming AEJMC submission deadline and I look forward to seeing more CTEC members in August.

*Jacob Groshek is an assistant professor at Iowa State University. He can be reached at [jgroshek@gmail.com](mailto:jgroshek@gmail.com).*

*Send announcements or information of interest to the division to newsletter editor Jessica Smith. Please submit these to [jessica.e.smith@ttu.edu](mailto:jessica.e.smith@ttu.edu) by June 28 for inclusion in the summer newsletter.*

## 2009-10 Officers Communication Technology Division, AEJMC

### Division Head

Jim Benjamin  
University of Toledo  
[jbenjam@utnet.utoledo.edu](mailto:jbenjam@utnet.utoledo.edu)

### Vice Head & Program Chair

Marcus Messner  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
[mmessner@vcu.edu](mailto:mmessner@vcu.edu)

### Research Chair

Homero Gil de Zuniga  
University of Texas at Austin  
[hgz@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:hgz@mail.utexas.edu)

### Midwinter Conference

#### Coordinator

Jacob Groshek  
Iowa State University  
[jgroshek@gmail.com](mailto:jgroshek@gmail.com)

#### PF&R Chair

Amanda Sturgill  
Baylor University  
[amanda\\_sturgill@baylor.edu](mailto:amanda_sturgill@baylor.edu)

#### Teaching Chair

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[robinson4@wisc.edu](mailto:robinson4@wisc.edu)

#### Best of the Web Competition Chair

Bart Wojdyski  
University of North Carolina  
[bartw@email.unc.edu](mailto:bartw@email.unc.edu)

#### Listserv Coordinator

Robert Andrew Dunn  
University of Alabama  
[radunn@bama.ua.edu](mailto:radunn@bama.ua.edu)

#### Membership Chair

David Stanton  
University of Florida  
[dstanton@ufl.edu](mailto:dstanton@ufl.edu)

#### Newsletter Editor

Jessica Smith  
Texas Tech University  
[jessica.e.smith@ttu.edu](mailto:jessica.e.smith@ttu.edu)

#### Web Manager

Gary Ritzenthaler  
University of Florida  
[gritz99@gmail.com](mailto:gritz99@gmail.com)

# CTEC call for AEJMC Denver conference

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For all papers, please follow the submission requirements posted in the Uniform Call for online paper submission (see Page 4). The following represents specific information about submissions to the Communication Technology Division.

The Communication Technology Division encourages research submissions where the central focus is technology and changes in the communication process resulting from technology. The division welcomes theoretical and conceptual papers as well as a diversity of methodological approaches.

Papers solely authored by students are especially encouraged and are eligible to be entered for the Jung-Sook Lee Student Paper competition. The top three student papers will be recognized with cash prizes and certificates at the annual convention. All papers authored or co-authored solely by students should include the words “Jung-Sook Lee Competition” in the upper-right corner of the first text page. All other papers are eligible for the open paper competition.

*Student Papers:* Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled during the 2009-2010 academic year may enter the Jung-Sook Lee student paper competition. The Jung-Sook Lee Award recognizes the best student paper, which makes “a substantial contribution to the substance or method on a topic related to communication technology and policy.”

The award honors the division’s 1997-1998 research chair, Jung-Sook Lee of the University of Southwest Louisiana, who died soon after the Baltimore convention in 1998. Authors of the top three student papers will receive a cash award and be recognized at the Denver Convention. In addition, the author of the best student paper will have his or her conference registration fee paid by the division.

Papers co-authored with faculty members will not be considered for this award. Student authors must type “Jung-Sook Lee Competition” in the upper-right corner of the first page of text to be considered for the award.

Submissions that do not win the Jung-Sook Lee Award are still considered for acceptance along with open competition submissions, so entry in the Jung-Sook Lee competition does not reduce students’ chances of paper acceptance.

*Open Competition:* All other papers submitted to the division will be reviewed in an open competition. Please limit papers to no more than 25 pages (double-spaced) in length, excluding tables and references. Authors of the three top-scoring faculty or faculty/student papers will be recognized in the convention program and at the Denver convention.

Authors will be notified of paper acceptance or rejection in May.

If you have any questions or require more information about the submission, please contact Homero Gil de Zúñiga, CTEC research chair, at [hgz@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:hgz@mail.utexas.edu).

# AEJMC uniform paper call

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AEJMC invites submissions of original, non-published research papers to be considered for presentation at the AEJMC Conference, August 4 to 7, 2010, in Denver, CO. Deadline for paper submissions is April 1, 2010, at 11:59 p.m. CDT.

