



Indian Country Telling a Story in a Digital Age

Victoria L. LaPoe and Benjamin Rex LaPoe II

Storytelling has always been an important part of Native culture. Stories play a part in everyday Native life—they are often oral and rich in detail and language and serve as a form of recording history. Digital media now allow for the extension of this storytelling. This necessary text evaluates how digital media are changing the rich cultural act of storytelling within Native communities, with a specific focus on Native newsroom norms and routines. The authors argue that the non-Native press often leave consumers with a stereotypical view of American Indians, and aim to give a more authentic representation to Native journalism. With interviews from more than forty Native journalists around the country, this book is essential to understanding how digital media possibly advances the distribution of storytelling within the American Indian community.

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“This is the book to read to understand that storytelling in Indian Country is not just a cultural act, but a journalistic one as well. The LaPoes’ authentic research into the norms and routines of more than forty Native journalists documents how Native journalism has evolved in digital spaces to provide visibility to long invisible communities.”

—Cristina L. Azocar, Chair of the Journalism Department at San Francisco State University, former president of the Native American Journalists Association