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What makes it into the news: A close look at how news sources at 6PR and 720 ABC radio influence news selection

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**What makes it into the news: A close look at
how news sources at 6PR and 720 ABC radio
influence news selection**

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USE OF THESIS

The Use of Thesis statement is not included in this version of the thesis.

ABSTRACT

One of the roles of journalists today is to select the newsworthy stories from the endless amount of information which flows into their media organisation's newsroom. So, what is news and how do journalists decide what makes it and what does not, in the news each day? Past and present research on this topic has thus far attempted to provide a formula, or consistent approach to the news selection process. To date, these newsroom studies have often been based at an international level, with results primarily originating from interviews with journalists themselves. This suggests that there are still many aspects of the news selection process and in particular, with reference to the broadcast media, that need to be further examined.

This thesis is based on an observational study of the daily newsroom operations and news selection processes at two local radio stations in Perth, Western Australia. The broadcasters selected for this research project were: the commercially owned 6PR (882), and the government funded 720 ABC radio. The influence of pre-determined news sources - such as on-line services, overseas correspondents, network reporters and local reporters – on the news selection processes at the respective radio stations, was the central theme explored in this study.

DECLARATION

I certify that this thesis does not, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- (i) incorporate without acknowledgment, any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any institution of higher education;
- (ii) contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text; or
- (iii) contain any defamatory material.

Signature

Date

19-03-2003

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

'What is news?'

This question has been the topic of much debate among researchers and journalists alike who over the years have attempted to capture a concept which is often difficult to define. The underlying reason for this is that the subject area in itself is problematic. Quite clearly, many journalists make news judgments everyday and for many who have to think about 'what is news' on a daily basis, the definition is obvious: they know news when they see it (Grundy, 1980a); (Baker, 1980a); (Masterton, 1992a). However, according to McQuail (1994), neither the analysis of media institutions nor the study of journalists themselves, have been able to offer a satisfactory answer to this question.

White has suggested that the struggle in defining news is largely due to the difficulty in separating several interrelated concepts: "To what use do people put news; what are the functions of a news medium; and what are the characteristics of news, or what makes an event or opinion newsworthy?" (1996, p.5). This argument is elsewhere further emphasised by White:

It is true that a reliable rule about what constitutes news is virtually impossible to formulate. There are simply too many variables. The interaction of those variables makes news a very relative concept (1996, p.10).

This statement is also in alignment with Gerdes' (1996) view, that the general definition of what is news can change daily, depending on the immediacy of events and the type of information which is available for journalists to select from in the first place. Supporting this argument, Masterton and Patching in 'Now the News in Detail', contend that: what information makes it in the news can also be affected by time

constraints - especially in the case of radio news - as well as media organisations' commitment to serving the interests of their audiences (1997, p.13). From this perspective, news can be seen as a fluid concept which is continually being adapted by the media, to suit the changing needs and interests of society.

Some common definitions of news that have arisen from journalism theory stem from Gans' study of CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, Newsweek and Time, which lead him to suggest that news is:

.....information which is transmitted from sources to audiences, with journalists – who are both employees of bureaucratic commercial organizations and members of a profession - summarizing, refining, and altering what becomes available to them from sources in order to make the information suitable for their audiences (1979, p.80).

Furthermore, Gans like Schlesinger (1972) viewed news in relation to the power it enabled journalists to exercise in the so-called 'interpretation of reality'. Breed (1955), in 'Social Control in the Newsroom', further emphasised the role of power which he believed existed within media organisations and the journalism profession.

Underlying this argument of news as power is the sociological perspective of theorists such as Stuart Hall (1980), who viewed news as a 'product' or 'human construction'. The common theme among these social scientists was that news: is "what newspapers make it" (Gieber, 1964, p.173); "the result of the methods newswriters employ" (Fishman, 1980, p.14); "manufactured by journalists" (Cohen & Young, 1973, p.97). Previously, Walter Lippmann had attempted to define the term by comparing the concept of news and 'truth', in relation to the journalism field:

News and truth are not the same thing.....the function of news is to signalize an event, the function of truth is to bring to light the hidden facts, to set them into relation with each other, and make a picture of reality on which men can act (1922, p.226).

Although these statements about what constitutes news date back a number of years, they nonetheless indicate that a clear divergence of opinion on the subject does exist -

and still continues to exist in current literature today. This only seems to prove that the quest for a definition of news is ongoing.

News Selection

In an information society in which the term information overload has become a common subject of discussion, journalists also face the task of sifting through a large pool of material in order to decide what is newsworthy and what is not. Previous research on news selection (Galtung & Ruge, 1965); (Tuchman, 1978); (Schlesinger, 1978); (Gans, 1979), has partially provided a framework for how journalists select news. However, these studies have generally been concerned with exploring this question in terms of why certain stories make it in the news, while others are discarded.

Gans argued that journalists are always confronted with more information than they can possibly use and thus have to make “suitability judgements” in news selection (1979, pp.81-82). Further, Grundy (1980a), Masterton (1992) and Masterton and Patching (1997) suggest, that although journalists struggle to define the term news, they often claim to have an instinct or news sense that helps them distinguish between what is news and what is not. The process of news selection can thus be said to involve the fundamental decision-making skills of journalists - which more than often includes determining whether a story is newsworthy - while at the same time, taking into consideration the interests of the audience. From this perspective, newsworthiness can be seen as a primary indicator of whether or not stories find their way into the mass media.

Background to the Study

Previously, it was emphasised that journalists are only able to select news from the information which is available or on offer in the first place (Gans, 1979). It is this idea that essentially shapes the research question of this thesis: that pre-determined news sources such as on-line services, overseas correspondents, network reporters and local reporters, have a significant influence on the news selected at two local radio stations: 6PR (882) and 720 ABC. The observational research within the newsrooms of

the respective broadcasters aims to provide an understanding of the news selection processes and the news sources employed by 6PR and 720 ABC.

The reason that these two radio stations were elected for this study was primarily due to the fact that 6PR is a commercially owned media institution, with a greater emphasis on local news and current affairs, while 720 ABC is a government funded, public broadcaster, with a focus on international and national news content. Essentially, it is these characteristics which shaped the assumption that a clear difference would exist between the two in relation to the scale of newsroom operations and news bulletin content.

On the subject of news selection, Hurst has argued that news consumers are best served by media organisations when it is taken into account 'what is of interest' to, and 'what is of importance' to their audiences (1991, p.24). In fact, it could be said that in some instances, audience interests can have the potential to influence the content of news bulletins at 6PR and 720 ABC. Thus, an important part of this newsroom study was to determine the perceived target audience of each broadcaster.

The researcher also examined the role and application of pre-determined news sources in the daily newsroom operations of 6PR and 720 ABC. This entailed conducting casual interviews with newsroom personnel, whilst closely examining the availability of on-line services, overseas correspondents, network reporters and local reporters, accessed for news information. In this study the term 'casual interviews' refers the informal conversations that were initiated and guided by the researcher (Maykut and Morehouse, 1994, p.81).

Another element to this study involved the recording of the morning, midday and evening news bulletins over two consecutive weeks. The purpose of this was to provide the researcher with the necessary data for the later analysis of the major news stories broadcasted by 6PR and 720 ABC.

Significance of the Study

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in newsroom studies. However, these have often been confined to print newsrooms on an international level. As a result, little is known about the news selection processes and daily newsroom operations of radio stations in Australia. This can be considered somewhat unusual since radio is still viewed as the most universal form of mass communication, capable of transmitting information faster than any newspaper or television station (Masterton & Patching, 1997, p.8). Masterton and Patching further emphasise this point by stating that: "radio is about what happened in the last few minutes and how that might affect what will happen in the next few" (1997, p.9).

As mentioned previously, research into the question of what is news is ongoing. In 2002, a major conference on this very topic was held at Syracuse University, under the guidance of Professor Pamela Shoemaker. The conference examined the question of what is news two ways. Firstly, it assembled qualitative data from researchers in ten different countries. This involved gathering information on the news content of the leading local newspaper, television station, and radio station. In order to gather this information, two major cities from each country were selected. The purpose of this research was to discover whether any differences in news selection existed in the print and broadcast media. This type of analysis was accomplished by classifying news items into several different categories:

- 1) *Statistical deviance*: how unusual or uncommon the event was.
- 2) *Normative deviance*: the extent to which the reported event involved the breaking of rules or laws.
- 3) *Social deviance*: the extent to which a potential threat in the environment resulted in a change in the status quo.
- 4) *Political significance*: the extent to which the content had the potential to impact, or actually impacted the political system.
- 5) *Economic significance*: the extent to which the content had the potential to impact, or actually impacted on the economic arena.

- 6) *Cultural significance*: the extent to which the content had the potential to impact, or actually impacted the cultural domain.
- 7) *Public significance*: The extent to which the content had the potential to impact, or actually impacted the public's interest.

(Cohen, 2002)

This type of news content analysis essentially sought to answer the following four questions:

- (1) Which medium presented the most deviant news?
- (2) Which medium presented the most socially significant news?
- (3) What was the relationship between deviance and prominence?
- (4) What was the relationship between social significance and prominence?

(Cohen, 2002)

In addition to this, focus groups were held in each country where participants, which included audience members, print and broadcast journalists and public relations practitioners, were asked questions such as: 'What kinds of information do people need?'; 'What were the most significant events in your life?' and; 'How do people define and explain newsworthiness?' (Cohen, 2002). These focus groups were important in initiating discussion on the type of news content in each cities' leading local newspaper, television station and radio station. Particular attention was paid to stories or news items that represented characteristics of deviance or social significance.

Secondly, research conducted by Shoemaker examined the possible biological determinants in people's recognition of news by applying the seven characteristics or significance factors listed previously, in the analysis of news items. This thesis employs a modified version of Shoemaker's classifications for news content analysis which was important in the examination of the major news stories broadcast by 6PR and 720 ABC. A detailed explanation of this table is given in Chapter 3.

Purpose of the Study

This study aims to explore the subject of news selection with regard to the influence and availability of pre-determined news sources, accessed by 6PR and 720 ABC on a daily basis. As mentioned previously, newsroom studies conducted on an international level have generally focused on examining the print (newspapers) and broadcast (mainly television) media in an attempt to determine how journalists select news. This suggests that there are still many aspects of news selection in Australia, and particularly within local radio newsrooms, that still need to be explored.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Introduction

Over the years, there has been a considerable amount of research done into the subject of news selection which has produced some significant results. It is also fair to suggest that these qualitative studies have been a stepping-stone for future research in the journalism field. This chapter includes a discussion and examination of previous and current literature that exists on the subject of news and news selection.

News Selection and News Making

Previous theories of news by researchers such as Tuchman (1978) and Hall, (1980), have described the news selection process as a manufactured creation, which is assembled by the journalists (or newsmakers) employed by various media organisations. The underling theory of this approach centres on the assumption that the attitudes and beliefs about journalism are constructed, negotiated and maintained by journalists as they attempt to make sense of their role in society (Winch, 1997, p.17). This argument is in alignment with the 'mirror theory' of news, whereby the journalist's role is simply seen as one of holding a mirror to the events which occur in the daily news environment. According to this view, the meaning of these events is then merely reflected through the mass media, to news consumers and the wider society.

