



## Get your investigation going on new wheels

Is your desk overflowing with piles of paper? Do you think of something with four wheels when you hear the three letters CAR? It is probably time to put your computer to better use

By Trond Sundnes

With more than 30 different seminars, GIJC 2008 will give you the possibility to learn various methods of computer assisted reporting, known by the acronym CAR.

We have gathered journalists with excessive knowledge in processing information. The participants will at all times be able to attend hands-on sessions in one of our three fully equipped computer-rooms.

### A set of new wheels

In addition to courses in traditional software as Excel and Access, the conference will offer sessions on the most recent tools used by journalists.

- Advanced internet research.
- Mapping of your information with Google Maps and ArcView.
- Advanced collection of information with scraping and web queries.

But you don't need to be a computer geek to attend classes. Helena Bengtsson, database editor for the News and Current Affairs department at Swedish Television says the sessions are for everybody

"Journalists should be able to attend most of these sessions without any previous knowledge about the programs, and then be able to use the programs when returning to their newsrooms", says Bengtsson.

She will also be running the Excel and Access sessions during the conference together with international colleagues.

### Organizing your research

And then on to your piles of paper, they are really

not necessary.

"For journalists who have been working with huge piles of documents, the step to become a CAR-journalist is quite small. Today, most documents already are electronically stored, and for those who are not it's getting easier and easier to get them into the computer. Then you will learn how easy it is to sort out documents and information into stories", says Bengtsson.

With the documents electronically saved on your computer you can start processing information with many different tools.

"Excel gives you the possibility to structure, sort and do basic calculations in your material. With Access you can make your own database with this information and connect different information."

Then you can go further in your systematization with ArcView or Google maps and do your data geographical visible.

### The very best from BBC's best

And there is more, research on the computer is more than Google. At the conference you will also learn how to gather data from internet. "The online Bloodhound" is a course used by several Norwegian newsrooms, and teaches how to find the information you didn't know existed on internet.

Paul Myers from BBC has also got some very interesting tips, and shows us the 10 best sites for investigative journalists. Through "Scraping the web" you can learn how to download large databases published by someone else on the internet, and then later process the information on your own computer.

Check out the conference program for a full listing of the CAR-sessions, and then sign up. There is limited space in the classrooms!

## DANISH FREE DAILY BANKRUPT

After days of rumours and murmuring, the free Danish daily Nyhedsavisen turned into history on Sunday, August 31. The paper had 50 journalists, none of them whom will receive their salaries for last month.

It looks as we have been working for free, their spokesperson Morten Olsen said to Danish Journalisten.dk. The newspaper, which was distributed all over Denmark, had in January 2008 a circulation of 604.000, which made it the largest newspaper in the country.

It's all my fucking fault, chief executive Morten Nissen Nielsen told the employees during a meeting the day after, before he went out on the street, only to be met by furious paperboys who hadn't received their paychecks. 300 are now without a job. The police had to be called and break up the angry crowd.

## INGUSH WEBSITE OWNER KILLED

The Ingush journalist Magomed Yevloyev, creator of the Ingushetiya.ru, was shot dead Sunday August 31 while held by interior ministry officials in Nazran, south of Russia, rsf.org reports.

Before his death, Yevloyev had been target of serious threats and, in October last year, he accused President Zyazikov on the website for hiring hit-men to kill him. His family has also received threats from Ingush politicians. The Ingushetiya.ru website editor, Rosa Malsagova, left Russia earlier in August to seek political asylum in the European Union, fearing for her life. Yevloyev is the 22nd journalist killed in 2008, according to the rsf.org press freedom barometer.

## LONG BUSINESS HOURS DEMANDING FOR JOURNALISTS

From September 1, the Oslo Stock Exchange is expanding its opening hours with one hour, from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Economic journalists in the Norwegian business publications are dissatisfied and feel that it will be more difficult than ever to meet their deadlines.

As they don't do very much investigative reporting, none of them care to investigate on how music reporters manage to tackle the pressure of deadlines with the concerts they're covering often go on at least until midnight.