



# Algorithmic Governance of Online News Policies, Censorship, and accountability

## Case of Algeria



Received: 23/04/2025; Accepted: 06/10/2025

Nadjete BOUTELDJA \*

Information and Communication Faculty, University of Constantine 3, Algeria.

### Abstract

This article contributes to deepening the debate on policies adopted in Algeria to regulate online news content, and explores mechanisms for Censorship, accountability, and transparency. It also seeks to raise the following question: How can algorithmic governance of digital news content be envisioned in the context of Algerian media laws and legislation for 2023? By adopting a qualitative research method that contributes to understanding the technical impact of legal texts, it relies on a deductive approach to extracting phrases and concepts related to algorithms, supported by a critical approach. The study's results confirm that the new laws reflect a growing trend toward regulating digital news content according to specific legal frameworks, indicating that Algerian policy has prioritized human oversight through specialized bodies that monitor news content and impose penalties on violators, with the absence of precise mechanisms to regulate algorithms and hold global digital platforms accountable. To overcome these problems, the study recommends developing media legislation that focuses on artificial intelligence algorithms, promotes international cooperation and joint scientific research.

### Keywords

Algorithmic Governance;  
Online News;  
Censorship;  
Accountability;  
Digital Platforms.

### الكلمات المفتاحية

الحكومة الخوارزمية؛  
الأخبار الرقمية؛  
الرقابة؛  
المساءلة؛  
المنصات الرقمية.

### الحكومة الخوارزمية للأخبار عبر الإنترنت: السياسات، الرقابة، المساءلة: حالة الجزائر ملخص

يساهم المقال في تعميق النقاش حول السياسات المتبعة في الجزائر لتنظيم المحتوى الإخباري المتداول عبر الإنترنت، والبحث في آليات الرقابة والمساءلة والشفافية، كما يسعى إلى إثارة السؤال الآتي: كيف يمكن تصور حوكمة خوارزمية للمحتوى الإخباري الرقمي في سياق القوانين والتشريعات الإعلامية الجزائرية لعام 2023؟ من خلال تبني طريقة بحث نوعية تساهم في فهم الأثر التقني للنصوص القانونية، تستند إلى منهج الاستدلال لاستنباط العبارات والمفاهيم المرتبطة بالخوارزميات مدعومة بالمنهج النقدي. أكدت نتائج الدراسة أن القوانين الجديدة تعكس توجهها متزايدا نحو تنظيم المحتوى الإخباري الرقمي وفق أطر قانونية محددة، مبينة أن السياسة الجزائرية أعطت الأولوية للرقابة البشرية عبر هيئات متخصصة، تراقب المحتوى الإخباري وتفرض عقوبات على المخالفين، مع غياب آليات دقيقة لتنظيم الخوارزميات، ومساءلة المنصات الرقمية العالمية، ولتجاوز هذه الإشكالات؛ توصي الدراسة بتطوير تشريعات إعلامية تركز على خوارزميات الذكاء الاصطناعي، من خلال تعزيز التعاون الدولي والبحث العلمي المشترك.

\* Corresponding author. E-mail: [nadjete.bouteldja@univ-constantine3.dz](mailto:nadjete.bouteldja@univ-constantine3.dz)

Doi:

## I- Introduction

The Digital 2025 Global Overview Report, published by (We Are Social) in partnership with (Meltwater), analyzed millions of data points on digital trends and behaviors around the world (datareportal, 2025). It confirmed that the proliferation of digital platforms has become a primary means of discovering and distributing information in the era of smartphones and social media. This situation makes it difficult for news producers to reach audiences, and vice versa, without the content being influenced by the algorithms that control these platforms. (Joanne Kuai, Bibo Lin, Michael Karlsson & Seth C. Lewis, 2023, p. 1523) As a result, research has witnessed a growing interest in the gradual introduction of algorithmic logic into newsrooms. Researchers have reviewed the increasing use of big data in editorial decision-making. Their studies have focused on the power of digital platforms, sparking serious debates about their limits, rights, responsibilities, and associated legal regulation. They have also addressed the implications of big data for privacy, surveillance, ethics, bias, manipulation, and power imbalance in a world dominated by algorithms and automation. (Seth C. Lewis, Amy Kristin Sanders, and Casey Carmody, 2019, p. 62) Studies have concluded that digital platforms have become traditional gatekeepers, controlling news selection and directing news consumption. (James Meese, Sara Bannerman, 2022, p. 9)

The literature on algorithmic governance has demonstrated a consensus that big data, algorithms, and artificial intelligence (AI) are capable of altering societies' views of individuals and groups. This is due to the continuous growth in the volume and variety of data collected through digital devices and online tracking systems. These technologies monitor entire societies by collecting and analyzing disparate and diverse data sets. "Big data is surveillance." Surveillance practices have gradually shifted from a focus on monitoring specific individuals or groups to mass surveillance, in search of what Oscar Gandhi calls "actionable information"—use by stakeholders (David Lyon, 2014, pp. 3-4). Furthermore, unfettered surveillance threatens fundamental civil and human rights such as freedom of expression, assembly, and privacy (Katzenbach, C. & Ulbricht, L., 2019, p. 07). On the other hand, numerous studies have questioned the objectivity and neutrality of algorithms, especially given the lack of transparency surrounding their working mechanisms. Major digital platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter have long maintained a tight lid on their decision-making criteria and the technologies they use. Although political pressure has pushed some companies toward greater transparency, such as with Facebook's Public Oversight Initiative, the details of removal and blocking processes remain unclear (Katzenbach, C. & Ulbricht, L., 2019, p. 11). In this context, digital platforms increasingly rely on technical solutions to process vast amounts of content to comply with laws and public regulations, in line with their global reach and economic interests. These solutions often relate to issues of combating hate speech, misinformation, and copyright infringement. Regulation has begun to partially shift toward holding platforms directly responsible for illegal content, leading them to develop automated systems to detect hate speech, match uploaded content with copyrighted works, and monitor disinformation campaigns. (Katzenbach, C. & Ulbricht, L., 2019, p. 10)

Algeria has not been immune to the tremendous technological developments witnessed worldwide in the field of media. Rather, it has strived to keep pace with these transformations and benefit from them. In recent years, the media sector has witnessed a remarkable growth in news content circulating online, and there has been an increasing reliance on news websites to disseminate news updates and provide media content that reflects a diversity of opinions, free from government hegemony. According to official statistics from the Ministry of Communications, the number of such websites in 2022 reached 150 news websites. (news.radioalgerie, 2022) This digital expansion poses a set of challenges that require effective legislation to regulate the sector. In this regard, the Algerian popular protests (Hirak) of 2019 played a major role in opening serious discussions about digital media legislation in Algeria (Rim Fatiha Kaddouri, 2023, p. 12), highlighting the impact of news content on public opinion and political participation. In 2020, the Algerian government amended the Penal Code to keep pace with digital developments. The discussions culminated in the enactment of the Organic Media Law (23-14), which addressed in detail aspects related to digital news content in Algeria, including news websites, digital platforms, and the issue of censorship. This development comes within a global context in which the algorithms of major digital platforms such as Meta, Google, and X dominate the distribution of news, shaping public opinion, and directing its discussions, to the point that big data has become the "new currency" in the information economy (James Meese, Sara Bannerman, 2022, p. 05). Porlezza and Eberwein (2022, p. 344) explain that this dominance will pose new ethical challenges for media organizations, most notably those related to the ambiguity and unpredictability of news distribution algorithms, computational bias, transparency, and privacy. Data overload and the "information cocoon" phenomenon have created echo chambers and filter bubbles that have impacted users' awareness. In this case, data drives personalization, relying on "smart algorithms" that can categorize users into groups based on their interests and adjust search results to suit each group's interests. (Eli and Pariser, 2011, p. 14) Furthermore, recommendation algorithms have pushed "vulgar" or less relevant content to the forefront, leading to an imbalance in information presentation, with high-quality content failing to overcome it. This form of digital disparity represents an obstacle preventing users from accidentally accessing serious news. (Liu Lege, Norshahila Ibrahim, 2024, p p1, -17)