Tuchman's study, 'Making News: A Study in the Construction of Reality', supports this argument in its assumption that newsworthiness is constructed by journalists according to a privileged frame through which they view the world. The significance of Tuchman's research rested in its aim to determine how newswriters (journalists) decided what is news, why they covered some items and not others, and how they decided what others wanted to know. Tuchman further argued that news is:

.....a window in the world. Through its frame, Americans learn of themselves and others, of their own institutions, leaders, and lifestyles, and those of other nations and their peoples..... the news aims to tell us what we want to know, need to know, and should know (1978, p.1).

However, Tuchman also came to the conclusion that like any frame that delineated the world, the news frame in itself could be seen as problematic.

A more recent approach to the concept of news as a construction is outlined by Campbell in her article, 'Journalistic construction of news: information gathering'. In this paper she argues that news selection is a process which involves the identification of newsworthy issues or events by journalists, who then gather the raw information from which these news stories are then constructed (1997, p.62). Other theories of news, however, have taken a much broader approach than Campbell by arguing that influences such as literary conventions, popular formula, and professional socialisation, shape the way in which news is gathered, assembled and manufactured by journalists and their media organisations (Winch, 1997, p.16).

The Gatekeeper Analogy

Social psychologist Kurt Lewin originally established the gatekeeper analogy which centred on the belief that the flow of news through various communication channels was governed by gatekeepers - or those who made decisions about whether news stories were selected or rejected. A number of studies by social scientists such as White (1950), Gieber (1964), Shoemaker (1999) and Reese et al (2001), have since extended Lewin's gatekeeper analogy to other theories of news selection.

Contemporary discussion of the gatekeeper analogy relates to David Manning White's (1950) study of Mr. Gates, which examined the news decisions of one wire editor who worked at a small newspaper. His research produced interesting results on the reasons why some stories were considered newsworthy over others. From his findings, White concluded that news selection was in fact a highly subjective process based on the gatekeeper's own set of experiences, attitudes and beliefs.

Indeed, by selecting a single wire editor, it is reasonable to suggest that White over emphasised the power held by the gatekeeper. The shortcomings of his study are also discussed by Reese and Ballinger, who argue that by concentrating on one wire editor White portrayed Mr. Gates as having access to “the entire range of the world’s daily happenings” (2001, p.647). However, this assumption was not a true reflection of the gatekeeper’s job, which mainly consisted of selecting news stories from the wire services already available to him. Thus news selection for this particular newspaper actually took place within a narrow rather than a broad range of choices.

In fact, Walter Gieber’s (1964) study of sixteen wire editors showed that decisions on news selection were similar across several newspapers. The results of his research contradicted White’s study of Mr. Gates and provided evidence that organisational routines and values rather than personal evaluations, were the determining factors for which stories were selected. The significance of Gieber’s study was mainly in its revelation that all news items were selected in much the same way by all of the editors. However, it should be emphasised that these findings by Gieber do not in any way undermine the importance or value of White’s gatekeeper study.

Baker (1980a) on the other hand, attempted a slightly different approach to these previous gatekeeper studies by firstly, seeking verbal explanations from journalists as to how they defined their sense of news values (including how they acquired them), and secondly, by asking journalists to rank stories in terms of their media organisations’ news priorities (p.137). Baker discovered that the reasons given by the journalists offered no substantive basis for determining a consistent approach to the news selection process. However, his study did provide some evidence to support White’s revelation that gatekeepers had a sense of authority within media institutions and thus made the crucial decisions in news selection.

The News Selection Process

For Gans (1979), news selection primarily occurred through two processes: one which determined the availability of news and related journalists' to sources, and the other determined the suitability of news, which tied journalists' to audiences. His study involved the examination of two news programs: CBS Evening News and NBC Nightly News, and two news magazines: Newsweek and Time. In essence, Gans' research attempted to discover how journalists working for these media organizations: selected the news, what they left out, how they reported the stories they selected, why they chose as they did and what kind of people they were (1979, p.xii). He also argued that news organisations needed to be efficient entities in delivering the latest news and information to audiences at specific times (1979, p.283).

Schudson (1989) approached the subject of news selection quite differently from Gans in his exploration of three perspectives, which he believed were part of the news selection process. The first perspective included the political economy and referred to the outcome of the news selection with regard to the economic structure of the media organisation itself. The second approach centred on the decision making power of journalists, which according to Schudson, was a reflection of some of the common views held about journalism in mainstream sociology. This perspective outlined how journalistic efforts could often be constrained by organisational as well as occupational routines. The third approach was referred to as anthropological and examined the constraints of cultural symbol systems in news selection. These three perspectives are discussed in greater detail in Schudson's article, 'The Sociology of News Production', however, for the purpose of this study, these have been outlined only briefly to provide another view as to how journalists select news.

News Values and News Selection

In the 1920s it was Walter Lippmann who referred to the term 'news values' for the first time in his article, 'Public Opinion'. According to Lippmann, these news values determined what journalists selected as news and referred to the clarity of an occurrence (or event), surprise, geographical proximity, personal impact and conflict.

The earliest attempt to provide a more systematic definition of news values was made by Galtung and Ruge (1965), who distinguished eleven features or of events which made them more likely to be reported in the mass media. Palmer identifies these features as: frequency, threshold, clarity, cultural proximity, consonance, unexpectedness, continuity, composition, actions of the elite, personification and negativity (2000, p.27). According to these descriptors of events, the chances of an event being considered newsworthy is increased when one or more of these factors are present (Palmer, 2000, p.27). Additionally the following assumptions were made by Kunczik in his analysis of the Galtung and Ruge study:

The more events satisfy the criteria mentioned, the more likely they will be registered as news (selection). – Once a news item has been selected what makes it newsworthy according to the factors will be accentuated (distorted). – Both the process of selection and the process of distortion will take place at all steps in the chain from event to reader (replication) (1988, p.151).

Thus, according to this statement, the higher the total score of an event when marked against the eleven criteria or characteristics, the higher the probability that it will become news. Although these findings presented by Galtung and Ruge were purely based on the selection of foreign news, their research remains significant in its identification of the eleven characteristics which had the potential to affect the selection of stories.

Tunstall once stated: “Journalists all operate within what they regard as a set of news values” (1971, p.263). For him, news values provided only a general guideline for news selection as journalists always exercised some discretion when deciding what made it in the news and what did not. Tunstall’s article, ‘Journalists At Work’, raised some important questions on the significance of news values:

Are news values merely a projection of the ideologies and values of journalists themselves? Are news values completely arbitrary and unpatterned (as some journalists would contend)? Or are news stories socially patterned (as sociologists would claim)? Or are news values simply a mass media version of social values held by audience members? (1971, p.261).

Although this thesis does not attempt to provide any conclusive answers to these questions raised by Tunstall, it is important to point out that this type of questioning opens up the possibility for further research on whether it is possible to formulate a consistent set of criteria for news selection.

More recently, Murray Masterton's (1992a) study of news values resulted in the discovery that factors such as proximity, conflict, human interest, novelty and prominence had a worldwide application. His international research involving 300 senior journalists and teachers of journalism in 67 countries, produced some significant results. The findings from Masterton's study were gathered from a questionnaire in which participants were asked about the characteristics which they considered, made information into news. From these responses, Masterton concluded that three elements; interest, timeliness and clarity, were viewed as the essential factors that must be present before any piece of information can become news. He further stated that a newsworthy story must:

.....hold *Interest* for a substantial number of people. It must be on information [sic] that is new, or newly available, in that it has not been made widely known before [*Timeliness*]. And it must be information which is clearly understandable to recipients [*Clarity*] [*Italics added*] (1992, p.22).

According to Masterton, without the presence of any one of these three characteristics an event could not be deemed newsworthy. However, this generally depended on the existence of the six international news criteria or news values (see figure 1.1).

Like Masterton, Conley (1997) believes that it is these news values that determine whether or not stories appear in the mass media. However, he also points out that news values are fluid and can be altered at anytime by changing social, economic and cultural trends (1997, p.72). This point of view is also in alignment with Tunstall's argument that journalists exercise some discretion when deciding what is news.

Figure 1.1 News Values

News Value	Definition
Consequence	The measure of the number of people who will be affected by the information.
Proximity	Information from one's own town is of greater news value than the same information from a distant land.
Conflict	As well as war and physical violence, legal, psychological or intellectual differences between people or groups of people.
Human Interest	The interest that people have in other people. Also includes children, people's pets and other animals.
Novelty	What is strange, odd, different, rare or unusual.
Prominence	Information which is of interest because of who said it, or was involved in it, rather than for the action itself.

(Masterton, 1992, p.22)

News Selection, News Agencies and the Internet

Chris Patterson's (2001) article 'Media Imperialism Revisited' looks at the influence of news agencies on the selection of international news, by media organisations. His paper pays specific attention to the dominance of these news agencies in the 'world of cyber journalism' (Patterson, 2001, p.78). Patterson also addresses the issue of a Global Information Infrastructure (GII) or the extreme concentration of power which is held by dominant news agencies. He further argues that these news agencies are more than often profoundly undemocratic and contradictory of the common assumptions held about internet journalism. Patterson emphasizes this point by stating:

...fewer major news producers are informing more people...and doing so from fewer sources. Global multi-media information conglomerates Associated Press and Reuters dominate Internet news in mostly inconspicuous ways (2001, p.79).

He further argues that:

...through monopolistic control of international news production, effective marketing, efficient use of economies of scale in news production, and useful alliances in both news gathering and online distribution, news agencies play a dominant and generally unacknowledged role in determining the vast majority of international news in cyberspace (2001, p.78).

Some researchers have suggested that new forms of highly interactive journalism are emerging but the assertions made by Patterson suggest otherwise. Instead, he believes, "that the dominant Internet news sites do little more than redistribute the work of other – mostly news agency - journalists, with a minimum of editing or re-interpretation" (Patterson, 2001, p.82). Although this may be the case in some circumstances, the findings in this research contradict Patterson's statement. Indeed dominant news agencies such as Associated Press (AP) and Reuters are the big players in the selection of news by media organizations, however, broadcasters such as 6PR and 720 ABC have a local audience to serve. And this, according to the newsroom personnel interviewed, consequently results in the re-writing of all news stories taken from news agencies or on-line services.

Patterson points out that only a small amount of research has been done on the news production environment of on-line journalists and that these studies have primarily depended on survey methods rather than newsroom observation. Thus, he makes a fair assumption in suggesting that "the concentration of influence over international news in the nominally democratic environment of cyberspace merits further investigation" (2001, p.91).

Conceptual Framework

The past and current literature on news selection which has been discussed in this chapter provides a conceptual framework for this thesis. Shoemaker's research is thus outlined in the following, as it incorporates theoretical and operational definitions in news content analysis for the print and broadcast media.

Based on Lasswell's (1960) theory on the surveillance function of news, Shoemaker argues that people routinely survey their environment for events that are unusual (or deviant) (1996, p.32). The central argument in her research is that humans desire to receive and transmit information about the environment is both biologically and culturally derived; and that both biology and culture can have a profound impact on the form that news content takes. Further, Shoemaker provides a comparison between professional information gatherers - or journalists - and news consumers or society in general:

...journalists' surveillance is institutionalized and sanctioned, whereas we [human beings] survey the environment for our more informal and personal purposes. Journalists fulfill people's innate desire to detect threats in the environment, keep informed about the world, and devise methods of dealing with these threats, whether real or potential (1996, pp.32-33).