The following uniform call will apply to *all* AEJMC paper competitions.

Submit the paper to the AEJMC group appropriate to the paper's topic. Format should be Word, WordPerfect, or a PDF.

The paper must be uploaded to the server at <http://www.allacademic.com/one/aejmc/aejmc10/> no later than 11:59 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) Thursday, April 1, 2010. Also upload a paper abstract of no more than 75 words.

Completely fill out the online submission form with author(s) name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, and email address. The title should be printed on the first page of the text and on running heads on each page of text, as well as on the title page. Do *not* include author's name on running heads or title page.

Papers uploaded with author's identifying information displayed *will not be considered for review and will automatically be disqualified from the competition. All AEJMC divisions, interest groups and commission paper submissions will abide by this rule without exception.*

Note: Follow instructions on how to submit a clean paper for blind reviewing.

Papers are accepted for peer review on the understanding that they are not already under review for other conferences and that they have been submitted to only one AEJMC group for evaluation.

Papers accepted for the AEJMC Conference should not have been presented to other conventions or published in scholarly or trade journals prior to presentation at the convention.

Student papers compete on an equal footing in open paper competitions unless otherwise specified by the individual division or interest group. Individual group specifications are appended to this uniform call.

Papers submitted with both faculty and student authors will be considered faculty papers

and are not eligible for student competitions.

At least one author of an accepted faculty paper must attend the conference to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must make arrangements for the paper to be presented.

If a paper is accepted, and the faculty author does not present the paper at the convention, and if a student author does not make arrangements for his/her paper to be presented by another, then that paper's acceptance status is revoked. It may not be included on a vita.

Authors will be advised whether their paper has been accepted By May 15 and may access a copy of reviewers' comments from the online server. Contact the paper chair if you are not notified or have questions about paper acceptance. Special note: Authors who have submitted papers and have not been notified by May 15, *must* contact the division or interest group paper chair for acceptance information. The AEJMC Central Office may not have this information available.

Authors of accepted papers retain copyright of their papers and are free to submit them for publication after presentation at the convention.

## **Guidelines**

Upload papers online for the AEJMC 2010 Denver conference beginning January 15, 2010. Paper submitters should follow instructions on the front page of the submission website to create your account and complete the information required.

Deadline for paper submissions is April 1, 2010, at 11:59 p.m. CDT. Any submissions after this time will not be accepted.

Before submitting your paper, please make certain that all author-identifying information has been removed and that all instructions have been followed per the AEJMC uniform paper call. Papers uploaded with author's identifying information displayed *will not be considered for review and will automatically be disqualified from the competition. All AEJMC divisions, interest groups and commission paper submissions will abide by this rule without exception.*

# Best of the Web competition call

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The “Best of the Web” competition is an annual Website design contest for members of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. There are categories for individual, group and creative entries. Judging will be done by Web design professionals and academics with a background in Web technology.

The competition is offered as a collaboration between the [Communication Technology](#) and [Visual Communication](#) divisions of the AEJMC.

Submissions are due by April 1, 2010. Winners will be announced by May 15, 2010.

2010 directors are Phil Loubere of the Visual Communication Division, [ploubere@mtsu.edu](mailto:ploubere@mtsu.edu), and Bart Wojdyski of the Communication Technology Division, [bartw@email.unc.edu](mailto:bartw@email.unc.edu).

## Categories of submissions

This Web design competition includes four distinct categories (the categories have been changed from previous years at chairpersons’ discretion). A site may be entered in only *one* category. You must specify which category you wish to enter along with your submission.

### *Journalism projects*

News, mass communication or mass communication education sites that contain documentary or news content.

Category 1: Individual Journalism Project Entirely created by one person, either a grad student or faculty member.

Category 2: Team Journalism Project Created by a team supervised by a grad student or faculty member.

### *Innovation projects*

Entries in this category should use new media in an innovative way to fill a new function or provide a new utility not necessarily related to journalism. Commercial sites are excluded.

Category 3: Individual Innovation Project Entirely created by one person, either a grad student or faculty member.

Category 4: Team Innovation Project Created by a team supervised by a grad student or faculty member.

## Entry rules

The *only* qualified entrants for this competition

are faculty and graduate students who (a) work for or attend an institution that is accredited by ACEJMC, or (b) are current (paid) individual members of AEJMC. University and college staff employees may *not* enter. Undergraduate students may *not* enter.

The entrant must be the person who designed and primarily built the site. (This is a Web design competition, not a teaching competition.)