These issues have raised widespread concerns about the quality of news, not only among media organizations and journalists, but also among academic researchers and policymakers. These concerns have prompted governments to consider strengthening digital regulations to control news circulating across cross-border websites and platforms, so that they comply with local standards related to credibility and privacy protection. Although there are differences in the nature

of political interference (Joanne Kuai, Bibo Lin, Michael Karlsson & Seth C. Lewis, 2023, p. 1522), there is a broad consensus on the need for “digital platform governance.” (Jian Xu and Terry Flew, 2022, pp. 29-30) The increase in online news content highlights the importance of Algeria's adoption of governance as a participatory space shared by the state, media institutions, digital websites and platforms, as well as “commercial/economic” institutions and society (Lu & All, 2023, p. 03). Accordingly, the article contributes to deepening the debate on policies followed in Algeria to regulate digital media content, examining mechanisms of censorship, accountability, and transparency, and focusing on evaluating the Algerian state's response to the global controversy related to regulating online news content. It also seeks to raise the following question: How can algorithmic governance of digital news content be envisioned in the context of the new Algerian media laws and legislation of 2023? It is a research responsibility to have prior awareness of these issues in order to identify them and develop a preliminary framework for them, including recommendations for the relevant authorities.

## **II– Defending Concepts**

### **II.1. Governance**

The term “governance” has been widely adopted across disciplines, encompassing “corporate governance” since the 1990s, “global governance” in the early 2000s, and “algorithmic governance” since the first decade of the 21st century. According to the United Nations Global Compact (2020), the concept refers to the organized methods and processes that ensure the overall effectiveness of any entity (company, government, institution), and extends to include practices that define social values and norms. In this sense, it goes beyond efficiency to become more closely linked to the legitimacy and sustainability of the social system (Zhenbin Zuo, 2020, p. 4).

### **II.2. Algorithmic governance and media**

The concept of “algorithmic governance” is complex, as it overlaps with multiple research fields. While (Berns and Rouvroy) first used the term “algorithmic governance” in 2009, (Herbsleb, Dobusch, and Muller-Birn) were the first to conceptualize it as a coordination mechanism in opposition to “social governance” in 2013. (Katzenbach, C. & Ulbricht, L, 2019, pp. 2-3) Its emergence has been linked to the broader shift towards governance in political studies and regulation associated with new institutions. (Jian Xu and Terry Flew, 2022, p. 27) The concept has gained increasing prominence in media and digital communication studies, in line with the role digital platform algorithms play in shaping the social order through the collection, sorting, and distribution of social data. (Katzenbach, C. & Ulbricht, L, 2019, p. 2) Algorithmic auditing is a vital part of algorithmic governance. It refers to the diagnosis and perception of unforeseen consequences that should not occur in an algorithmic system, including audit data manipulation, social bias, data deletion, social discrimination, and violations of privacy and property rights. Although auditing software algorithms has existed for a long time, “algorithmic governance” has its own distinct characteristics in the era of artificial intelligence (Lu et al, 2023, p. 18) as it is associated with intelligent algorithms that learn from experience exploratory and reduce uncertainty factors over time. (Noam Lemelshtrich Latar, David Nordfors, 2009, p. 11)

## **III– Methodology**

Understanding the legal organization of these legislations requires following precise methodological steps, initially linked to collecting and identifying texts related to digital news content, and analyzing them deductively to derive phrases and concepts related to algorithms, moving from legal rules as major premises, to other legal rules as minor premises by way of analogy (Derbal Siham, 2022, p. 494), which is a guide in which thinking takes its path from the general to the specific, as the results are ideas that logically emerge from what precedes them; (Falih Kamal, 2021-2022, p. 14) for example, if the legal provisions refer to the regulation of “websites and digital platforms,” it can be inferred that they include the management of algorithms. If they relate to neutrality and transparency, they can be linked to the recommendation algorithms used to classify content and arrange news. This critical approach supports this analysis by evaluating the effectiveness of legal texts and identifying their shortcomings, to provide recommendations that make them more compatible with the technical challenges associated with artificial intelligence. The analysis contributes to understanding the technical impact of legal texts and clarifies their role in the governance of digital news content in Algeria. To operationalize these approaches, the following texts will be analyzed:

- 1- Organic Media Law (23-14).
- 2- Print and Electronic Press Law (23-19).
- 3- Audiovisual Law (23-20).

## **IV- When did the discussion about digital media legislation begin in Algeria?**

The Internet service was officially launched in Algeria in July 1994, coinciding with the celebration of the (32) anniversary of the country's independence, through the Center for Research on Scientific and Technical Information (CERIST), (Bakhti Ibrahim, 2002, p. 31). Then it gradually expanded to include individuals at the end of the nineties and the beginning of the new millennium. During the first decade of the twenty-first century, Algeria witnessed a remarkable development in Internet services, especially with the emergence of (ADSL) technologies, which became widely available by 2003. The political, economic and social changes resulting from the spread of fake information, news and rumors on websites and social media platforms prompted the authorities to regulate publishing via the Internet and digital media. Efforts began in 2012, (Rim Fatiha Kaddouri, 2023, p. 10) with the enactment of a set of laws to control digital news content, such as the enactment of the Organic Media Law in (2012), which addressed aspects related to electronic journalism, and the 2016 constitutional amendment, which emphasized media rights and freedom of expression, in addition to the Personal Data Protection Law and the Cybercrime Law in.(2018) to regulate digital content and improve the quality of information available to users. On the other hand, the popular protests (Hirak) in Algeria in 2019 sparked important discussions about digital media legislation. The popular movement reflected growing demands for freedom and democracy that significantly impacted the media landscape and confirmed that the country's legislative system still lacks regulations and legal measures that effectively regulate news content. According to the annual report of (Data reportal), which showed that the volume of digital communication in Algeria in 2019 reached (24.48) million internet users, (21 million) smartphone users and (23 million) social media users, led by Facebook with (22 million users). (datareportal, 2019) The Algerian authorities took several practical steps to respond to the challenges posed by digital media and communication; In 2020, the government issued the Law on Discrimination and Hate Speech (20-05), introduced amendments to the Penal Code (20-06), and approved an executive decree on online publishing (20-332) to regulate digital content and the integrity of information circulated. By 2023, the government conducted a legislative review of the Organic Media Law (23-14) and enacted new laws on electronic publishing (23-19) and audiovisual activity (23-20) to improve the legal environment for the sector and support freedom of expression in the country.