According to this statement, the media is viewed as a provider of the type of news that society is more or less universally interested in (Shoemaker, 1996, p.33). However, Shoemaker also concludes that news is a manufactured product which is subject to a wide variety of influences, including the production values, organisational characteristics, culture and ideology of media institutions (1996, p.33). She quite rightly states that in today's information society, it has become even harder to imagine a time or place where the gathering and dissemination of news has not played such an important role and that "the growth of the mass media is a natural outcome of the human obsession with news" (1996, p.33). Thus, deviance or potential threats in the environment, whether real or perceived, could in fact be considered as a significant factors for determining how news is defined or selected by journalists and their media organisations.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

Often, “research studies that are qualitative are designed to discover what can be learned about some phenomenon of interest” (Maykut & Morehouse, 1994, p.43). This research project attempted to determine the influence of pre-determined sources on news selection for the morning, midday and evening bulletins at 6PR and 720 ABC. The qualitative nature of this study produced data mainly originating from participant observation within the newsrooms of the two broadcasters. This took place over a two week period with five consecutive days being spent at each of the radio stations. This chapter discusses the methods and techniques employed in this study to gather the relevant data.

Research Design

The research design is the plan which outlines the goals and objectives of the study and how these will be accomplished by the researcher. Hammersley and Atkinson suggest that in a qualitative study, the research design should be implemented at each stage of the research project (1983, p.28). This concept is further emphasised by Maxwell:

The activities of collecting and analyzing data, developing and modifying theory, elaborating or refocusing the research questions, and identifying and eliminating validity threats are usually all ongoing more or less simultaneously, each influencing all of the others (1996, pp.2-3).

There are many valid reasons for conducting qualitative research. Maxwell identifies two of these benefits as: (1) being able to focus on specific situations or people, and (2) the emphasis on words rather than numbers (1996, p.17). However, these factors depend on the nature of the research, as according to Strauss and Corbin,

some areas of study naturally lend themselves more to the qualitative approach (1990, p.19). Cooper also lists a number of advantages (which have been modified for this study) when the observational method is applied:

- (1) The researcher can collect the original data at the time it occurs – they do not need to depend on reports by others.
- (2) Observation can capture an event as it occurs in its natural environment.
- (3) Subjects seem to accept an observational intrusion better as it less demanding on them.
- (4) Observation may be the only viable method available to gather certain types of information or data.

(Cooper, 1998, pp.365-366)

Researcher's Role

Participant observation allows the researcher to enter a social setting with minimal interruptions to the work environment and those working within it. May states that:

Participant observation is said to make no firm assumptions about what is important. Instead, the method encourages researchers to immerse themselves in the day-to-day activities of the people whom they are attempting to understand (1993, p.148).

In this study, participant observation required the researcher to become a part of the newsroom environment operating within 6PR and 720 ABC. This allowed for first-hand examination of the news sources accessed by the stations' and provided an insightful view into the news selection processes of 6PR and 720 ABC. For the purpose of this study, the researcher was made known as an observer to all newsroom personnel. This enabled the collection of necessary data from staff working within the newsroom setting. Participant observation within the 6PR and 720 ABC newsrooms thus involved:

- listening to and watching newsroom personnel.
- establishing a rapport with staff members.

- conducting casual interviews with newsroom personnel.
- observing the news gathering and editing processes.
- attending press conferences with local reporters.
- learning to use each radio stations' computer network.
- notetaking and daily journal entries.

Interview Process

The casual interviews with 6PR and 720 ABC newsroom personnel took place in a number of settings. Some staff members were interviewed at their desks, while others were interviewed on the way to local press conferences or stories. One staff member, the News Director of 720 ABC was absent when the research was undertaken in June 2002, however, was replaced by the Executive Producer during this period. Most staff members were multi-skilled, particularly at 6PR, and this often required newsroom personnel to undertake more than one task. Some of these tasks included news gathering, writing stories for news bulletins, editing and reading the news. Newsroom personnel who were interviewed for this study included: the News Director at 6PR and the Executive Producer at 720 ABC, and the editors, sub-editors, newsreaders and local reporters of each radio station.

Casual Interviews

Maykut and Morehouse define casual interviews as informal conversations that are initiated and guided by the researcher (1994, p.81). Furthermore, they suggest the researcher 'tactfully asks' and 'actively listens' to interviewees in an attempt to understand what is important to learn about the setting and the experiences of people working within it (Maykut & Morehouse, 1994, p.81).

In this study, the casual interviews with newsroom personnel were conducted in an unstructured manner which enabled the researcher to gather the required data for this research. This type of approach also provided an insight into the newsroom operations of 6PR and 720 ABC.

Research Questions

Strauss and Corbin argue that it is impossible to cover all aspects of the research problem. Thus, the research questions enable the researcher to set boundaries on what will be studied (1990, p.37). In this instance, the observational research conducted at 6PR and 720 ABC attempted to answer a number of questions relating to the availability of pre-determined news sources and the process of news selection. A combination of the qualitative methods of participant observation and casual interviews was thus employed in this study.

Although a list of research questions was formulated prior to the researcher's entry into the 6PR and 720 ABC newsrooms, this did not in any way influence the casual and unstructured nature of interviews that took place with staff members. Note that the table below (figure 1.2) lists the questions asked by the researcher in this study, however, other questions may have also arisen during the interviews process which have not been included.

Figure 1.2 Research Questions

Question	Aim
Which on-line services are used by the station for gathering news?	To find out which news agencies were used by 6PR and 720 ABC for the selection of news stories in the morning, midday and evening bulletins.
What is the scale of newsroom operations in terms of the number of correspondents, network and local reporters?	To enable the researcher to gather information on the structure and scale of newsroom operations.
How much does the station rely on these pre-determined sources for news?	To discover the extent of influence that news sources have on news selection.
Which news source did each story originate from?	To determine the news sources which were accessed on a regular basis by the broadcasters.
To what extent is the news re-written to suit the style of the radio station bulletins?	To find whether news stories originating from on-line services were re-written by journalists.
What is the station's perceived target audience?	To gain some insight into 6PR and 720 ABC's listenership.

Sources of Data

The researcher consulted a number of sources for the collection of data. These consisted of:

Field notes

“Aside from getting along in the setting, the fundamental work of the observer is the taking of field notes” (Patton, 2002, p.302). In essence, “the qualitative researcher’s field notes contain what has been seen and heard by the researcher” (Maykut and Morehouse, 1994, p.73). Field notes were important in this observational study as the events that occurred during the research were able to be recorded for later analysis. These field notes included:

- description of events and occurrences.
- personal reflections on events as they occurred within the newsroom setting.
- interesting terms or ideas.
- drawings/diagrams of the newsroom setting.
- interviews with newsroom personnel.
- roles, rules and relationships that existed between people within the newsroom.
- general notes about the newsroom environment and the people working within it.

Researcher's journal

Maxwell believes that the researcher’s journal is one of the most important tools for the development of ideas as well as understanding the chosen topic, setting or study (1996, p.12). The researcher’s journal in this instance was used for the recording of personal insights, understandings, ideas, thoughts, concerns and any important decisions that were made during the research.

Recording Of News Bulletins

The recording of the morning, midday and evening news bulletins took place from Monday, 10 June 2002 to Friday, 14 June 2002 (see figure 1.3). This format was also followed in the second research week beginning on Monday, 17 June 2002 and ending Friday, 21 June 2002 (see figure 1.4). These news bulletins were recorded at the researcher's private residence during specified times (see figure 1.5).

Figure 1.3 Week 1: Recorded News Bulletins 6PR (882)

Day	Date
Mon	10 Jun
Tue	11 Jun
Wed	12 Jun
Thu	13 Jun
Fri	14 Jun

Figure 1.4 Week 2: Recorded News Bulletins 720 ABC

Day	Date
Mon	17 Jun
Tue	18 Jun
Wed	19 Jun
Thu	20 Jun
Fri	21 Jun

Figure 1.5 Week 1 & 2: Recording Times for News Bulletins

	6PR (882)	720 ABC
Morning (am)	8:00	7:45
Midday (pm)	12:00	12:00
Evening (pm)	5:00	6:00

Analysis Of Data

Patton (2002) believes that the data for qualitative analysis typically comes from the researcher's observations, which are then transformed into findings. He further states:

The purpose of observational analysis is to take the reader into the setting that was observed. This means that observational data must have depth and detail. The data must be descriptive – sufficiently descriptive so that the reader can understand what occurred and how it occurred.....The descriptions must be factual, accurate, and thorough without being cluttered by irrelevant minutiae and trivia (Patton, 2002, p.23).

In accordance with this view, Maxwell suggests that the initial step in any qualitative analysis is reading and analysing the material gathered during observation (1996, p.78).

A modified version of Shoemaker's classification table for news content analysis (see figure 1.6) provided a framework for communicating the findings of this study. The application of this type of classification enabled the researcher to analyse and draw comparisons on the major news stories broadcast by 6PR and 720 during the research period.

Figure 1.6 Modified (Shoemaker's) Classifications for News Content Analysis

Variable	Theoretical definition	Operational definition
Medium name	The name of the medium the news item appeared in.	(1) 6PR (882) (2) 720 ABC Radio
Date	Day the news item appeared.	Day / Month / Year
Weekday	Weekday the news item appeared.	(1) Monday (2) Tuesday (3) Wednesday (4) Thursday (5) Friday (6) Saturday (7) Sunday
Topic #1 Topic #2 Topic #3	Topic / s discussed in the news item (select up to three topics).	(1) Local politics. (2) National politics. (3) International politics. (4) Police and crime. (5) Military and defense. (6) Economy/finance. (7) Labor relations and

		trade unions. (8) Business, commerce, and industry. (9) Transportation. (10) Health, welfare, and social services. (11) Population. (12) Education. (13) Communication. (14) Housing. (15) Environment. (16) Energy. (17) Science/technology. (18) Social relations. (19) Disasters/accidents/epidemics. (20) Sports. (21) Cultural events. (22) Fashion/beauty. (23) Ceremonies. (24) Human interest stories. (25) Weather. (26) Entertainment. (27) Other.
Nature	Nature of the news item.	(1) Hard news (2) Soft news
Item length	The radio news item's amount of coverage.	Seconds devoted to a news item.
Item placement (radio)	The radio news item's placement in the bulletins.	The news item starts in the... (1) first third of the news bulletin. (2) middle third of the news bulletin. (3) last third of the news bulletin.
Scope	The geographic treatment of the news item.	The news item is treated... (1) on a <i>local level</i> . (2) on a <i>regional level</i> . (3) on a <i>national level</i> . (4) on an <i>international level</i> .

(Shoemaker, 1996)

Issues of Validity

Maxwell defines validity in terms of the correctness (or credibility) of the description, conclusion and interpretation of results. He further points out that the validity of any research findings are not necessarily guaranteed by following a prescribed procedure (1996, pp.86-87). Essentially, the validity of data depends on the conclusions drawn by the researcher. "The credibility of qualitative methods, therefore, hinges to a great extent on the skill, competence, and rigor of the person doing the fieldwork" (Patton, 2002, p. 14).

According to Maxwell, to arrive at a valid conclusion, the researcher must provide a detailed description of any observations made during the research, interpret these descriptions accurately, and consider alternative explanations or prior research on the chosen area of study (1996, p.90). Thus the collection of data for this research project involved the consultation of a number of different sources in order to provide a valid and accurate account of the observations made within the 6PR and 720 ABC newsrooms.

CHAPTER 4

6PR (882)

Introduction

6PR commenced broadcasting in 1931 and has since expanded its operations as a commercial broadcaster, most significantly in its incorporation of a comprehensive news and current affairs format that covers local issues. The station is owned by one of Australia's leading media companies, Southern Cross Broadcasting (SCB), which has interests ranging from metropolitan and regional television to metropolitan radio.

