



Who Wants Editors, Anyway?

Breakfast of Editing Champions

AEJMC 2006

by

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Who Wants Editors, Anyway?

- About half of all entry-level print journalism jobs require editing skills. This has been the case in surveys of recent graduates going back to 1990.
- Statistics from 2004, the most recent available year, are typical:
 - Graduates reported 36.5% of all entry-level print journalism jobs required both reporting and editing skills.
 - Another 15.8% of entry-level jobs were full-time editing and page layout.
 - So 52.3% of entry-level print journalism jobs in 2004 required editing and design skills.
- These percentages are based on an annual national survey. The 5, 10, and 15 year averages from the survey are all within 3 points of the percentages for 2004.
- Tables and charts on the following pages give detailed statistics. There is an explanation of how statistics are computed so they can be updated as new surveys are released:
 - Statistics are based on the Annual Surveys of Journalism & Mass Communication Graduates conducted by the Cox Center for International Mass Communication Training & Research at the Grady College.



Average Percentage of Required Skills in Entry-Level News Editorial Jobs 1990-2004

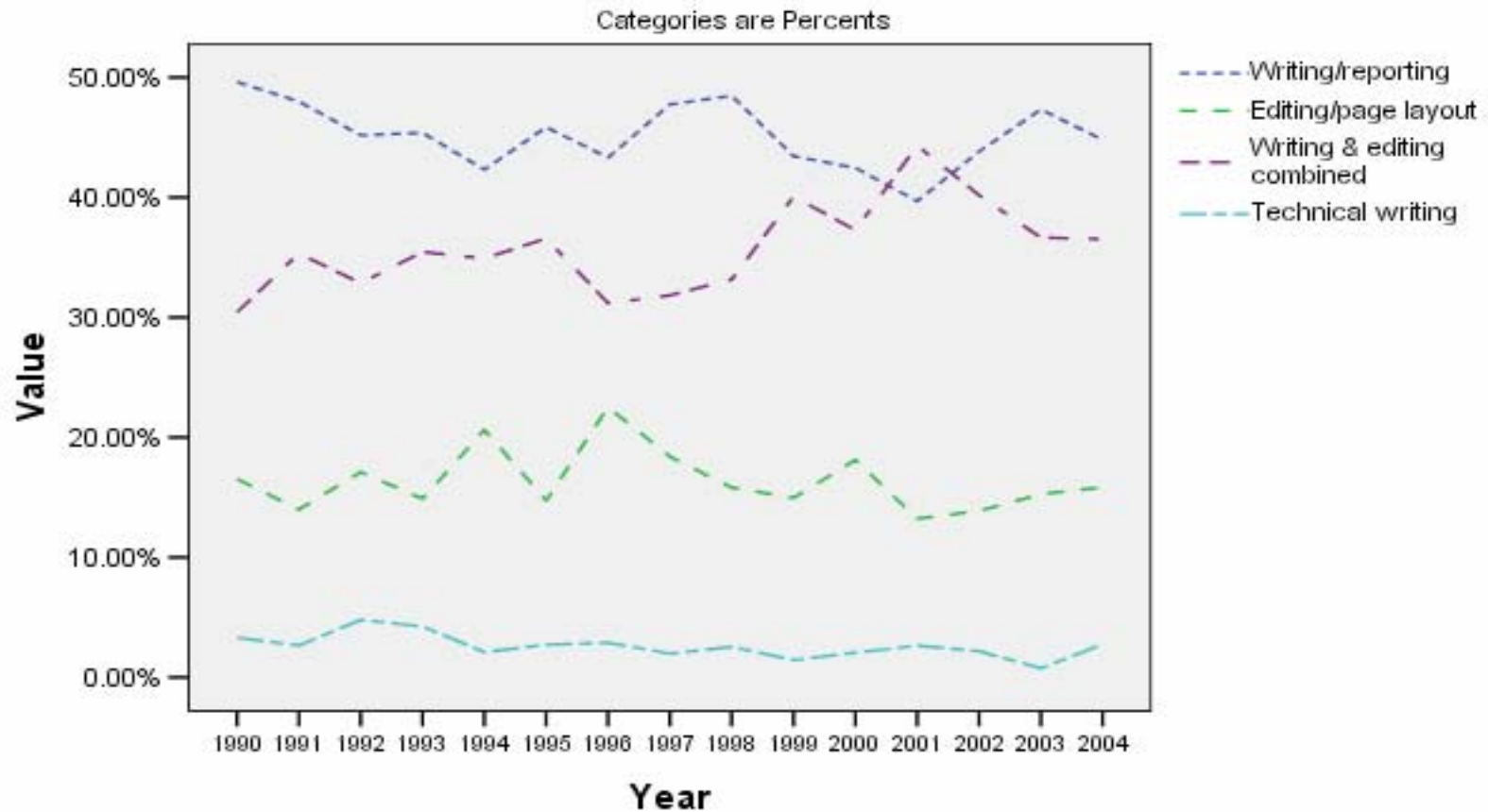
Skills required	5-year average	10-year average	15-year average
Writing/reporting	43.6%	44.7%	45.2%
Editing/layout	15.2%	16.3%	16.4%
Combination writing/editing	39.0%	36.8%	35.8%
Some or all editing (sum of two previous categories)	54.3%	53.1%	52.2%
Technical writing	2.1%	2.2%	2.6%