## **V- Governance of digital news content in light of the Organic Media Law (23-14)**

The Organic Law on Media (23-14) of August 27, 2023, represents a general legislative framework regulating the media sector in Algeria. It establishes the basic principles for protecting freedom of expression and the right to access information, while requiring journalists to adhere to professional ethics and the credibility of media content. It does not seek to restrict journalism, but rather to guide it within a framework that preserves intellectual pluralism and protects state sovereignty. The expanded definition of media activity, as stipulated in Articles 1 and 15 (Organic Media Law, 2023, pp. 10-11), reflects the Algerian legislator's awareness of technological developments and sets clear standards for legally regulating online news content. In this context, the Print and Electronic Press Law (23-19) details and regulates the work of newspapers and electronic news websites, including their establishment conditions, legal responsibilities, and funding mechanisms. Meanwhile, the Audiovisual Law (23-20) focuses on regulating the sector and ensuring the quality of programming by establishing rules for licensing, ensuring pluralism, and protecting content. This integrated legal system embodies a comprehensive vision aimed at activating the role of the media as a tool for censorship and accountability, while preserving the national identity and cultural values of society. The Organic Media Law (23-14) defines multiple mechanisms for censorship and imposes strict penalties on violators, ensuring compliance with the new laws and preserving the national interest.

### **V.1. Censorship mechanisms**

#### **V.1.1. Institutional Censorship Mechanisms “Regulatory Authority”**

Organic Law (23-14), in accordance with Articles (13 and 14) (Organic Media Law, 2023, p. 11), established two independent Authorities to regulate the media sector and monitor digital news content in Algeria. The two Regulatory Authorities may conduct periodic or surprise inspections of media outlets, or request the removal of illegal content, with the possibility of legal recourse in the event of refusal. In this case, the government is required to be transparent in its application of the law, to avoid the suspicion of exploiting censorship as a political tool, especially when addressing sensitive topics. Accordingly, Article (42) of the Print and Electronic Press Law (23-19) stipulates the establishment of a national body tasked with regulating and monitoring the compliance of print and electronic media with national laws and professional and ethical standards. The Regulatory Authority is an essential tool for implementing media governance, as it ensures that news content adheres to the basic principles of public security and national values. It also plays an advisory role, allowing it to express an opinion on legislative projects related to the media, in addition to developing national and international cooperation with common objectives. The Authority has broad powers, including investigating complaints against the media and taking appropriate action. However, controversy may arise over its potential political exploitation to direct media content in line with the government's agenda, threatening the freedom and independence of the press. (Law on Print and Electronic Press, 2023, p. 8) Complementarily, Article (14) of the Organic Media Law (23-14) stipulates the establishment of a regulatory body with broad powers to ensure that audiovisual activity complies with legal

and professional standards. In accordance with Article (40) of the Law on Audiovisual Activity (23-20), the Authority regulates the sector by issuing licenses, monitoring content, and ensuring transparency in funding and advertising. It also works to protect cultural and linguistic rights. In the area of censorship, the Authority ensures that media institutions comply with the laws, monitors adherence to quality controls, and ensures that media content does not incite hatred or violence. The Authority plays an advisory role by preparing studies and making recommendations to promote competition and international cooperation, and contributes to the settlement of media disputes. (Audiovisual Law, 2023, p. 18)

### **V.1.2. Regulatory Censorship Mechanisms “Higher Council for Ethics and Professional Conduct of the Journalist Profession”**

Article (34) stipulates the establishment of a body to support the sector's self-regulation. This body is responsible for preparing an ethical charter that sets professional standards for regulating news content and overseeing the performance of journalists (Organic Media Law, 2023, p. 13). The council may exercise an indirect censorship role that impacts press freedom, especially if it is granted broad disciplinary powers in the event of a violation of the charter, without sufficient guarantees of independence and transparency. This article raises new issues related to the dissemination of news online, as it does not clarify how the council will deal with digital content. This regulatory loophole opens the door to unfair restrictions on digital media. Furthermore, the council's membership and composition (half of its members are appointed by the president of the republic) and its funding method (public funds) may affect its independence and raise questions about the extent to which it is subject to the directives of the executive authority.

### **V.1.3. Institutional Censorship Mechanisms “Regulatory Authority”**

- **Compliance with legal content:** Article (3) affirms freedom of the media (Organic Media Law, 2023, p. 10). However, at the same time, it imposes broad censorship restrictions on digital news content to protect national stability and the state's supreme interests. This censorship is linked to several levels, including religious values. The article stipulates the necessity of respecting the Islamic religion and the national religious reference. It also prohibits any discourse that threatens the state's value system. In the context of censorship of news content related to national sovereignty and security, the article emphasizes the importance of not infringing upon sovereignty and national unity, and imposes strict censorship restrictions to prevent the publication of any information deemed sensitive or that may affect national stability, such as addressing security issues, protests, opposition political movements, or border disputes. In the same context, the article prohibits any infringement upon the state's foundations and symbols. This censorship may restrict investigative journalism when attempting to investigate corruption within state institutions such as the presidency, judiciary, or army, by uncovering sensitive files that may affect the image of the state and its symbols. Article (3) emphasizes the need to respect the confidentiality of preliminary and judicial investigations and protect the country's economic interests. It also stipulates respect for the pluralistic nature of intellectual movements. However, this does not necessarily mean that there is no censorship of some opposition political speeches. In the same context, Article (35) aims to limit the dissemination of false news, hate speech, and media misinformation (Organic Media Law, 2023, p. 13), which are prominent problems in the digital media environment. The text of the legal article is in line with the principles of transparency and responsibility, as it seeks to regulate journalistic work according to clear professional standards. However, the application of these rules without independent implementation mechanisms supervised by neutral censorship bodies may lead to their exploitation as a tool to infringe upon the rights of journalists to free expression.

- **Verifying the validity of information "credibility":** Articles 20 and 21 impose self-censorship on journalists, obligating them to verify the accuracy of information before publishing it and to cite its original sources. In this case, according to Article (33), sources of information related to sensitive news, such as the confidentiality of national defense, state security, the confidentiality of investigations, the legitimate interests of institutions, and the private lives of individuals, are exempt. (Organic Media Law, 2023, p. 12) These articles reflect the principle of the right to access information, but they impose legal restrictions when it comes to protecting the supreme interests of the state and individuals. This is an internationally recognized principle to ensure that freedom of the media is not used to harm national security or violate the rights of individuals. However, the ambiguity of the phrases "legitimate interests" and "threat to stability" may lead to their exploitation to restrict freedom of the press. In terms of regulatory censorship, the aforementioned legal provisions encourage the responsible dissemination of news content and emphasize transparency and accountability as fundamental principles of media governance. These rules ensure the accuracy of news and limit media misinformation. However, they may sometimes undermine media pluralism or suppress critical and dissenting voices.

## **V.2. Transparency and legal accountability**

Article (36) specifies disciplinary sanctions for violations of professional ethics and morals. It also emphasizes the need for grievance mechanisms that enable journalists and media executives to file objections against any accusations that may be unfair against them, or to appeal decisions that may be deemed arbitrary. (Organic Media Law, 2023, p. 13)

This legal procedure constitutes an essential part of protecting the rights of journalists and provides them with a transparent mechanism for reviewing disciplinary decisions and holding the relevant members of the Council accountable. In a related context, Articles (44 and 46) impose penalties on media outlets that exceed legal limits (Organic Media Law, 2023, p. 14). Large financial fines constitute a deterrent tool for violators, while penalties establish the idea of legal responsibility for committed acts and transparency in determining what is permitted and what is prohibited. Linking responsibilities to penalties according to the text of Article (53) (Organic Media Law, 2023, p. 14) confirms the effectiveness of the legal system in holding media institutions and journalists accountable, ensures their commitment to professional and ethical standards, and contributes to maintaining the integrity of media work, achieving justice, and protecting the public interest of the country.