Being a commercially-owned media organisation, 6PR faces the pressure of remaining competitive amongst other local news broadcasters as it relies on the advertising and sponsorship dollar to keep the station operating. 6PR shares its premises with 6LX (1080) and 96FM, and supplies news services to both these broadcasters, as well as AM and FM radio stations throughout regional Western Australia.

6PR's news bulletins are generally focused on providing their Perth audience with local news content, however, it is also important to note that the findings in this study show that the station devotes a significant amount of coverage to major national and international stories "making news".

Mission Statement

At the time of this research, 6PR did not have an operational mission statement either for their newsroom or the radio station as a whole. The news director pointed out that a mission statement was not needed as it would do no more than state the obvious: "that 6PR's job is to provide accurate, up-to-the-minute, and informative news bulletins for their listeners". However, the station's website does state:

6PR is a passionately community based radio station which provides listeners with regular access to the state's and nation's leaders. It is the only station in Perth that provides a voice for community opinions and champions deserving causes (<http://www.6pr.com.au/about/>).

Further, the station's slogan: "if it's happening in Perth, we'll be talking about it", is a reflection of the broadcaster's aim to "tackle issues of the day and bring the audience news as it happens" (<http://www.acnielsen.com.au>).

News Bulletins

Taking into consideration the commercial aspect of 6PR news, newsroom personnel emphasised the need for bulletins to be "well-rounded" and "balanced" in terms of selecting hard and soft news stories. According to staff, this included the need to be informative as well as entertaining. From this observational study, it appears that 6PR's news bulletins follow a local, national and international format, however, newsroom personnel suggested that these criteria could change depending on the importance or significance of the news story in question. Thus this provides some evidence to support Gerdes' (1996) argument, that the definition of what is news can change daily, depending on the immediacy of events and the type of information which is available for journalists to select from in the first place.

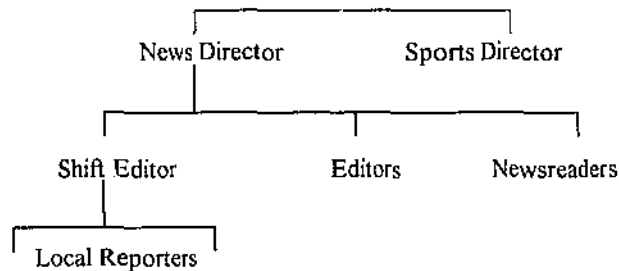
Perceived Target Audience

Newsroom personnel interviewed in this study generally described 6PR's perceived target audience from a broad perspective. Staff members often suggested that the station's listeners consisted of people in the middle age group of thirty years or over, that 6PR news is aimed at an older audience, or "anything that affects pensioners". More specifically, however, the ACNielsen Perth website identifies the broadcaster's target audience as listeners in the 35-64 year age group, with the station's core target audience ranging from 40-64 years.

Newsroom Structure

The 6PR newsroom, like most other media organisations, is characterised by chaos, particularly when a number of major stories are “making news” at any one time. The newsroom, as the commonly used phrase suggests is “where it all happens”. Staff are constantly gathering, selecting, editing and reporting news for the station’s news bulletins, and ultimately its audience. The following table (figure 1.7) outlines the newsroom structure that is operational within 6PR.

Figure 1.7 6PR (882) Newsroom Structure



In reference to the diagram above, the newsroom structure within 6PR can be viewed as fluid, with newsroom personnel working together as a team and taking on a number of tasks at any one time. For instance, shift editors are required to edit and write news stories as well as read the station’s news bulletins. This is also the case for the news director who stands in as a shift editor as well as newsreader. During the research period at 6PR, it became apparent that the news director worked directly with the news team and was involved in every aspect of the newsroom operations. The station’s sports director who is responsible for the format and sound of 6PR sport, however, remained separate from the rest of the news team. Local reporters liaise with the news director on a daily basis regarding stories and conferences that are considered to be top priority on a particular day. Their role mainly consists of attending conferences, reporting on local stories and providing the editors and shift editors with voice reports and grabs for the news bulletins.

Scale of Newsroom Operations

6PR's newsroom is significantly smaller in than that of 720 ABC radio, and consists of eleven journalists and newsreaders who cover local, national and international stories. Currently, 6PR is owned by Southern Cross Broadcasting (SCB), which owns and operates commercial radio and television stations throughout Australia. These include:

Television Stations

- Channel Nine Adelaide
- Ten Capital (covering Canberra and southern New South Wales)
- Ten Victoria
- Southern Cross Television Tasmania

Radio Stations

- 2UE Sydney
- 3AW Melbourne
- 5AA Adelaide
- Magic 693 Melbourne
- 4BC Brisbane
- 6PR Perth
- 96FM Perth
- Sky Radio

On-line Services

Although 6PR consults its network of reporters on a regular basis for national and international news content, the broadcaster also relies on the reciprocal agreements with various news agencies for information (see figure 1.8). News agencies such as Australian Associated Press (AAP) and Reuters are thus accessed frequently, as is the on-line service provided by ABC On-line. An important part of the news selection process in this instance involves the re-writing, condensing and sub-editing of on-line material to suit the station's news style. These stories are then also localised for 6PR's metropolitan listeners.

Time constraints are an influential factor in any newsroom, and especially in the case of radio news, which aims to provide a fast and efficient news service to its audience. The ease of accessing these on-line news services listed in the table below (figure 1.8) is thus regarded as imperative by 6PR's newsroom personnel.

Figure 1.8 On-line Services accessed by 6PR (882)

News Agencies	Other On-line Services
AAP	ABC On-line
Reuters	BBC
	CNN
	Fox Sports

Overseas Correspondents

Although 6PR's news bulletins mainly contain local and national news, overseas correspondents are still considered a valuable source of information by newsroom personnel. They are regularly consulted for major international stories. At the time of this research, the broadcaster had access to news information from two correspondents: Richard Arnold, based in the United States and Malcolm Stuart, located in the United Kingdom. Often referred to as 'on-location reporters', overseas correspondents were said to be crucial in providing 'colour reporting' or a sense of location to 6PR's news bulletins.

National Reporter Network

6PR's national reporter network consists of a network of journalists who work for metropolitan stations owned by Southern Cross Broadcasting (SCB). These are referred to as the station's affiliates and include:

- 2UE Sydney
- 5AA Adelaide
- 3AW Melbourne
- 4BC Brisbane

News information is generally shared on a daily basis between these stations. Stories originating from the national reporter network are 'played down' the station's line and 'grabs' or audio is then recorded with relative ease for 6PR's news bulletins. The broadcaster's national reporter network is integral in the gathering of news stories that are significant on a national level.

Local Reporter Network

Due to limited staff resources there are only two full-time local or 'on-the-road' reporters employed by 6PR. These reporters cover conferences and local rounds including police, court, politics and sports. In terms of local issues and events which occur in the Perth metropolitan area, these local reporters are considered an invaluable source for local stories. However, it is also important to note that 6PR has a close working relationship with Channel Seven, Perth, and regularly receives updates on local news from the station's reporters.

Major Stories Covered

The observational research at 6PR took place from Monday, 10 June 2002 to Friday, 14 June 2002. As part of this observational study the major stories covered by the station during the research period were analysed. Figure 1.9 (see page 32) provides an overview of the three major stories broadcast by 6PR over the five days. These were selected from the station's morning, midday and evening news bulletins.

Considering that 6PR news aims to provide its listeners with a range of local stories in their bulletins, it is interesting to note that three of the nine major news items from the table above had significance on a national and international level. These were: the pacific solution (*national and international politics*), the Prime Minister's visit to Washington (*national and international politics*) and the story of the Australian tourist shot in Bali (*human interest stories*).

Figure 1.9 Week 1: Major Stories Covered by 6PR (882)

	Major Stories Covered	Classification	L/N/I
Mon	Pacific solution	2, 3	N/I
	Howard in Washington	2, 3	N/I
	Queen's birthday honours	18	L/N/I
Tue	Mickelberg case	4	L/N
	Howard in Washington	2, 3	N/I
	Australian tourist shot in Bali	24	N/I
Wed	World Cup Soccer	20	I
	Mickelberg case	4	L/N
	Howard in Washington	2, 3	N/I
Thu	Mickelberg case	4	L/N
	Howard in Washington	2, 3	N/I
	US military plane crash	5	I
Fri	Howard in Washington	2, 3	N/I
	Business tax reforms	6, 8	L
	Falconio case	4	N

Classification Key	
National politics	2
International politics	3
Police and crime	4
Military and defense	5
Economy/finance	6
Business, commerce, and industry	8
Social relations	18
Sports	20
Human interest stories	24

L = Local
N = National
I = International

One news item, the announcement of the Gallop government's business tax reforms was classified as a local story, while the Mickelberg case (*police and crime*) was seen as relevant to a local as well as national audience due to the re-emergence of the story after twenty years. Two of the news items appeared to make headlines in 6PR's news bulletins over the five research days: the Prime Minister's visit to Washington and the Mickelberg case. A more detailed analysis and examination of the major stories covered by the station is provided in Chapter 6, Findings.

CHAPTER 5

720 ABC RADIO

Introduction

The history and background of the ABC is marked by significant changes and expansions in both its communications and technological infrastructure. Some of these areas have been previously discussed by writers such as Inglis (1983), Petersen (1993) and Mansfield (1997). The purpose of this chapter however, is not to embark on a detailed discussion of the ABC as a media organisation, but rather to provide some insight into the newsroom operations of 720 ABC radio, the Perth- based metropolitan station.

Mission Statement

In a statement taken from the ABC's 2001 annual report, the broadcaster states that: "as Australia's national and major cultural organisation, the ABC's mission is to provide its audience with the best programs, performances, products and services it can acquire and produce". In order to fulfill this role, the ABC's mission statement further lists a number of objectives that the broadcaster incorporates in its operations:

- transmit independent, comprehensive and innovative national broadcasting services for all Australians.
- inform, entertain and contribute to a sense of national identity.
- reflect Australia's regional and cultural diversity.
- broadcast programs of an educational nature.
- contribute towards the diversity of broadcasting services in Australia.
- broadcast programs that provide a balance between wide appeal and specialised programs, making use of and being receptive to Australian creative resources.

- provide an independent service for the broadcasting of news and information regarding local, Australian and overseas events.
- contribute to public debate concerning issues and matters of importance to Australians.
- encourage and promote the musical, dramatic and other performing arts in Australia.
- transmit broadcasting programs outside Australia.
- utilise new production and delivery technologies to respond to audience needs.
(http://win.abc.net.au/corporate_affairs/corporate_documents/reports_submissions/arol/intro/ppl-apdf)

More specific to 720 ABC's mission is the statement made on its website:

"720 ABC Perth will break news, initiate discussion and be leaders in the analysis of issues relevant to the local community, while continuing to uphold the ABC standards of independence, accuracy, balance and fairness" (<http://www.abc.net.au/perth/about.htm>).

So, while the broadcaster has its own general mission statement, 720 ABC radio also incorporates the core values and objectives of the ABC as a whole media institution.

