

Robert Niles
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Education:

Master of Arts in Journalism
Indiana University, 1993

- Professional track, with a focus on opinion journalism

Bachelor of Arts
Northwestern University, 1989

- Double major: Honors Program in Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences, Political Science
- Elected student body vice president, freshman year.

Industry Experience:

Editor

Niles Online, 1995 – present

- Founded and managed ThemeParkInsider.com, an award-winning international consumer's guide to theme and amusement parks, managing a community of more than 20,000 registered correspondents.
- Created custom content management and registration system for Violinist.com, the world's largest online community and social networking site for violin players, teachers and makers.

Technical Editor

American Statistical Association, 2008 – present

- Edited and rewrote articles for the ASA's "Chance" magazine.

Editor

USC Annenberg Online Journalism Review, 2004 – 2008

- Managed all operations of this highly respected journal, including setting its editorial direction, programming its custom content management system, hiring freelance writers and training and managing student employees.

Senior Producer, Staff Writer

Los Angeles Times, 2000 – 2004

- Designed and managed new products for the Times' website.
- Reported written and video columns and reviews for the Times' Business and Calendar sections, in print and online.

Executive Producer

Rocky Mountain News, 1996 – 2000

- Oversaw all editorial and technical operations for the News' award-winning website.
- Created one of the Web's first-ever live news blogs in covering the Columbine shootings in April 1999.

Editorial Writer

Omaha World-Herald, 1992 – 1995

- Wrote unsigned opinion pieces, including coverage of national presidential campaigns, for this top-50 circulation morning/afternoon paper.

Staff Writer

The Herald-Times (Bloomington, Ind.), 1991 – 1992

- Covered county, city and police beats for this 35,000-circulation daily.

Intern

WDBO-AM (Orlando, Fla.), 1991

- Wrote and produced news features for Central Florida's highest-rated news/talk station.

Staff Writer

Indiana Daily Student, 1991

- Wrote opinion editorials and covered the courts/legal beat.

Academic Experience:

Instructor

Annenberg School of Journalism, University of Southern California, 2002 – 2008

- Courses: 556, Online Journalism Seminar
502, Introduction to Online Media
412, Online Publishing
309, Introduction to Online Media
304, Online Reporting
204, Online Newswriting

Guest Lecturer

Columbia University, 2007

Colorado State University, 1999

Creighton University, 1996

Awards:

Online Journalism Award for Service Journalism (Independent), 2001

- Awarded by the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and the Online News Association
- This was the first major journalism award presented to an instance of online, crowdsourced “citizen journalism,” where the bulk of the reporting and writing was done by readers themselves.

Webby Award, Best Guide/Ratings/Reviews Website (Finalist), 2005

EPpy Award, Best Use of Interactivity (Finalist), 1999

- Awarded by Editor & Publisher magazine for the Rocky Mountain News' InsideDenver.com

Travel + Leisure Magazine's Best Travel Websites, 2006

- For Best Theme Park Website (ThemeParkInsider.com)

Forbes' Best of the Web, 2004

- For Best Theme Park Website (ThemeParkInsider.com)

Speaking Engagements and Presentations:

“The News Publisher as Community Organizer”

Knight Digital Media Center News Entrepreneur Boot Camp, Los Angeles, May 2010

“Creation or aggregation: What is the real added value of today’s journalism?” [Keynote Address]

WAN-IFRA Future of News Media and Journalism Conference, Singapore, February 2010

“The New News”

Ypulse College Mashup, Santa Monica, Calif., January 2008

“Online Advertising Workshop”

New America Media, Los Angeles, January 2008

“Multi-Platform News: The How-To Guide for Frontline Editors”

American Press Institute, Pomona, Calif., October 2007

“The Media: Out With the Old, in With the New?”

National Conference of State Legislatures, Boston, August 2007

“Interactive Journalism”

One-day training seminar for the staff of The Orlando Sentinel, Orlando, Fla., July 2007

“Web 2.0: Blogs, RSS and Podcasts”

Public Relations Society of America/Society of American Travel Writers, Los Angeles, May 2007

“Online Storytelling”

National Writers Workshop, Fullerton, Calif., May 2007

“Robert Niles on Blogging”

Education Writers Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, April 2007

“State of the Industry Panel”

Society of America Travel Writers Editors' Council, Los Angeles, April 2007

Keynote Address

OJR 2007, Los Angeles, March 2007

“Compelling Storytelling Innovations”

American Press Institute, Pomona, Calif., October 2006

“From Blogging to Blockbusters”

James Beard Foundation, New York, May 2006

Conference Organizer

OJR 2006, Los Angeles, March 2006

“Participatory Journalism”

Online News Association, New York, October 2005

“Experts’ Panel: Challenges of two media”

American Bar Association, Chicago, September 2005

“Why Writing Still Matters”

Interactive Media Conference, New Orleans, June 2005

“Online Journalism”

American Copy Editors Society, Los Angeles, April 2005

“The Best of the Best: Online Journalism Award Nominees”

Online News Association, Berkeley, Calif., October 2001

“Math Seminar”

Association of Capitol Reporters and Editors, Sacramento, Calif., September 2001

“Afraid of Math? Take a Number”

American Copy Editors Society, Long Beach, Calif., April 2001

“Emerging Tools and Technology”

Interactive Newspapers Conference, New Orleans, February 2000

Publications:

“Passion Replaces the Dullness of an Overused Journalistic Formula”

Nieman Reports, Winter 2008

“Wikis will help readers direct the community's most powerful voice”

The Masthead (National Conference of Editorial Writers), Autumn 2005

“Is Using a Cell Phone like Driving Drunk?”

Inference Magazine (American Statistical Association), Spring 2002

“Running with the Numbers”

Communication: Journalism Education Today, Spring 2001

“News by the Numbers”

Communicator: The Magazine of the Radio-Television News Directors Association, October 1999

“Online Opinion Means Change”

The Masthead (National Conference of Editorial Writers), Winter 1999

“Statistics Every Writer Should Know”

RobertNiles.com, 1996

- Online statistics tutorial, designed for journalism students, has been used at more than 100 colleges and universities worldwide.

Also published in:

- USC Annenberg Online Journalism Review
- The Los Angeles Times
- Rocky Mountain News
- Omaha World-Herald
- The (Bloomington, Ind.) Herald-Times.

Appeared as an on-air source or commentator:

- ABC Good Morning America
- BBC Radio
- CBS Evening News
- CNN American Morning
- National Public Radio
- KTLA-TV
- KABC-TV
- KNBC-TV
- KCRW Radio
- KPCC Radio
- KGO Radio
- XM Satellite Radio

Fellowships:

Wingspread Scholar

Northwestern University, 1989

Academic Service:

President's Task Force on the Undergraduate Experience

Northwestern University, 1987 – 1988

- One of four student members of 24-member faculty/staff/student task force charged with redesigning undergraduate curriculum, calendar and support services.
- Co-wrote university's mission statement with two senior faculty members.

Research Interests:

The creation and management of content-generating online communities, including the development of information life-cycles and source credibility.

Online publishing systems, including social community support, crowdsourcing, automated news agents and information syndication protocols.

The application of statistical analysis and scientific method to news reporting.

The development of opinion journalism in online media.

Professional Affiliations:

Online News Association, 1999 – present

Investigative Reports and Editors, 1996 - 1997, 2002 - 2003

National Conference of Editorial Writers, 1992 – 1996