## **VI- Governance of digital news content in light of the Print and Electronic Press Law (23-19)**

The Print and Electronic Press Law (23-19), issued on December 2, 2023, is an important executive tool aimed at adapting general media principles to modern technological developments and the challenges of digital journalism. It also regulates the publication of periodicals and news websites, including the requirement to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Communications. It imposes numerous professional and ethical obligations on publishers to ensure the accuracy and credibility of information. The law's provisions emphasize combating misinformation and fake news, and require websites and electronic newspapers to comply with international and ethical standards and transparency in funding sources. The law requires effective implementation and independent oversight to achieve its objectives of promoting freedom of expression and improving the quality of news content.

### **VI.1. Censorship Mechanisms**

#### **VI.1.1. Administrative Censorship Mechanisms “prior authorization”**

According to Article (28), electronic journalistic activity is subject to important regulatory procedures related to prior authorization (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 7), which reflects a legal approach to regulating the digital media field and preventing randomness in the establishment of news platforms. It also aims to enhance transparency in their ownership by disclosing shareholders and funders, to determine legal responsibilities in the event of violations. Requiring electronic newspapers to obtain prior authorization is a form of preventive censorship that enables the authorities to control news content in advance.

#### **VI.1.2. Technical Censorship Mechanisms “mandatory localization and digital data retention”**

Digital sovereignty is consolidated through the forced localization of electronic news websites on local servers within Algeria bearing the domain name (dz), in accordance with Article (33). It also facilitates the authorities' ability to impose direct censorship, block websites, and control the flow of information. This legal measure limits the independence of digital news websites and platforms and increases state control over the digital infrastructure of electronic journalism by imposing prior technical censorship ("supervision and recommendation") on news content. This type of censorship is consistent with proactive responsibility, which focuses not only on actual harmful consequences, but also requires individuals and institutions to take preventative steps to avoid potential risks. To illustrate this, (Nida Rümelin) provides an important example that explains the concept of proactive responsibility: a person throws stones on a highway. Even if no cars are hit and no one is killed, the likelihood of this action leading to catastrophic consequences is high. In this case, the person would be liable for any action that entails unacceptable risks for others. (Reinhardt, Karoline, 2021, p. 47). Furthermore, according to Articles (40 and 41), publishing and hosting institutions must retain news content and technical records related to access and operation of the site for a period of no less than six months (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 8). This legal measure is a positive step towards protecting news content from being withdrawn or blocked, “improving censorship,” ensuring effective governance of the digital media environment, establishing the principle of transparency and accountability, and building trust with the public. It also guarantees publishers their rights to content, “protecting intellectual property rights,” and gives them the opportunity to defend themselves in the event of legal disputes. Technical logs document user activity and interactions on a news website or platform. They also help determine accountability and facilitate investigations in the event of violations (publishing illegal content) or hacking (Piracy). Data extracted from logs contributes to improving the quality of news content, but storing and retaining them for long periods may expose them to the risk of hacking and piracy, and raise concerns about user privacy. Therefore, the legal framework (governance) must include clear policies to protect users' personal data while maintaining digital records.

#### **VI.1.3. Self-censorship “Combating fake news and misleading content”**

According to Article (38), publishing institutions must avoid publishing fake news by establishing internal "self-censorship" mechanisms to verify the accuracy of information before publishing it. They must also adopt clear ethical standards in news writing and emphasize journalistic values such as credibility and objectivity. They must also take the necessary measures to ensure the integrity of news content by notifying relevant authorities, preventing the spread of

misleading content, and immediately removing it. (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 8) This legal measure reflects their responsibilities to monitor content published on their platforms and websites. This responsibility falls, according to Article (39), in cases of publication resulting from proven hacking or piracy. (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 8) Therefore, news websites and platforms must develop an effective security strategy to protect their information and news content from hacking. They must also develop contingency plans to correct any breaches resulting from illegal acts. Controversy remains over the effectiveness of these efforts in light of the proliferation of information and big data online.

## **VI.2. Legal accountability and judicial oversight**

Article (68) imposes gradual accountability mechanisms on publishing institutions, including administrative and judicial oversight, by submitting an initial warning directed by the competent authority to the violating media outlet (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 10). This is a procedure aimed at giving it an opportunity to correct its situation before imposing penalties. This approach is in line with “good governance” by adopting a path of correction before resorting to penalties. However, its effectiveness depends on the clarity of the standards upon which the authority relies in issuing warnings and imposing penalties. In the event of non-compliance, the authority grants itself the power to impose administrative penalties, represented by a temporary suspension of publication for a period of up to thirty days, which then extends to judicial intervention in accordance with the text of Article (69) in cases of persistent breach, by requesting a temporary suspension of activity by an urgent and enforceable decision based on the seriousness of the violation. (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 10) This procedure supports judicial oversight of the decisions of the administrative authority, and ensures a degree of protection for the media from administrative arbitrariness. However, granting the authority the power to permanently suspend activity without warning in accordance with Article (70) by resorting directly to the judiciary in cases of national security, public order, Islamic religion, or public morals (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 10) may raise risks of misuse of the “legal text/censorship,” and lead to arbitrary decisions that affect freedom of the press and media practice.

The following legal articles (73, 74, 75, and 78) reflect the principle of accountability by imposing financial fines on individuals and institutions that fail to comply with media regulations. Penalties are not limited to financial fines, but also include blocking access and closing down outlets (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 11). To establish the principle of accountability and make compliance with the laws a necessity, and to strengthen the system of monitoring digital news content, Articles (76 and 77) impose penalties on news websites and hosts (internet service providers) who do not obtain legal permits. (Print and Electronic Press Law, 2023, p. 11) The inclusion of these regulatory rules helps control entities that support illegal publishing by restricting access, emphasizes the principle of participatory governance, and creates a responsible media environment to reduce digital violations.

## **VII- Governance of digital news content in light of Law (23-20) related to audiovisual activity**

Law No. 23-20, issued on December 2, 2023, represents an important turning point in the regulation of audiovisual activity in Algeria. It aims to establish general rules governing its practice in accordance with constitutional principles and relevant legislation. The law takes into account modern technological developments and radical transformations in the field of audiovisual communication, where the Internet has become a primary means of publishing and disseminating media content. This calls for clear regulatory mechanisms that respond to professional and legal standards. The law clarifies basic concepts related to digital content, focuses on establishing an independent national authority to regulate and monitor audiovisual activity, and sets clear restrictions to protect society from harmful content, such as hate speech or misleading advertisements. Its legal procedures support local production and encourage investment in creative industries, while establishing mechanisms to control the quality of content and ensure transparency in its production and distribution.