News Bulletins

ABC news bulletins and in particular those of 720 ABC radio, work within a broad editorial framework of one third international news, one third national and one third local and state news (Putnis et al, 2000, p.3). The news content of these bulletins generally comprise national and international political issues, however, other major stories are also covered. Further, during this observational study, 720 ABC's newsroom personnel indicated that the strongest story is always at the top of news bulletins and whether the item is considered of local, national or international interest, does not affect the priority given to that story. It is also important to note that like 6PR, 720 ABC radio dedicates a significant amount of time in its bulletins to the coverage of a wide range of sports.

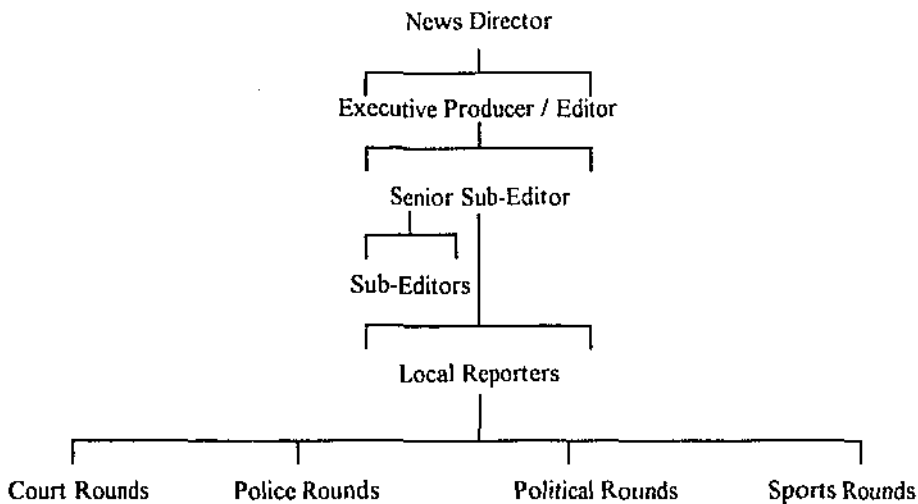
Perceived Target Audience

In casual interviews with newsroom personnel, the common assumption among staff members appeared to be that 720 ABC served “an intellectual audience who pays attention to detail”. This statement can be seen as a reflection of the station’s aim to provide listeners with in-depth and accurate information on major areas such as arts, science, religion, health, politics and law. According to other staff interviewed, 720 ABC’s target audience is very broad and although an age group was not specified, the audience or listener profile of the station was generally identified as being: “well-informed”, “well-educated” intellectual individuals, often consisting of students, and those working in professional occupations. Taking this into consideration, 720 ABC radio can be said to appeal to the slightly older listeners, as well as the younger, tertiary educated individuals.

Newsroom Structure

The 720 ABC radio newsroom is the centre of all news gathering operations as this is where stories flow in, where crucial decisions about newsworthiness are made, and more importantly, where news bulletins are sub-edited and edited for broadcasting. The diagram below (figure 1.10, see page 37) provides a basic outline of the 720 ABC newsroom structure. On closer examination, it is evident that a hierarchical structure is operational within this particular newsroom. This is shown in the station’s clearly defined roles and the concentration of power that flows from the top down. Generally, the news director is responsible for the daily running of newsroom operations as well as making any crucial news decisions. The executive producer or editor keeps track of all the daily prospects or local stories that flow into the newsroom and may make decisions on which local stories reporters are to cover. These stories are then assigned to the local reporters who work in specialised areas including police rounds, political rounds, court rounds and local sports (see figure 1.10).

Figure 1.10 720 ABC Radio Newsroom Structure



The ABC is the only media organisation that employs sub-editors for the sole purpose of checking all facts before news bulletins are broadcasted. The sub-editors' job is to make sure that stories are written strongly and clearly, that the facts are accurate, that the grammar is correct and that the timing of the news bulletin is checked. The sub-editors liaise with the senior sub-editor at any stage of this process. Although newsroom personnel at 720 ABC radio work in specialised areas, this is not to suggest that staff members are not also multi-skilled, and may thus work in other areas if required to do so. It is also important to emphasise that although the 720 ABC newsroom is based on a hierarchical structure, its success like most other media organisations, depends on the ability of newsroom personnel to work as a team.

Scale of Newsroom Operations

In attempting to determine the scale of newsroom operations that exists within 720 ABC radio, the researcher examined the following aspects:

- the on-line services used by the station.
- the number and location of ABC's overseas correspondents.
- the scope of their national reporter network.
- the number of local reporters working for 720 ABC.

On-line Services

During casual interviews with newsroom personnel, it emerged that 720 ABC accessed a number of on-line services for the purpose of news selection. These pre-determined sources of news listed in figure 1.11, were used on a regular basis by the station for obtaining national and international news information. Note that newsroom personnel also indicated that items taken from these on-line services were sub-edited and re-written to suit 720 ABC's news bulletin style.

Figure 1.11 On-line Services accessed by 720 ABC Radio

News Agencies	Other On-line Services
AAP	BBC
Reuters	CNN
	Fox Sports
	MediaNet

Overseas Correspondents

The ABC as a news organisation is generally known for its in-depth coverage on international issues and in particular, on politics of the world. The ABC has approximately sixteen overseas correspondents situated around the globe at any one time. These correspondents are located in ten different countries and are an invaluable source of information as they provide 720 ABC with international news as it is 'happening', and this is especially the case with major stories occurring in the United States, Europe and Asia.

The ABC has two international desks, one for radio and one for television and correspondents are expected to work for both media. These desks serve as a base for filtering stories through to the various ABC media outlets. Overseas correspondents remain in constant contact with the international desks via computer (electronic mail) or by phone. The gathering of stories or information from these overseas correspondents is generally done in the morning due to the overseas time difference. Correspondents also work with local producers for the news, in particular in London

and Washington. The following table (figure 1.12) shows the location and number of ABC overseas correspondents.

Figure 1.12 ABC's Overseas Correspondent Network

Country	City/Region	No. of Correspondents
Unites States	Washington, New York	4
United Kingdom	London	2
U.S.S.R	Moscow	2
Belgium	Brussels	1
South Africa	Johannesburg	2
Israel	Jerusalem	1
India	New Dehli	1
Indonesia	Jakarta	1
Thailand	Bangkok	1
Japan	Tokyo	1
Total		16

National Reporter Network

As well as relying on on-line services and overseas correspondents for news, 720 ABC radio also has its own contacts or national reporter network that operates across Australia. This network of reporters consist of journalists working for other ABC metropolitan radio stations which are based in eight major cities or regions including: Sydney, Newcastle, Canberra, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart and Darwin. Information coming in from these various is constantly relayed via the ABC computer network and may then be picked up by 720 ABC Perth. It is important to note that these stories are often locally based and are thus re-written for a national audience with less local detail.

Local Reporter Network

Although 720 ABC covers a wide range of national and international issues, the station's newsroom personnel also pointed out that people living in the Perth metropolitan area want to know, as one staff member stated, "what is going in their own backyard". The ABC strongly believes that an accurate account of 'what happened' is only possible if their local reporters are on the scene, talking to the people involved and "getting the story straight from the source". From this perspective, local

reporters working for 720 ABC are a highly valued source of news as they provide the station with local content for their news bulletins. At the time of this observational study there were approximately six local reporters working for 720 ABC in the areas of politics, law and enforcement and sport. These have been listed in further detail below (see figure 1.13).

Figure 1.13 720 ABC Local Reporter Network

Round	No. of Reporters
Court	1
Political	2
Police	1
Police Royal Comm.	1
Local sports	1
Total	6

Major Stories Covered

The researcher's observations of the 720 ABC newsroom took place from Monday, 17 June 2002 to Friday, 21 June 2002. Part of this observation involved an examination of the major stories covered by the broadcaster during the specified research period. The following table (figure 1.14) provides an overview of the three major stories covered each day by 720 ABC, over five consecutive days.

Figure 1.14 Week 2: Major stories covered by 720 ABC

	Major Stories Covered	Classification	L/N/I
Mon	Afghan refugee situation	2, 3	N/I
	International criminal court	2, 3	N/I
	Israeli security fence	3	I
Tue	Migration zone bill	2	N/I
	Disability pension/ Pharmaceutical scheme	2	N
	Loya Jirga	3	I
Wed	First strike policy	2, 3	N/I
	Fossett	24	L/N/I
	Mickelberg case	4	L/N
Thu	International Criminal Court	2, 3	N/I
	Middle East conflict	3	I
	Mickelberg case	4	L/N
Fri	Middle East conflict	3	I
	Police Royal Commission	4	L
	Stem cell research	17	N/I

Classification Key	
National politics	2
International politics	3
Police and crime	4
Science and technology	17
Human interest stories	24

L = Local
N = National
I = International

Six of the twelve major stories covered during this week were events considered to be of significance on a national and international level. Some issues appeared to have more coverage during this period over others. On closer examination of these news items it became evident that five of these six news items fit into the categories of *national and international politics*. These included, the decision on whether or not Australia should ratify the international criminal court, the Afghan refugee situation in Australia, the introduction of a migration zone bill and the first strike policy in the war against terrorism. During the same week two stories that originated from a local level received a *police and crime* classification. These items were the Mickelberg case and the introduction of new legislation for the Police Royal Commission. The Middle East conflict (an international as well as political news item) made headlines on 720 ABC near the end of the week. A more detailed analysis of the major stories covered by the station is given in Chapter 6.

CHAPTER 6

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Research and Analysis

Chapter 2 highlighted the fact that qualitative studies on news selection have mostly been conducted overseas, however, little research into this subject area has been carried out in Australia. Chapters 4 and 5 attempted to provide some insight into the radio newsroom operations of both 6PR and 720 ABC. These chapters incorporated a discussion of the major stories covered by each broadcaster during the observational study.

The aim of this research project was two fold, firstly it sought to discover which news sources (on-line services, overseas correspondents, network and local reporters) were available or accessed by 6PR and 720 ABC, and secondly it explored the influence that these news sources had selecting stories for the stations morning, midday and evening news bulletins. This chapter includes a discussion and analysis of the findings from this research.

Comparison of News Sources

The following tables (figure 1.15 and figure 1.16, see page 42) list the major stories that were broadcast by 6PR and 720 ABC over two consecutive weeks. The sources from which these new items originated are also identified. The researcher was able to gather this information by obtaining printed copies of 6PR's and 720 ABC's morning, midday and evening news bulletins. Journalists are often faced with time constraints thus is important to note here that human error may have affected the accuracy of these news sources outlined in the following tables.