Note: 2004 is base year. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Based on Annual Surveys of Journalism & Mass Communication Graduates



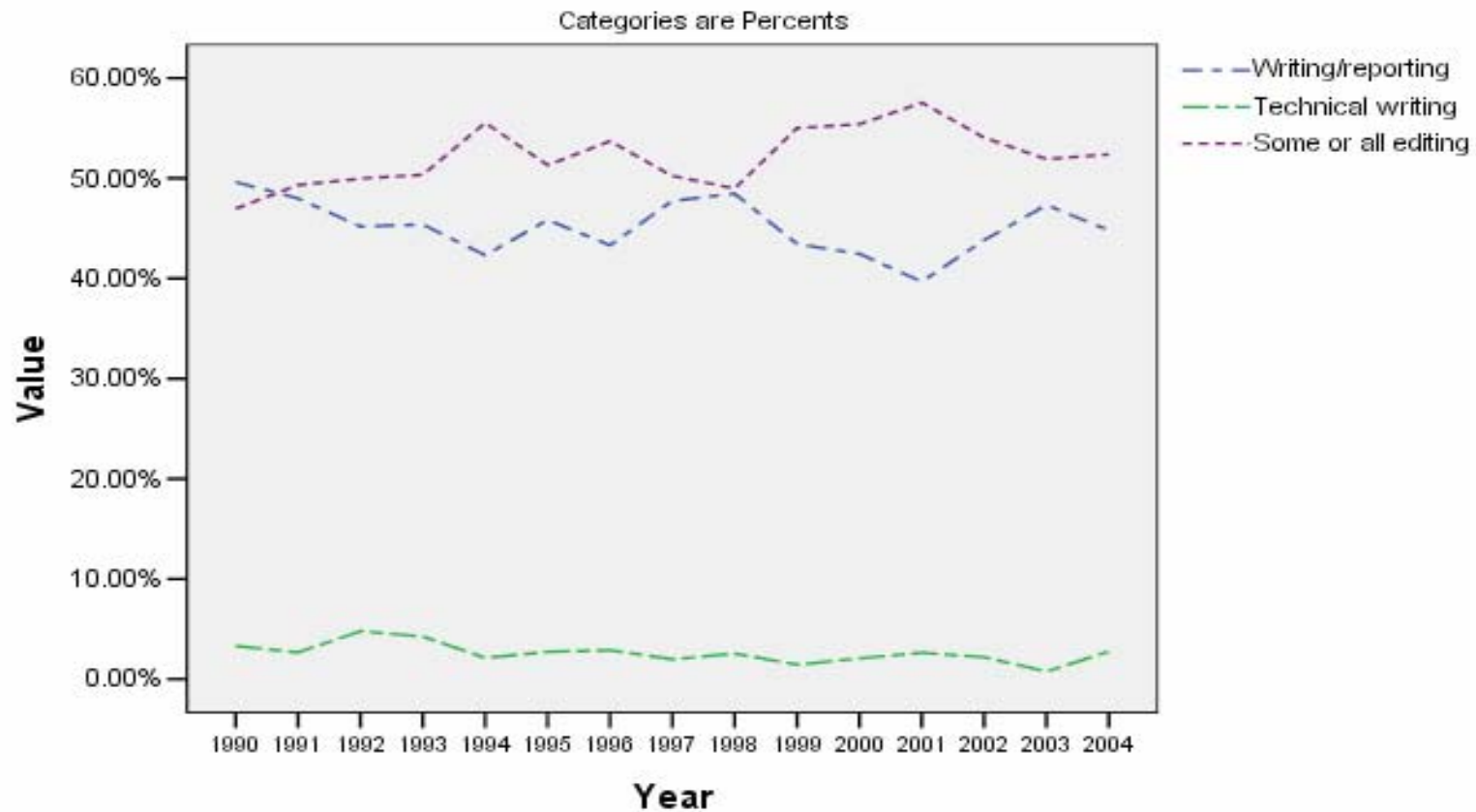
Entry-Level News Editorial Jobs Requiring Editing Skills



Based on Annual Surveys of Journalism & Mass Communication Graduates



Entry-Level Jobs with No Editing Compared to Jobs Requiring at Least Some Editing



Based on Annual Surveys of Journalism & Mass Communication Graduates



Where the Numbers Come From

Thousands of journalism and mass communication graduates are surveyed each year by the Cox Center for International Mass Communication Training & Research at the Grady College. Bachelor's degree recipients working in print journalism report their job tasks using the categories in this handout.

Results from this question are reported as percentages of all of the respondents to the survey. The number of respondents actually answering the question was estimated by multiplying total respondents by the percentages in each skills category. Those estimates were then summed to estimate the total number of graduates working in print journalism each year. Those totals were used to calculate the percentages in this report.

Total estimated respondents for each year are listed in the table below.

The surveys are available on the web at this address:

<http://www.grady.uga.edu/annualsurveys/>

The data in this report are based on slide “S8. News-editorial tasks,” in the supplemental charts at this address:

<http://www.grady.uga.edu/annualsurveys/grd04/grd04sum.htm>

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
370	375	390	338	423	418	388	436	488	555	528	414	383	351	453