### **VII.1. Censorship Mechanisms**

#### **VII.1.1. Prior Censorship “Licensing and Localization Procedures”**

Articles (11 and 12) aim to regulate media content and limit digital chaos. They implicitly indicate that digital media freedom is not absolute, but rather subject to legal controls that enhance national sovereignty. In the context of censorship digital audiovisual content, Article (11) requires obtaining an official license from the Minister of Communication to establish online television or radio broadcasting services. Providers of these services are also required to comply with a set of strict conditions, such as compliance with national laws and shareholders holding Algerian citizenship, to consolidate the concept of “state sovereignty.” Furthermore, funding sources must be verified to maintain the independence of their content, preventing the field from becoming open to unreliable entities or those with illegal or suspicious foreign agendas. Important professional and ethical standards, such as professional experience, are also imposed to prevent the monopolization of the field by unqualified entities. The two articles emphasize media integrity, ensuring that service providers have a record free of corruption and dishonor issues. This reflects the authorities' desire

to control and regulate the media landscape to prevent any illegal or offensive use of audiovisual content. (Audiovisual Law, 2023, p. 14)

Licensing, according to Article (13), constitutes a prior censorship tool, as it is linked to the state's right to control and regulate media actors operating in the digital sphere before they commence their activities. Meanwhile, the open and encrypted broadcasting stipulated in Article (14) imposes stricter regulatory requirements on certain services that the state may consider to have broad or sensitive influence, such as news channels and platforms. It thus constitutes an additional mechanism for controlling online media content. The requirement to report any changes in the financial structure or shareholders, pursuant to Article (17), reflects a trend toward controlling ownership of digital media outlets and monitoring actors. This legal measure may be a means of ensuring transparency, but at the same time, it may constitute a tool for limiting the independence of some outlets by complicating licensing procedures and revocation upon change, in a manner inconsistent with the authorities' orientations. Furthermore, setting the timeframe for broadcasting digital news content may be used as a tool to restrict the free flow of news, especially during periods of political crises. In the same context, the financial compensation stipulated in Article (19) may constitute an economic barrier that limits the entry of new players in the digital media field. While this measure is interpreted as a means of regulating the market and ensuring the financial sustainability of media institutions, on the other hand, it may be exploited as an indirect tool to limit media pluralism by imposing high costs that prevent some institutions from freely operating. Furthermore, Article (15) requires audiovisual communication service websites to register locally and use the national (dz) domain (Audiovisual Law, 2023, p. 14). This legal measure, "local hosting of servers," gives the Algerian authorities greater ability to monitor data traffic, block websites, control digital news content, and enforce local laws. Requiring website registration within Algeria reflects a legislative desire to limit external influence. Using the (dz) domain makes it difficult for foreign media outlets to create digital platforms targeting Algerian audiences abroad without being subject to local regulatory censorship.

### **VII.1.2. Continuous Censorship “Independent National Authority”**

Articles (18 and 69) require media institutions and digital platforms to conclude agreements with the regulatory authority, and also grant them the right to intervene in the event of the publication of content that conflicts with applicable laws. (Audiovisual Law, 2023, pp. 15, 21) Continuous censorship is ensured by Article (23), which obligates encrypted broadcast service providers and allows the regulatory authority permanent access to media content. This censorship can help prevent the dissemination of fake news and illegal content, but it may limit the diversity of opinions and impact the work of investigative journalism and independent news platforms. Meanwhile, Article (40) defines the regulatory authority's censorship tasks, which include monitoring the quality of media content and ensuring its compliance with professional standards, monitoring media violations and taking the necessary measures such as imposing penalties or withdrawing licenses when necessary, in addition to regulating and monitoring digital platforms that provide audio-visual content over the Internet, and imposing conditions for broadcasting on demand in accordance with Articles (41 and 42), while establishing mechanisms to verify the financing of digital investments to combat illegally supported content, and coordinating with national authorities to monitor illegal activities over the Internet such as piracy, defamation, and violations of digital privacy, and working to develop policies to combat the dissemination of false news, media misinformation, hate speech and extremist content over the Internet (Audiovisual Law, 2023, pp. 18-19). On the other hand, the contracting of digital platforms with official bodies “the authority in charge of radio and television broadcasting” according to Article (67) may lead to the imposition of a type of censorship on the news content broadcast through these platforms and limit their editorial independence. It may also constitute a means of controlling actors in the media sector, and preventing the random activity of some unlicensed news platforms.

### **VII.1.3. Regulating digital content according to national standards**

Articles (11 and 12) reflect a strict regulatory approach to controlling digital audiovisual content in Algeria. Article (32) provides a legal framework that guarantees responsible media and news content. However, its implementation requires fair and balanced censorship, so that the imposed restrictions do not limit freedom of the press and pluralism of opinions. Article (39) establishes the legal basis for distinguishing between permitted content and content that violates national laws. These articles define a set of general obligations for audiovisual broadcasting service providers, ensuring that news content is consistent with national values ("emphasizing the culture of dialogue, citizenship, and identity, and supporting the local language and culture"), respects ethical principles ("commitment to neutrality, objectivity, and intellectual property rights"), and protects vulnerable groups in society ("respecting the rights of children and adolescents"). Conversely, the legal articles impose restrictions on misleading news content, incitement to violence, hatred, or racial discrimination, and the exploitation of religion for political purposes to protect the public interest and reduce the chaos resulting from broadcasting without a license or censorship. However, reservations may be raised regarding freedom of expression and digital journalism, in the event of failure to adhere to transparent and fair standards in granting licenses to create a balanced media environment as stipulated in Article (16) (Audiovisual Law, 2023, pp. 14-15), which prohibits monopolistic practices by imposing certain media agendas on the public, by adopting a censorship policy that guarantees media pluralism.



## **VII.2. Responsibility and transparency**

Article (68) requires digital platform operators and audiovisual publishers to bear responsibility for published content "the credibility of news" (Audiovisual Law, 2023, p. 21). This legal provision can be used to restrict freedom of expression, especially if it is related to the political sphere and is interpreted strictly by regulatory authorities. Meanwhile, Articles (74 and 79) emphasize the need to publish the imposed penalties in appropriate media outlets. (Audiovisual Law, 2023, pp. 21-22) This legal measure emphasizes the principle of transparency and contributes to achieving self-discipline for media institutions "affecting the reputation of the institution", as well as limiting manipulation and ensuring compliance.

## **VII.3. Legal accountability and criminal penalties**

Article (74) confirms that legal accountability is not optional, but rather part of the regulatory framework, to ensure that media actors adhere to legal, professional and ethical controls and standards. The penalty depends on the seriousness of the violation without prejudice to the freedom of the media, the "principle of proportionality", as it establishes the concept of good governance, by following a gradual approach to accountability, starting with an excuse as a first stage before imposing penalties (Articles 74 and 75), which is a legal means that gives the violator an opportunity to correct the situation, followed by financial penalties as a deterrent measure for violators according to the text of Article (76), where financial fines range between one million and ten million Algerian dinars, and the legal assessment of financial penalties is determined based on the seriousness of the violation. While Article (77) grants the regulatory authority the right to suspend the broadcast of violating programs, in whole or in part, if the warnings and financial fines are not complied with, Article (78) deals with cases that lead to the final withdrawal of the license without a warning, with regard to serious violations that harm the public interest, such as breaching national security, public order, or public morals, the transfer of the license without the approval of the competent authorities, the possession of more than one license, extortion, or illegal bargaining. On the other hand, the inclusion of judicial authorities in some cases indicates that legal accountability is not limited to administrative penalties, but may extend to judicial proceedings when necessary. In addition to financial fines, the laws grant the judicial authority the power to confiscate the means and facilities used in violations, as stipulated in Articles (80), 82, and 83) (Audiovisual Law, 2023, pp. 21-22). These measures are considered punitive measures to prevent the continuation of violations even after the fine has been paid, in order to preserve public order and protect the rights of individuals and media institutions.