Figure 1.15 Major Stories & their News Sources: 6PR (882)

News Item	Source(s)	Classification
Mickelberg case	local reporters, Channel 7, programs	5
Business tax reforms	local reporter	5
Pacific solution	net, network, 3AW	1, 2, 4
Falconio case	2UE, 3AW, wires, net	1, 2, 4
Australian tourist shot in Bali	2UE, wires	1, 2, 4
Queen's birthday honours	3AW	4
Howard in Washington	AAP, 2AW, 2UE, wires, US correspondent	1, 2, 3, 4
US military plane crash	3AW	4
World Cup soccer	Fox sports, CNN, AP	1, 2

Figure 1.16 Major Stories & their News Sources: 720 ABC Radio

News Item	Source(s)	Classification
Mickelberg case	local reporter	5
Fossett	local reporter	5
Police Royal Commission	local reporter	5
Disability pension/ pharmaceutical benefits scheme	Canberra	4
Migration zone bill	Canberra	4
International criminal court	Canberra	4
First strike policy	Canberra	4
Afghann refugee situation	Canberra, Sydney	4
Israel security fence	Sydney, Israel correspondent	4, 3
Middle East conflict	BBC, Sydney, Middle East correspondent	1, 4, 3
Loya Jirga	Sydney, New Delhi correspondent, BBC	1, 4, 3
World Cup soccer	Fox sports, CNN, wires	1, 2

Classification Key	
On-line services	1
News agencies	2
Overseas correspondents	3
National reporter network	4
Local reporter network	5

Findings

These findings underline the similarities and differences that exist between 6PR and 720 ABC with regard to the pre-determined news sources accessed for story information. These results clearly indicate that there is a heavy reliance on some news sources over others. It appears that 6PR's national reporter network is the most frequently used source of news, particularly in terms of news stories which are relevant on a national level. This includes items such as the Pacific solution, the Falconio case and the Prime Minister's visit to Washington. Local and state news stories like the Mickelberg case and the Gallop government's business tax reforms typically originate from the broadcaster's local reporter network as well as their close relationship with Channel Seven reporters. It is also evident that news and current affairs content from 6PR's programs is another source of information for the station's news bulletins, especially with breaking news such as the Mickelberg case. In addition to this, it was found that a number of different sources were available to 6PR for gathering information on news items. For instance, the Prime Minister's visit to Washington was sourced from 6PR's on-line services such as AAP, as well as their national reporter network (3AW, Melbourne and 2UE, Sydney) and their overseas correspondent situated in the United States.

In the examination of news sources frequented by 720 ABC, the results indicate that there is a substantial reliance on the station's national reporter network (see figure 1.16). It is clearly evident that information for Australian political stories such as the federal government's decision to ratify the international criminal court and the migration zone bill mainly originate from ABC's national reporter network which operates within Canberra's parliament house. International news items such as the

building of a security fence in Israel, the Middle East conflict and the re-shuffling of Afghanistan's Loya Jirga (or Grand Assembly) appear to be sourced from the national reporter network in Sydney, the on-line services of BBC and ABC's overseas correspondents located in Israel, the Middle East and India. Further, the findings in this observational study show that news stories which are relevant on a local or regional level such as the Mickelberg case, Police Royal Commission and Steve Fossett's balloon launch are accessed from 720 ABC's local reporter network.

Overall, these results clearly indicate that both broadcasters depend on their national reporter network for a majority of their national news content and in the case of 720 ABC, their international internet network. The reason for this in 6PR's case may be due to the strong relationship with other stations owned by Southern Cross Broadcasting such as 2UE in Sydney and 3AW in Melbourne. 720 ABC on the other hand also has strong ties with other ABC metropolitan stations located across Australia. The ease of sharing this information through the stations phone lines (6PR) and computer network (720 ABC) can thus be said to have some influence in determining news selection. However, what the findings also point to is the fact that news stories broadcast by 6PR and 720 ABC are largely determined by the availability of information coming from these pre-determined news sources. All the same, it can be argued that 720 ABC has a more extensive correspondent network both nationally and internationally, and thus relies less on news agency material than 6PR.

News Content Analysis

Chapter 3 outlined a modified version of Shoemaker's classification table for news content analysis (see figure 1.6). This was then employed in this study for the analysis and classification of major stories broadcast by 6PR and 720 ABC, during the research period. The incorporation of this table was important in the examination of news items which appeared in the morning, midday and evening news bulletins. This type of approach or framework was necessary, not only for the accurate presentation of the main findings, but also to determine the kinds of stories that were broadcast by 6PR

and 720 ABC. The tables below (figure 1.17 and figure 1.18) provide a comparison of the major stories covered by each station.

Figure 1.17 Week 1: Comparison of Major Stories Covered

	6PR	Code	720 ABC	Code
Mon	Pacific solution	2, 3	Perth to Mandurah railway	9
	Howard in Washington	2, 3	Pacific solution	2, 3
	Queen's birthday honours	18	Migration zone bill	2
Tue	Mickelberg case	4	Mickelberg case	4
	Howard in Washington	2, 3	N-bomb arrest/U.S.	4
	Australian tourist shot in Bali	24	Air traffic strike	8
Wed	Mickelberg case	4	Mickelberg case	4
	World Cup soccer	20	Howard in Washington	2, 3
	Howard in Washington	2, 3	Bungle Bungle search	24
Thu	Mickelberg case	4	Mickelberg case	4
	Howard in Washington	2, 3	Pacific solution	2, 3
	US Military Plane Crash	5	Navy/Gurr inquiry	5
Fri	Howard in Washington	2, 3	Pacific solution	2, 3
	Business tax reforms	6, 8	Loya Jirga	3
	Falconio case	4	Business tax reforms	8

Classification Key	
National politics	2
International politics	3
Police and crime	4
Military and defense	5
Economy/finance	6
Business, commerce, and industry	8
Transportation	9
Health, welfare and social services	10
Social relations	18
Sports	20
Human interest stories	24

Figure 1.18 Week 2: Comparison of Major Stories Covered

	720 ABC	Code	6PR	Code
Mon	Afghan refugee situation International criminal court Israel security fence	2 2, 3 3	Disability pension / pharm. benefits scheme Credit card reforms International criminal court	10 6 2, 3
Tue	Migration zone bill Disability support pension / pharm. benefits scheme Loya Jirga	2 10 3	Disability pension / pharm. benefits scheme Tobacco case Police Royal Commission	10 8 4
Wed	First strike policy Fossett launch Mickelberg case	2, 3 24 4	Mickelberg case Fossett launch First strike policy	4 24 2, 3
Thu	International criminal court Middle East conflict Mickelberg case	2, 3 3 4	Mickelberg case Migration zone bill International criminal court	4 2 2, 3
Fri	Middle East conflict Police Royal Commission World Cup soccer	3 4 20	Bank fees World Cup soccer International criminal court	8 20 2, 3

Classification Key	
National politics	2
International politics	3
Police and crime	4
Military and defense	5
Economy/finance	6
Business, commerce, and industry	8
Transportation	9
Health, welfare and social services	10
Social relations	18
Sports	20
Human interest stories	24

In some instances it was difficult for the researcher to select the three major stories which were “making news” on a particular day, therefore the major news items were selected using these following criteria:

- the priority given to a news story in the morning, midday and evening news bulletins.
- whether the story appeared in the first third, middle third, or last third of the news bulletin.

- whether the news item was covered in more than one of the three news bulletins (morning, midday and evening).

Note that AFL broadcasts on Friday at 720 ABC resulted in the examination of the evening news bulletin for this station at five o'clock on two of the research days, June 14 and June 21, 2002.

The classification of news items followed Shoemaker's approach (figure 1.6) as well as Grundy's (1980a) view that the selection of news items is often affected by factors such as where the story happened, as well as what happened (p.104). Generally, news stories were considered to be one or a combination of the following:

- local (relating to the metropolitan area in which the stations broadcast from, in the instance, Perth).
- state or regional (stories of relevance to people living in Western Australia).
- international (information sourced from other countries).

Findings

On close examination of the results outlined in figures 1.17 and 1.18, it becomes apparent that there is a differing opinion in what 6PR and 720 ABC consider to be 'news'. This is not only evident in the priority stories are given, but also in the amount of coverage devoted to a particular news item over others.

Considering 6PR newsroom personnel portray the station as being at the forefront of local issues, a surprising finding in this study is that contrary to this belief, the station's news bulletins actually tend to cover more events of national rather than local significance. This is evident in the selection of news items such as the Prime Minister's visit to Washington (*national and international politics*), the federal government's Pacific solution situation (*national and international politics*) and the Falconio case (*police and crime*) (figure 1.17). In particular, it is interesting to note that although 720 ABC's news bulletins have an emphasis on politics, more attention was

paid to the Prime Minister's visit to Washington on 6PR where the story made headlines on five of the research days. The reasons for this is possibly due to a number of circumstances including the fact that 6PR has strong established contacts within the government; that the station relies heavily on their national reporter network for political stories and; the fact that the station has a correspondent based in the United States. In addition to this, the Prime Minister is often a guest on 2UE's talkback programs and this may indicate the availability of Australia's foremost political voices to 6PR. However, it also ties the station's news reporting closer to the political issues. Further, this finding also supports Galtung and Ruge's (1965) identification of news values which outlined that references to elite people (the Prime Minister) and references to elite nations (the United States) as two of the characteristics which determine news selection. Overall, these results show that 6PR's coverage of local news was less than initially thought. This could be due to the fact that a city of Perth's size has a limited ability to produce a wide variety of local news content or it could merely be an indication of the limited resources in terms of the number and availability of local reporters working for 6PR.

During the same week, the breaking news of the Mickelberg case made headlines on three of the five days at 6PR and 720 ABC. The results in figure 1.17 clearly indicate that a significant amount of coverage was given to this *police and crime* story by both stations. This finding can be justified in terms of its importance on a local as well as a national level and the unexpected nature of this event which was brought to the media's attention, promising to unravel a high profile crime case twenty years later. This characteristic of 'unexpectedness' is also outlined by Galtung and Ruge, who in their analysis of news values emphasised that the more unexpected the event is, the more likely it is to become news. This certainly proved to be the case in this instance. It is also interesting to note that both 6PR and 720 ABC pay much attention to crime stories such as the Mickelberg case, Falconio case and the Police Royal Commission in their news bulletins (see figure 1.18). In fact, at the time of this research, 720 ABC had a local reporter who was assigned solely for the purpose of reporting on the Police

Royal Commission. This clearly emphasises the broadcaster's watchdog role in the reporting of news which is in the public interest.

When comparing the news items broadcast by both stations over the two research weeks, results show that 720 ABC devotes a substantial amount of its news coverage to national and international politics. This is no surprise considering that the broadcaster's emphasis is on political issues and events that are making news on a national as well as an international level. In fact, six of the twelve (or half) of the news stories covered in the second research week (see figure 1.18) fell into the categories of *national and international politics*. These were, the Afghan refugee situation, international criminal court, Israel security fence, migration zone bill, first strike policy and the Middle East conflict. This extensive coverage of political stories could be due to the fact that greater resources are available to 720 ABC in terms of its national reporter network as well as its overseas correspondent network.

According to Masterton's (1992a) description of news values (see figure 1.1), *human interest* stories are generally about the interests people have in other people. The attempt by American balloonist Steve Fossett, to circumnavigate the globe in sixteen days, received a notable amount of coverage on 720 ABC and 6PR in the second research week (see figure 1.18). This *human interest* story was classified as being relevant on a local level due to the balloon's launch from Northam (a small town located north-east of Perth), a national level, as updates of Fossett's travels across the Australian continent were given, as well as an international level (when the balloon crossed other parts of the world). Although it was only considered a major news item on Wednesday (the official launch of the balloon from Northam), this story appeared in both stations news bulletins throughout the week (see appendix B and E). The reason for the attention paid to Fossett's balloon launch (a soft news story) by the broadcasters is simply because they provide a balance between the hard news stories such as the Mickelberg case and Middle East conflict which appear in the stations news bulletins. This is apparent from the placement of this human interest news story in the middle third of the bulletins. However, this being the only human interest story making news

shows, as Galtung and Ruge established, that the news is often dedicated to elite people from elite nations.