For a larger publication site with many contributors (e.g. a student magazine), the entrant may be the supervising faculty member if the entrant contributed significantly to the design and production of the site.

All sites entered must advance education or research in journalism or mass communication. Sites unrelated to this field are *not* accepted. Sites must fit into one of the given categories. The entrant must choose the best category for the site submitted. A site may be submitted only once per year and in only *one* category. An entrant may enter more than one site in a single year. Sites that do not fit the criteria will be eliminated from the competition by the director.

Winning sites will be presented at the AEJMC annual convention in August. If the entrant of a Web site selected for an award cannot be present at the convention, that person must make arrangements for the site to be presented there. Travel expenses are *not* paid. AEJMC membership is required for anyone attending the convention.

## About the awards

First Place and Second Place awards will be given in each category unless the caliber of the entries is judged to be unimpressive. (This flexibility ensures the integrity of this competition.) Determinations will be based on the evaluations of all judges assigned to that category. If more than two sites receive high rankings, additional awards might be granted such as Third Place or Honorable Mention.

## Submission instructions

Submit the following information: URL of the Website, the category you wish to enter, a brief explanation of the site’s purpose and history, and the name(s) of those involved in the site’s design and implementation.

Send your entry in an email to [bestofweb2010@gmail.com](mailto:bestofweb2010@gmail.com).

# AEJMC

Association for Education in Journalism  
and Mass Communication  
234 Outlet Pointe Blvd., Suite A,  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210-5667  
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Rates Effective 10/01/09

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total for Divisions/Groups**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total for Contributions**

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Since your AEJMC dues are apportioned to various publication accounts as well as for operating expenses, the Post Office requires that you sign off on this procedure. Please sign below:

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(Signature) (Date)

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

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AEJMC is gathering descriptive information to help divisions, officers and members promote diversity. This will be for internal use only. Providing this information is **optional**, and has no bearing whatsoever on membership in the Association. If none of these categories adequately indicates how you identify yourself, please describe your identity in the blank below.

**Please check all that apply:**  Male  Female

African American  Asian American  Latina/Latino

Native American  Caucasian  International

Disabled  \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** AEJMC often rents its mailing list to reputable companies. If you do **not** wish your name included in such rentals, please check here:

### AEJMC Divisions and Interest Groups

- \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **A Advertising (Inc. Journal of Advertising Education)**
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **A** Division
- \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **B Comm Theory & Methodology (Inc. Comm Methods & Measures)**
- \$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **B** Division
- \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **C Visual Communication (Inc. VisCom Quarterly)**
- \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Student in **C** Division
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **D History (Includes CLIO.)**
- \$ 7.50 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Student in **D** Division
- \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **E International Communication (Inc. International Comm Bulletin)**
- \$19.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **E** Division
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **F Magazine**
- \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **F** Division
- \$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **G Newspaper (Inc Newspaper Research Journal)**
- \$ 8.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **G** Division
- \$24.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **H Mass Comm & Society (Inc Mass Comm & Society)**
- \$14.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **H** Division
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **I Media Management and Economics**
- \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **I** Division
- \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **J Public Relations (Inc Journal of Public Relations Research)**
- \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **J** Division
- \$36.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **K Radio-Television Journalism (Inc. Electronic News)**
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **K** Division
- \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **L Scholastic Journalism**
- \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **L** Division
- \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **M Minorities & Communication**
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **M** Division
- \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **N Law & Policy (Inc Media Law Notes & Comm Law & Policy)**
- \$ 7.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **N** Division (only **Media Law Notes**)
- \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **O Cultural & Critical Studies (Inc. Journal of Comm Inquiry)**
- \$ 4.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **O** Division (Does not include Journal)
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **P Communication Technology**
- \$ 7.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **P** Division
- \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **Q Media Ethics Division (Inc. Journal of Mass Media Ethics)**
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in **Q** Division
- \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_ **R Community College Journalism Assn (Inc. The Journalist)**
- \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Commission on Status of Women
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in Commission on the Status of Women
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- \$ 7.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Education Interest Group
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- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Small Programs Interest Group
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Religion & Media Interest Group
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Entertainment Studies Interest Group
- \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in Entertainment Studies
- \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Interest Group
- \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Students in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender
- \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Community Journalism Interest Group

### Optional Contributions

AEJMC greatly appreciates your help to support the following programs:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tankard Book Award
- \_\_\_\_\_ JLID
- \_\_\_\_\_ AEJMC Scholars

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total - Divisions/Interest Groups/Contributions**