## **VIII- Algorithmic governance of digital news content in Algeria**

The new media legislation of 2023 reflects a general vision for algorithmic governance of digital news content in Algeria. Its references are evident in legal provisions addressing information security, combating illegal content, data storage, analysis, and legal accountability. Articles 3 and 35 of the Organic Media Law (23-14) include indirect ideas emphasizing the need for algorithmic governance to regulate digital media content to ensure it aligns with national, religious, and ethical standards. Without algorithmic mechanisms, human censorship may be insufficient to address the massive influx of digital media content and ensure continuous censorship to ensure it does not violate these values. This is achieved through content classification and automatic analysis of texts, images, and videos. The most controversial issue in this area relates to the efficiency of computing capabilities and automated technologies in supporting, or even partially replacing, human decision-making with software. (Neil Thurman & al, 2019, p. 981) Respecting national sovereignty and the requirements of public order, security, and national defense are standards that require close monitoring of news content, especially across websites and digital platforms. In this important aspect, algorithms can play a key role in many stages of journalistic work, (Zamith, Rodrigo, 2019) by analyzing content in search of misleading information and inflammatory rhetoric that threatens national stability, based on automatic evaluation systems. On the other hand, algorithmic news personalization automates the process of transforming audience interests into editorial decisions. It has become a powerful technology in terms of its impact on news content (Balazs, Bodo, 2019, pp. 1054-1056). Algorithms can also recognize patterns of disguise to automatically detect and prevent suspicious content from spreading. They can also operate according to transparent models based on clear criteria that enable the distinction between legitimate and violating content by comparing sources and analyzing the credibility of circulating information without compromising legitimate freedom of expression.

Article (38) of the Law Regulating Print and Electronic Press Activity (23-19) includes implicit references to algorithmic governance of digital news content, which can be inferred from the phrase "taking the necessary measures and means" and "notifying the relevant authorities," in addition to the phrase "preventing access and immediate withdrawal." However, the huge amount of data and media content flowing daily through websites and digital platforms makes it difficult to achieve comprehensive and effective censorship of digital news content in the required quantity and speed (reporting, preventing access, and immediate withdrawal). In this case, media organizations, websites, and digital platforms will need automated technical systems (algorithmic systems) to classify content based on specific criteria. Integrating journalistic values and encoding them into technical systems will lead to proactive identification (Lynge Asbjørn Møller, 2023) by monitoring hate speech or fake news, preventing the spread of harmful information, and

automatically detecting illegal content accurately, quickly, and efficiently. They can also issue immediate notifications when violations are detected, identify suspicious content, and send automatic reports to the relevant authorities, which is known as predictive data analysis. Relying on systems such as keyword filtering with real-time responses that determine the legality of content and automatically remove it. To ensure transparency and accountability, algorithms can provide a report explaining the reason for content removal. An evaluation system for algorithmic decisions can also be developed, so that they are periodically reviewed and human censorship is used to avoid bias. To improve digital governance of news content, regulatory authorities can involve journalists and developers in periodically reviewing algorithm performance. Article (39) also includes implicit references to algorithmic governance and its importance in managing digital risks and ensuring the security of news content published electronically. The legal article refers to "publishing resulting from a proven act of hacking or piracy." In this case, relying on human censorship is insufficient to accurately identify hacking operations and may lead to delayed detection. In contrast, intelligent algorithms provide tools for automatically monitoring suspicious activity, such as intrusion detection systems (IDS) and analyzing abnormal user behavior. The legal procedures related to Article (39) emphasize the necessity of "taking all necessary measures," referring to the need for advanced digital security systems that go beyond traditional human intervention and ensure immediate response to any security breach, such as imposing additional verification procedures when any abnormal activity is suspected. "Temporary suspension of the website," as stipulated in Article (39), requires automated operational mechanisms that automate the suspension process based on specific security criteria, such as detecting virus software. They can also identify the nature of the attack and provide rapid remedial solutions based on historical data. Regarding proactive responses to cyber-attacks, algorithmic systems can predict cyber-attacks by analyzing recurring patterns in data. Furthermore, some of the phrases included in Articles (40 and 41) reflect the possibility of adopting algorithmic governance in dealing with digital news content and the associated big data. Retaining all content, including "deleted and prohibited," requires careful and sustainable data management. In this case, human censorship may be inefficient in regularly and effectively tracking the vast amount of content (access logs and technical operations). Algorithmic systems, on the other hand, can manage automated storage and categorize content according to specific legal criteria.

Furthermore, the provisions of Law No. 23-20 on audiovisual activity, represented by Articles 51 and 67 on content management and supervision, emphasize that regulating digital content requires analytical tools such as algorithms to monitor what is displayed on websites and digital platforms based on contractual terms. This allows for the design of algorithms that meet cultural needs, respect local privacy, and promote a "national-exclusive" digital identity. This process requires the use of algorithms to analyze data and improve the user experience based on user preferences and interests. The regulatory censorship process by the public broadcasting authority reflects the need to use algorithms that ensure news content adheres to established standards and applicable laws ("legal liability") and facilitate the detection of potential violations ("algorithmic censorship"). Meanwhile, transparency requires the clarity of recommendation algorithms for both users and regulatory authorities. The existence of digital content distribution platforms requires the use of advanced technology, including algorithms, to help optimize news distribution strategies. Conversely, continuous censorship by regulatory authorities requires the development of algorithms to monitor content immediately and periodically to detect illegal or harmful content. This enables them to provide accurate reports on the compliance status of circulating news content. In this regard, Gillespie emphasizes that the process of digital content oversight requires aligning the different value propositions among the multiple stakeholders interacting on the platform: content publishers, advertisers, and website users. (Jian Xu and Terry Flew, 2022, p. 28) On the other hand, Article (68) emphasizes the legal responsibility for audiovisual content across digital platforms. In this case, continuous censorship requires intelligent algorithmic mechanisms to ensure compliance (regulating published and circulated content) and efficiently detect violations, due to the sheer volume of published content and the inadequacy of manual content review. Accordingly, algorithms become necessary to automatically monitor and analyze content, and they can analyze it and detect hate speech, discrimination, violence, or fake news contained within it. The regulation of audiovisual content requires continuous algorithmic censorship, which was implicitly called for in Article (69), which stipulated the responsibility of the regulatory authority to monitor published content. This requires automated decision-making algorithms to create invisible effects on users of news websites and platforms (Reinhardt, Karoline, 2021, p. 45). These advanced technical tools enable real-time monitoring and automated analysis of digital news content, as violations are identified and notifications are sent to the relevant authorities. The automated monitoring process can analyze audio, video, and even text translations to control violating content based on legal standards. Imposing legal liability on digital platform operators requires artificial intelligence systems capable of automatically detecting and deleting infringing content. Otherwise, those responsible could face legal penalties if the monitoring process fails. Evidence of this is the large number of reports issued by the Audiovisual Regulatory Authority against numerous Algerian media outlets in 2023 (aps.dz, 2023), confirming the weakness of human censorship. The regulatory authority will also need advanced data analysis systems that allow it to continuously monitor all digital platforms without the need for large human teams, which may be slow and ineffective in a rapidly evolving digital environment.

## **IX- Results and discussion**

**-The study concluded that the Algerian legal system is linked to the state's political orientations.** Therefore, new media laws and legislation focus on human responsibility, away from automated technical tools such as algorithms. This is particularly related to the manual examination and monitoring of digital news content, reporting illegal content, or

making decisions to suspend media outlets' activities, in addition to blocking or withdrawing their content. This is achieved by relying on institutional censorship bodies, represented by the "Print and Electronic Press Regulatory Authority" and the "Audiovisual Activity Regulatory Authority," to regulate news content in line with national interests. However, the absence of precise technical censorship mechanisms makes it extremely difficult to monitor the large flow of digital news content. Furthermore, the Algerian authorities may also find it difficult to confront global technology companies that operate according to different policies that are not covered by local laws.