The World Cup soccer finals, an international sporting event, received a significant amount of coverage on 6PR as well as 720 ABC. Particular attention was paid to this event on Friday due to Brazil's victory over England and both stations appeared to give this item top priority in their evening bulletins (see figure 1.18), (appendix C and E). In fact, a survey conducted by *Media Monitors Australia* revealed that the World Cup soccer was one of the most-mentioned news items in both the print and broadcast media during the week of 17 June to 23 June (The Australian, 2002, p.2). It is important to note that updates and results of this event were given by 6PR and 720 ABC throughout the week (appendix C and E). The reason for such extensive coverage of this sporting event may be due to the fact that both stations have a time slot set aside for sports news in their bulletins.

Discussion

Shoemaker (1996) in 'Hardwired for news' argued that deviance or potential threats in the environment, whether real or perceived, are possible determinants (or factors) for how news is selected by journalists. It is evident from these findings that it is not necessarily the stories themselves but the kinds of stories broadcast, that influence news selection for 6PR's and 720 ABC's bulletins. In particular, stories that were classified in the categories of *national* and *international politics* as well as *police* and *crime* appeared to be covered more frequently by the broadcasters. Although news items such as the Middle East conflict and the government's expression of support for the United States first strike policy can be considered deviant in terms of their consequences (the real potential for war), this concept outlined by Shoemaker appears to be of greater influence in the selection of local police and crime news stories at 6PR and 720 ABC.

Further, these results highlight the argument outlined by Grundy (1980a), that judgments about what is considered to be 'news' by the two local broadcasters, largely depends on the significance of what happened as well as where it happened. Indeed, some of Masterton's (1992a) six international criteria for news selection such as consequence (first strike policy), human interest (Fossett), conflict (Middle East) and proximity (Mickelberg case) appear to be operational within 6PR's and 720 ABC's news bulletins. But these news values do not in anyway appear to point to a common approach or process that is applied by both stations in news selection. Although some similarities in relation to the kinds of news stories covered do exist, the findings from this study show that both 6PR and 720 ABC have a differing view in terms of what they considerer to be 'news'. And this consequently tends to affect the amount of coverage and the priority given to certain news items over others.

CONCLUSION

Earlier in this thesis it was emphasised that the debate about what is news is ongoing. This observational study examined the question of what is news in terms of the type of news stories broadcast by 6PR and 720 ABC over two consecutive weeks and also explored the notion that pre-determined news sources indeed had a significant influence on news selection.

Galtung and Ruge's (1965) study took the concept of news selection to another level by suggesting that events which appeared in the mass media could generally be classified into a number of categories. Tunstall (1971) pointed out that news values merely provided a general guideline for journalists in deciding what is newsworthy and what is not. Contrary to this belief, Masterton (1992a) discovered that news values indeed had a worldwide application across the journalism profession.

Results from this study suggest that news values such as proximity, consequence and human interest appear to be operational within news bulletins at 6PR and 720 ABC. However, what was not part of this research and thus cannot be determined is whether these news values consciously shape the kinds of decisions made by journalists during the news selection process.

What this study does show is that research into the process of news selection with reference to the broadcast media, and in particular radio, needs further exploration in Australia. And, given the fact that this study was conducted on a small scale, further research into this subject area is required. However, this is not to suggest that observations made by the researcher are any less valid. The findings and results produced from this research serve the purpose of providing some contribution to previous studies in the journalism field and may ultimately open up the avenue for future research into this area.

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APPENDIX A

SHOEMAKER'S CLASSIFICATIONS FOR NEWS CONTENT ANALYSIS

Theoretical and operational definitions for content analysis variables.

Variable	Theoretical definition	Operational definition
<i>Item number</i>	The news item's case identification number.	0 - 9,999 (USA) 10,000 - 19,999 (Australia) 20,000 - 29,999 (Chile) 30,000 - 39,999 (China) 40,000 - 49,999 (India) 50,000 - 59,999 (Jordan) 60,000 - 69,999 (Russia) 70,000 - 79,999 (South Africa) 80,000 - 89,999 (Germany) 90,000 - 99,999 (Israel)
<i>Medium name</i>	The name of the medium the news item appeared in.	I.D. numbers will be assigned by Syracuse University. (1) Berliner Zeitung (2) SFB Abendschau (3) Berliner Rundfunk 91.4 (4) Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz (5) SWR Rheinland-Pfalz Aktuell (6) RPR 1
<i>Date</i>	Day the news item appeared.	Day/Month/Year
<i>Weekday</i>	Weekday the news item appeared.	(1) Monday (2) Tuesday (3) Wednesday (4) Thursday (5) Friday (6) Saturday (7) Sunday
<i>Topic #1</i> <i>Topic #2</i> <i>Topic #3</i>	Topic/s discussed in the news item (select up to three topics).	<i>Note: Listed here are only the major categories. Please see content analysis codebook for detailed subcodes:</i> (1) Internal politics. (2) International politics. (3) Military and defense. (4) Internal order. (5) Economy. (6) Labor relations and trade unions. (7) Business, commerce, and industry. (8) Transportation. (9) Health, welfare, and social services. (10) Population. (11) Education. (12) Communication. (13) Housing. (14) Environment. (15) Energy. (16) Science/technology. (17) Social relations. (18) Disasters/accidents/epidemics. (19) Sports. (20) Cultural events. (21) Fashion/beauty. (22) Ceremonies. (23) Human interest stories. (24) Weather. (25) Entertainment. (26) Other.
Variable	Theoretical definition	Operational definition

<i>Teaser</i>	Whether the item is a story or teaser.	(1) Story. (2) Teaser.
<i>Nature</i>	Nature of the news item.	(1) Hard news. (2) Soft news. (3) Editorials. (4) Reviews. (5) Columns. (6) Letters to the editor. (9) Other, specify.
<i>Item size #1 (TEXT)</i>	Amount of coverage for textual elements of newspaper news item.	<i>Newspaper news items only:</i> Square centimeters devoted to a news item's text.
<i>Item size #2 (VISUALS)</i>	Amount of coverage for visual elements of newspaper news item.	<i>Newspaper news items only:</i> Square centimeters devoted to a news item's visuals.
<i>Item length</i>	The television or radio news item's amount of coverage.	<i>Television and radio news items only:</i> Seconds devoted to a news item.
<i>Item placement (NP)</i>	The newspaper news item's placement within a medium.	<i>Newspaper news items only:</i> (3) Front page -item starts on the first page. (2) Section front -item starts on the first page of any section but the first. (1) Any other position.
<i>Item placement (TV&R)</i>	The television or radio news item's placement within a medium.	<i>Television and radio news items only.</i> The news item starts in the ... (3) first third of the news program. (2) middle third of the news program. (1) last third of the news program.
<i>Proximity</i>	The geographical distance between the events or characters described in the news item and the location of the media outlet that published the news item.	The news item occurred in the/a ... (1) same community that the medium is in. (2) region surrounding the community the medium is in. (3) country the medium is in. (4) country other than that the medium is in. (9) Not available.
<i>Scope</i>	The geographic treatment of the news item.	The news item is treated ... (1) on a local level. (2) on a regional level. (3) on a national level. (4) on an international level.

Variable	Theoretical definition	Operational definition
<i>Statistical deviance</i>	How unusual or uncommon an event is - compared to how often the event would normally occur.	This is ... (1) common information that can be found all the time. (2) somewhat unusual information which can be found from time to time. (3) unusual information that can rarely be found. (4) information extremely unusual and totally unexpected.
<i>Social change deviance</i>	A news item's potential to threaten or change the status quo in a city, region, country, or the international system.	The information provided represents ... (1) <i>no threat</i> to the status quo. (2) a <i>minimal</i> threat to the status quo. (3) a <i>moderate</i> threat to the status quo. (4) a <i>major</i> threat to the status quo.
<i>Normative deviance</i>	The degree to which a news item breaks a city's, region's, country's, or international norms or laws.	The information provided represents ... (1) <i>no violation</i> of any norms or laws. (2) a <i>minimal violation</i> of one or more norms or laws. (3) a <i>moderate violation</i> of one or more norms or laws. (4) a <i>major violation</i> of one or more norms or laws.
<i>News valence</i>	The valence of the information provided - whether it is good or bad news - from the perspective of the common person.	The information provided contains ... (1) mostly <i>negative</i> news valence. (2) <i>neutral or ambivalent</i> news valence. (3) mostly <i>positive</i> news valence.
<i>Political significance</i>	The extent to which the content of an item has potential or actual impact on the relationship between people and government or between governments, including the judicial, legislative, and executive subsystems.	The information provided is ... (1) <i>not at all</i> politically significant. (2) of <i>minimal</i> political significance. (3) of <i>moderate</i> political significance. (4) of <i>major</i> political significance.
<i>Economic significance</i>	The extent to which the content of the news item has potential or actual impact on the exchange of goods and services, including the monetary system, business, tariffs, labor, transportation, job markets, resources, and infrastructure.	The information provided is ... (1) <i>not at all</i> economically significant. (2) of <i>minimal</i> economic significance. (3) of <i>moderate</i> economic significance. (4) of <i>major</i> economic significance.
<i>Cultural significance</i>	The extent to which the content of a news item has potential or actual impact on a social system's traditions, institutions, and norms, such as religion, ethnicity, arts.	The information provided is ... (1) <i>not at all</i> culturally significant. (2) of <i>minimal</i> cultural significance. (3) of <i>moderate</i> cultural significance. (4) of <i>major</i> cultural significance.
<i>Public significance</i>	The enhancements or threats a new item represents for the public's well-being.	The information provided is ... (1) <i>not at all</i> significant to the public's well-being. (2) of <i>minimal</i> significance to the public's well-being. (3) of <i>moderate</i> significance to the public's well-being. (4) of <i>major</i> significance to the public's well-being.

APPENDIX B

TAPE RECORDED NEWS BULLETINS

6PR (882)

Week 1: Monday, 10 June 2002 to Friday, 14 June 2002

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
Mon	Jun 10	8:00 am	Howard/Wash.	0:48
			Pacific solution	0:23
			Pepper spray inc.	0:39
			Queen's Honours	0:29
			Finance	0:26
			Sport	1:03
			Tennis	0:36
			Soccer	0:10
			Motor racing	0:08
			AFL	0:09
			Traffic	0:41
			Ad break	1:00
			Weather	0:14
		12:00 pm	Pacific solution	0:50
			Whale rescue	0:27
			Howard/Wash.	1:12
			Queen's Honours	0:30
			Finance	0:07
			Sport (total)	0:19
			AFL	0:19
			Traffic	0:23
			Ad break	1:00
			Weather	0:17
		5:00 pm	Mickelberg case	0:33
			Asian gangs	0:38
			Mandurah rail link	0:46
			Whale rescue	0:26
			Pacific Solution	0:36
			Sport (total)	1:15
			AFL	1:00
			World Cup Soc.	0:15
			Traffic	0:11
			Ad break	1:00
			Weather	0:24