**-Algerian media laws and regulations require all newspapers, news websites, and even local digital platforms to register with the relevant authorities (obtaining prior authorization).** This process allows for monitoring and identifying media entities and holding them accountable for violating applicable laws. By preventing foreign financial flows, financial control helps make the process more transparent and scrutinized by responsible authorities. This censorship measure helps reduce corruption resulting from the exploitation of suspicious funds or private interests to influence public opinion or spread misleading information. It also encourages and supports creativity and local content that reflects the culture and identity of Algerian society. In this way, prior licensing and financial control contribute to ensuring the integrity of the media and providing accurate and objective information to the audience. Digital sovereignty is consolidated through the mandatory localization of websites and electronic platforms on local servers within Algeria bearing the domain name (.dz), by imposing prior technical control ("supervision and recommendation") on news content. This type of control is in line with proactive responsibility, which does not only focus on actual harmful consequences, but also requires individuals and institutions to take preventative steps to avoid potential risks.

**-Legal texts empower the regulatory authority to conduct periodic or surprise inspections of the headquarters of media institutions (newspapers, websites, and digital platforms).** They also allow the authority to request the removal of news content that violates the law, with the possibility of legal recourse in the event of refusal. The competent authorities also have the right to impose penalties on media outlets that exceed legal limits, including large fines, suspension of operations, and prosecution of content creators. However, they are required to ensure transparency in their application of the law to avoid the suspicion that censorship is being exploited as a political tool.

**-Legal texts related to digital news content contain vague formulations.** Despite the importance of the articles mentioned in the Print and Electronic Press Law (23-19), especially Articles (03, 10 and 70), and Article (32) mentioned in the Audiovisual Law (23-20) in combating misleading news and hate speech, they lack clear and explicit definitions related to "national security," "hate speech," and "offensive content," separating them from those related to political orientations, making them difficult to apply without a specific interpretation that may expose freedom of the press to the risk of restriction. Through the legal regulation of digital media activity, the Algerian government can influence the news choices presented to citizens. The imposed censorship may also lead to the filtering of news content that conflicts with the state's political orientations, and views critical of the government or public figures are considered a crime punishable by law.

**-The analysis results confirmed that the new media laws and legislation for 2023 include indirect references to the need for algorithmic governance to regulate digital news content, ensuring it aligns with national, religious, and ethical standards.** These references relate to legal provisions addressing information security, combating illegal content, data storage, data analysis, and legal accountability.

**-The analysis results confirmed the absence of specific mechanisms for governing global digital platform algorithms.** Algerian legislation also did not address the relationship between algorithms and news content across global digital platforms or specify how to monitor them. This confirms the existence of a legal gap in dealing with the significant impact of digital technology. In contrast, we find that most modern global media laws have begun to establish clear legislation regulating the impact of algorithms on the media sector, such as the European Union's laws on transparency in artificial intelligence and algorithms. This calls for the issuance of complementary laws that focus on artificial intelligence algorithms and social media platforms, by adding legal provisions that clearly define the method for holding major technology companies accountable, and stipulate the necessity of achieving transparency in the recommendation and ranking algorithms used in electronic media.

## **X- Recommendations**

The proposed recommendations aim to develop a preliminary vision regulating the relationship between media and digital technology in Algeria. This requires a comprehensive approach that combines national legislation and international cooperation, as well as investment in innovative research projects in the field. This will ensure effective governance of news content, respect for digital sovereignty by platforms, and protection of citizens from digital threats and social instability.

**-Developing a legislative system that includes algorithmic systems has become increasingly necessary.** It is imperative to improve the technical infrastructure, review national legislation related to digital media, and work to issue clear laws that oblige digital media institutions in Algeria and global platforms to comply with national laws, combat fake news, and establish transparent mechanisms to monitor algorithms and reduce misleading news. This is in addition to protecting intellectual property rights, publishing and authorship rights for journalists and media institutions, and users' personal data. In this context, Algeria can exchange expertise in the field of digital content governance by signing partnership memoranda with the European Union, and benefit from international experiences in this field, such as the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR/2018) and the Digital Services Act (DSA/2023) (gdpr-info.eu, 2018). It can also cooperate with European bodies such as the National Commission for Digital Services and independent fact-checking institutions (FactCheckEU) to benefit from their expertise in developing content monitoring policies and establishing joint mechanisms to combat digital media disinformation.

**-Exchange information and technologies related to artificial intelligence and algorithms used in news classification,** to regulate the activity of local newspapers, websites, and digital platforms to keep pace with new technological developments, and participate in programs offered by the European Union to neighboring countries (the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP)). In this context, Algeria could send Algerian experts and journalists to the European Union to participate in training programs related to digital media legislation, news verification techniques and combating disinformation, and understanding methods for managing algorithms and artificial intelligence techniques used in news content governance to build national cadres in the field.

**-Work to establish a national body specialized in the governance of digital news content, responsible for monitoring compliance, imposing penalties in the event of violations, or restricting and banning the work of digital platforms in the event of failure.** In the European Union, for example, global platforms may face financial fines of up to 6% of their global annual revenues if they violate the Digital Services Act (DSA), which entered into force in 2023 (<https://www.france24.com>, 2023). For its part, Germany implemented the "Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG)" in 2018, which obliges social media networks to remove hate speech and illegal content within 24 hours, with large financial fines of up to 50 million euros if they fail to remove it (ceps.eu, 2025). France established an independent audiovisual communication regulatory authority (ARCOM) on January 1, 2022. This authority is concerned with regulating digital content and supervising digital audiovisual media in France (arcom.fr, 2022) It can also benefit from Turkey's experience in this field, as it obligated global platforms to appoint local representatives under the 2021 "Social Media" Law. The new legislation requires social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter to maintain representative offices in Turkey to handle complaints about illegal content on their platforms, and holds them responsible for complying with local laws. The lack of a representative office leads to the imposition of large fines, in addition to advertising bans. (alarabiya.net/technology, 2021)

**-Launching joint research projects established by Algerian universities and research centers to study the impact of digital media and explore ways to govern it algorithmically.** Raising digital awareness among Algerian internet users remains of paramount importance, particularly in terms of clarifying the potential impact of algorithms on shaping their opinions and encouraging them to report violations.

## **XI- Conclusion**

Through its enactment of media laws and legislation, the Algerian state seeks to regulate the activity of websites and digital platforms, directing the flow of information to serve its political and security objectives. Therefore, the Algerian authorities have attempted to counter the growth of digital news content by enacting new regulatory laws to limit the spread of fake news and the promotion of content harmful to national security, in addition to addressing issues of bias in the presentation of information. Algeria currently relies on traditional censorship mechanisms that require human intervention (the regulatory authority). However, the new media legislation of 2023 opens the way for the use and activation of algorithmic censorship in the future and reflects a legal vision that accommodates modern technological developments. To achieve this transformation, Algeria will need to develop a legislative system that includes algorithmic systems, improve the infrastructure to include artificial intelligence technologies, and invest in specialized human resources to operate algorithmic systems. This will make this type of censorship an effective tool for regulating local digital media and holding global platforms accountable.

## References

- [1] <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2025-global-overview-report>
- [2] Joanne Kuai, Bibo Lin, Michael Karlsson & Seth C. Lewis (2023), From Wild East to Forbidden City: Mapping Algorithmic News Distribution in China through a Case Study of Jinri Toutiao, *Digital Journalism*, 11:8, (1521-1541), DOI: 10.1080/21670811.2022.2121932
- [3] Seth C. Lewis<sup>1</sup>, Amy Kristin Sanders, and Casey Carmody (2019), Libel by Algorithm? Automated Journalism and the Threat of Legal Liability, *Journalism & Mass Communication*, Vol. 96 (1) (60 –81), DOI: 10.1177/1077699018755983 <http://journals.sagepub.com/home/jmq>
- [4] James Meese, Sara Bannerman (2022), *The Algorithmic Distribution of News, Policy Responses*, Palgrave Global Media Policy and Business, Macmillan. file:///C:/Users/pc/Downloads/978-3-030-87086-7.pdf, p09.
- [5] David Lyon (2014), *Surveillance, Snowden and Big Data: Capacities, consequences, critique*, *Big Data & Society* (1–13), DOI: 10.1177/2053951714541861 [bds.sagepub.com](http://bds.sagepub.com)
- [6] Katzenbach Katzenbach, Ulbricht, Lena (2019), Algorithmic governance. *Internet Policy Review*, 8 (4), (01-18), DOI: 10.14763/2019.4.1424
- [7] <https://news.radioalgerie.dz/ar/node/8571>, published on 02/ 05/ 2022, date of access 30/12/ 2024.
- [8] Rym Fatiha Kaddouri (2023), Legislations in Algeria Between Regulation and Restricting Freedom of Professional Practice, *Journal of the faculty of Media*, 8: (15), (09-29), available at <https://journals.misuratau.edu.ly/media/345/2088>. (written in Arabic)
- [9] Porlezza, Colin, Eberwein Tobias (2022), *Uncharted Territory: Datafication as a Challenge for Journalism Ethics*. In: Karmasin, M., Diehl, S., Koinig, I. (eds) *Media and Change Management*. Springer, Cham, [doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-86680-8\\_19](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-86680-8_19)
- [10] Eli Pariser (2011), *The filter bubble: What the Internet is hiding from you*, The penguin press, New York. [https://hci.stanford.edu/courses/cs047n/readings/The\\_Filter\\_Bubble.pdf](https://hci.stanford.edu/courses/cs047n/readings/The_Filter_Bubble.pdf)
- [11] Liu Lege, Norshahila Ibrahim (2024), Incidental News Exposure and Algorithmic Governance of Social Media Platforms in Ambient Journalism, *International Journal of Social Science Studies*, Vol. 12 (1), Published by Redfame Publishing, (14-20), doi:10.11114/ijsss.v12i1.6721
- [12] Jian Xu and Terry Flew (2022), Governing the Algorithmic Distribution of News in China: The Case of Jinri Toutiao, Chapter of book, *The Algorithmic Distribution of News*, Palgrave Global Media Policy and Business, Springer Nature, (27-47), DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-87086-7\_2
- [13] Lu et al (2023), Platform governance and sociological participation, *The Journal of Chinese Sociology*, (1-24), [doi.org/10.1186/s40711-023-00181-w](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40711-023-00181-w)
- [14] Zhenbin Zuo (2020), *Governance by Algorithm: China's Social Credit System*, Working Paper, (01-43), Available at [https://www.finance.group.cam.ac.uk/system/files/documents/GovernancebyAlgorithm\\_CERF\\_Zhenbin6.16.2020.pdf](https://www.finance.group.cam.ac.uk/system/files/documents/GovernancebyAlgorithm_CERF_Zhenbin6.16.2020.pdf)
- [15] Noam Lemelshtrich Latar, David Nordfors (2009), Digital Identities and Journalism Content How Artificial Intelligence and Journalism May Co-Develop and Why Society Should Care, *Innovation Journalism* Vol. 6 (7), Wallenberg Hall, Stanford University, (01-47), available at <http://www.innovationjournalism.org/archive/INJO-6-7.pdf>
- [16] Bakhti Ibrahim 2002, *The Internet in Algeria*, Al-Bahet Journa, Issue 1, (26-35) (written in Arabic)
- [17] <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2019-algeria>
- [18] Sihem Derbal (2022), Use of the deductive approach and its specificity in legal studies, *Journal of law and Human Sciences*, Vol. 15 (04), (485-500), available at <https://asjp.cerist.dz/en/article/208436>. (written in Arabic)
- [19] Kamel Felih (2021-2022), *Summary of lectures in Research Methodology*, University of Constantine 1, available at [https://uomustansiriyah.edu.iq/media/lectures/7/7\\_2022\\_05\\_03!09\\_43\\_46\\_PM.pdf](https://uomustansiriyah.edu.iq/media/lectures/7/7_2022_05_03!09_43_46_PM.pdf). (written in Arabic)

- [20] Media law (23-14), Official Journal n° 56, available at <https://www.joradp.dz/FTP/JO-arabe/2023/A2023056.pdf?znjo=56>
- [21] Print and Electronic Press Law (23-19), Official Journal n° 77, available at <https://www.joradp.dz/FTP/JO-arabe/2023/A2023077.pdf?znjo=77>
- [22] Reinhardt, Karoline (2021), Diversity-sensitive social platforms and responsibility, *Információs Társadalom* XXI, no. 2, (43–62), doi.org/10.22503/inftars.XXI.2021.2.4
- [23] Neil Thurman, Seth C. Lewis and Jessica Kunert (2019), Algorithms, Automation, and News, *DIGITAL JOURNALISM*, VOL. 7, NO. 8, (980–992), doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2019.1685395
- [24] Zamith Rodrigo (2019), Algorithms and Journalism, In *Oxford Encyclopedia of Journalism Studies*, edited by H. Örnebring, Y.Y. Chan, M. Carlson, S. Craft, M. Karlsson, H. Sjøvaag & H. Wasserman, Oxford University Press, available at <https://oxfordre.com/communication/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228613.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228613-e-779>
- [25] Balazs Bodo (2019), Selling News to Audiences – A Qualitative Inquiry into the Emerging Logics of Algorithmic News Personalization in European Quality News Media, *Digital Journalism*, Vol. 7, N. 8, (1054–1075), doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2019.1624185, P 1057, 1063
- [26] Lynge Asbjørn Møller (2023), Designing Algorithmic Editors: How Newspapers Embed and Encode Journalistic Values into News Recommender Systems, *Digital Journalism*, (926-944), doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2023.2215832
- [27] <https://www.aps.dz/ar/algerie/tag/%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A9%20%D8%B6%D8%A8%D8%B7%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%8A%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A>, published on 25/ 08/ 2023, date of access 19/ 03/ 2025
- [28] <https://www.mc-doualiya.com>, published on, date of access
- [29] General Data Protection Regulation GDPR, available at <https://gdpr-info.eu/>
- [30] <https://www.france24.com/ar/%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%A8%D8%A7/20230825-B0>, published on 25/ 08/ 2023, date of access 15/ 02/ 2025.
- [31] <https://www.ceps.eu/ceps-projects/the-impact-of-the-german-netzdg-law/>, date of access 21/03/ 2025.
- [32] <https://www.arcom.fr/actualites/2022-premiere-annce-de-larcom-les-temps-forts-retenir>, published on 20/12/2022, date of access 21/ 02/ 2025.
- [33] <https://www.alarabiya.net/technology/2021/01/18/%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D9%88%D9%83-%D8%AA%D8%A8%D8%AF%D8%A3-%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%85%D9%85%D8%AB%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A7>, 18/ 01/ 2021, date of access 27/ 02/ 2025.