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)	
Tue	Jun 11	8:00 am	Mickelberg case	0:44	
			Howard/Wash.	0:41	
			N-bomb arrest/US	0:46	
			Consumers/chickens	0:16	
			Finance	0:21	
			Sport (total)	0:44	
			WAFI.	0:31	
			World Cup Soc.	0:13	
			Traffic	0:48	
			Ad break	1:00	
			Weather	0:31	
			12:00 pm	Mickelberg case	0:59
				Aus. tour shot/Bali	0:19
				Howard/Wash.	1:00
		Actress dies		0:39	
		Dinosaur study		0:29	
		Finance		0:11	
		Sport (total)		0:33	
		WA Cricket		0:33	
		Traffic		0:12	
		Ad break		1:00	
		Weather		n/a	
		5:00 pm		Mickelberg case	2:03
				Falconio case	0:39
			Aus. tour shot/Bali	0:23	
			Sport (total)	1:12	
			World Cup Soc.	0:18	
AFL	0:31				
WA Cricket Acad	0:33				
Traffic	0:13				
(Ad break)	1:00				
Weather	0:35				
Wed	Jun 12	8:00 am	Rebuilding/Pentagon	0:45	
			Falconio case	0:41	
			Kimberlies search	0:44	
			Missing teen	0:26	
			Qantas strike	0:43	
			Finance	0:21	
			Sport (total)	0:46	
			Tennis	0:11	
			World Cup Soc.	0:29	
			Cricket	0:06	
			Traffic	0:37	
			(Ad break)	1:00	
			Weather	0:30	
			12:00 pm	Wrongful life case	0:50
		Howard/Wash.		0:42	
		Jayden Leskie case		0:45	

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			AFL court case	0:39
			Finance	0:11
			Sport (total)	0:55
			AFL	0:30
			World Cup Soc.	0:14
			Cricket	0:11
			Traffic	0:21
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:19
		5:00 pm	Mickelberg case	0:45
			Catholic Church	0:38
			House levy	0:37
			Red Cross./blood don.	0:29
			Fossett	0:39
			Sport (total)	1:07
			World Cup Soc.	0:15
			AFL	0:41
			Cricket	0:11
			Traffic	0:14
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:33
Thu	Jun 13	8:00 am	Howard/Wash.	0:33
			Mickelberg case	0:49
			Hollingworth/WA	0:15
			US mil. plane crash	0:28
			Finance	0:26
			Sport (total)	0:56
			Cricket	0:32
			World Cup Soc.	0:24
			Traffic	0:48
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:23
		12:00 pm	Howard/Wash	0:54
			Mickelberg case	1:00
			Pacific solution	0:40
			US mil. plane crash	0:31
			NZ court case	0:37
			Finance	0:11
			Sport (total)	0:39
			World Cup Soc.	0:39
			Traffic	0:12
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:17
		5:00 pm	Federal court case	0:39
			Mickelberg case	0:39
			Sydney murder case	0:45
			NZ court case	0:28
			Fossett	0:35

APPENDIX C

TAPE RECORDED NEWS BULLETINS

6PR (882)

Week 2: Monday, 17 June 2002 to Friday, 21 June 2002

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
Mon	Jun 17	8:00 am	East Timor flag	0:28
			Dis. pen./pharm sch.	0:43
			CC reforms	0:35
			Medical indem. ins.	0:35
			Finance	0:28
			Sport (total)	0:45
			Tennis	0:10
			AFL	0:23
			Golf	0:12
			Traffic	0:48
		(Ad break)	1:00	
		Weather	0:16	
		12:00 pm	Int. criminal court	1:01
			Stem cell research	0:22
			WA census results	0:44
			CC reforms	0:26
			Teleport laser	0:37
			Elvis song	0:46
			Finance	0:12
			Sport (total)	0:12
			Golf	0:12
			Traffic	0:14
		(Ad break)	1:00	
		Weather	0:19	
		5:00 pm	Dis. pen./pharm sch.	0:35
			Police officer case	0:41
			Catholic Church	0:34
Swim coach controversy	0:53			
Finance	0:14			
Sport (total)	0:58			
World Cup Soc.	0:23			
Golf	0:35			
Traffic	0:16			
(Ad break)	1:00			

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			Weather	0:33
Tue	Jun 18	8:00 am	Dis. pen/pharm sch.	0:37
			GST fraud case	0:37
			Tobacco case	0:38
			Finance	0:26
			Sport (total)	1:30
			AFL	0:55
			World Cup Soc.	0:16
			Tennis	0:13
			Cricket	0:06
			Traffic	0:50
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:26
		12:00 pm	Police Royal Comm.	0:36
			Dis. pens/pharm sch.	0:41
			Tobacco case	0:36
			Plane crash/California	0:16
			Rifkin case	0:31
			Aus. troops/Afghan.	0:34
			Egg donor	0:18
			Finance	0:14
			Sport (total)	0:32
			AFL	0:32
			Traffic	0:13
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:19
		5:00 pm	Middle East conflict	0:48
			Navy/Gurr inquiry	0:34
			Unauth. acc. Case	0:51
			Virgin Blue/Perth	0:21
			Fossett	0:27
			Finance	0:14
			Sport (total)	0:32
			AFL	0:25
			World Cup Soc.	0:07
			Traffic	0:12
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:25
Wed	Jun 19	8:00 am	First strike policy	0:38
			Migration zone bill	0:48
			Fossett	0:39
			Buss. profit levels	0:30
			Finance	0:26
			Sport (total)	0:48
			World Cup Soc.	0:24
			Cricket	0:24
			Traffic	0:53
			(Ad break)	1:00

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			Weather	0:23
		12:00 pm	Mickelberg case	0:45
			Fossett	0:47
			Water wasters	0:36
			Smith Family/school	0:36
			Salv. Army pay claim	0:42
			Finance	0:13
			Sport (total)	0:42
			Cricket	0:30
			AFL	0:12
			Traffic	0:13
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:19
		5:00 pm	Mickelberg case	0:47
			Migratioone bill	0:36
			First strike policy	0:45
			Aus. detainee returns	0:22
			Fossett	0:37
			Finance	0:14
			Sport (total)	0:46
			Cricket	0:21
			AFL	0:25
			Traffic	0:14
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:22
Thu	Jun 20	8:00 am	Int. criminal court	0:24
			First strike policy	0:44
			Doc./Fall Of The Fort	0:44
			Billy Joel/subs. abuse	0:41
			Finance	0:26
			Sport (total)	0:47
			Cricket	0:33
			AFL	0:14
			Traffic	0:54
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:19
		12:00 pm	Mickelberg case	0:29
			Migration zone bill	0:43
			White House evacuation	0:58
			Billabong bush track	0:40
			Finance	0:16
			Sport (total)	0:14
			AFL	0:32
			World Cup Soc.	0:32
			Soccer Australia	0:18
			Traffic	1:00
			(Ad break)	0:34
			Weather	0:33

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
		5:00 pm	Girl/sky light acc.	0:29
			Mickeiberg case	0:43
			Dble dis. election	0:58
			Uranium mines	0:40
			Fossett	0:16
			Finance	0:14
			Sport (total)	0:32
			AFL	0:32
			Traffic	0:18
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:34

Fri	Jun 21	8:00 am	Bank fees	0:43
			Build. indem insurance	0:33
			Anti-canc. campaigns	0:47
			Fossett	0:38
			Finance	9:27
			Sport (total)	0:49
			AFL	0:34
			World Cup Soc.	0:15
			Traffic	0:53
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:24
		12:00 pm	Bank fees	0:39
			Int. criminal court	0:33
			Family feud/Collie	0:32
			Student flights	0:17
			Charity yacht race	0:19
			Finance	0:14
			Sport (total)	0:45
			AFL	0:30
			Golf	0:15
			Traffic	0:14
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:22
		5:00 pm	World Cup Soc.	0:55
			Bank fees	0:27
			Govt./youth clubs	0:30
			Optus/Foxtel merger	0:29
			US/executions	0:40
			Finance	0:15
			Sport (total)	0:36
			AFL	0:36
			Traffic	0:14
			(Ad break)	1:00
			Weather	0:23

APPENDIX D

TAPE RECORDED NEWS BULLETINS

720 ABC Radio

Week 1: Monday, 10 June 2002 to Friday, 14 June 2002

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)			
Mon	Jun 10	7:45 am	Mandurah Rail link	1:31			
			Pepper spray inc.	0:49			
			Pacific solution	0:56			
			Migration zone bill	1:17			
			Catholic Church	1:04			
			Queen's Honours	1:13			
			Howard/Wash.	0:50			
			Arafat cab. re-shuffle	0:49			
			Middle East conflict	0:13			
			Loya Jirga	0:55			
			Centrelink plan	0:47			
			Bungled invasion	0:15			
			Sport (total)	1:37			
			World Cup Soc.	1:08			
			Tennis	0:24			
			AFL	0:32			
			Grand Prix	0:06			
			Superbikes	0:05			
			Triathlon	0:05			
			Hockey	0:03			
			Golf	0:14			
			Weather	0:37			
					12:00 pm	Pacific solution	0:49
						Youth immig. inq.	0:35
						BHP steel strike	0:52
						Mandurah rail link	0:54
						State Governors	0:30
						Whale rescue	0:33
						Pat. toothfish case	0:25
						Sport (total)	1:04
						Weather	0:59
		6:00 pm	Mickelberg case	1:31			
			Mandurah rail link	0:49			
			Migration zone bill	0:53			

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			Pacific solution	0:58
			Zimb. bus crash	0:19
			UN World Summit	0:13
			Youth immig/inq.	0:58
			Middle East	0:57
			Pat. toothfish case	0:48
			Tom Domican case	0:42
			Furn. co. insolv. case	0:18
			Sport (total)	0:36
			AFL	0:25
			World Cup Soc.	0:11
			Weather	0:29
Tue	Jun 11	7:45 am	Mickelberg case	2:14
			N-bomb arrest/US	2:06
			Howard/Wassh.	0:58
			Migration zone bill	1:04
			Air traffic strike	0:58
			Maroney death	0:50
			Air ban lifted/India	0:54
			Middle East conflict	0:46
			Bush fires/US Col.	0:26
			Mafia boss death	0:16
			Bus crash/Zimbabwe	0:45
			Sport (total)	1:21
			WAFL	0:33
			World Cup Soc.	0:33
			Tennis	0:15
			AFL	0:27
			Cricket	0:06
			Athletics	0:03
			Cycling	0:04
			Weather	0:22
		12:00 pm	Mickelberg case	0:57
			Theanopolous jailed	0:48
			Pacific solution	0:51
			N-bomb arrest/US	0:45
			Anti-terrorism bill	0:23
			Air traffic strike	0:41
			Traffic accident	0:17
			Loya Jirga	0:45
			South Africa/HIV	0:51
			Dis. pen/pharm. sch.	0:52
			Sport (total)	1:07
			AFL	0:26
			World Cup Soc.	0:17
			Cricket	0:19
			Tennis	0:05
			Little River Band	0:38
			Weather	0:33

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
		6:00 pm	Mickelberg case	1:40
			Interest rate rise	0:50
			Air space ban/India	1:01
			Nurses pay dispute	0:54
			Falconio case	0:18
			Loya Jirga	1:01
			Perth break-in	0:55
			Whale rescue	0:34
			House fire	0:24
			Sport (total)	1:08
			World Cup Soc.	0:22
			Cricket	0:29
			AFL	0:17
			Weather	0:49
Wed	Jun 12	7:45 am	Property levy	1:32
			Kimberlies search	0:47
			Missing teen	0:31
			Falconio case	1:10
			Alcoa breaches	1:20
			Mickelberg case	1:22
			Air traffic strike	0:54
			Howard/Wash.	0:49
			N-bomb arrest/US	0:39
			Middle East conflict	0:57
			Loya Jirga	0:13
			Beattle wedding	0:43
			Sport (total)	1:48
			World Cup Soc.	0:47
			Tennis	0:15
			Golf	0:05
			AFL	0:31
			Swim coach controversy	0:18
			Grljusich honoured	0:32
			Weather	0:22
		12:00 pm	Mickelberg case	1:35
			Alcoa breaches	0:52
			Howard/Wash.	0:46
			N-bomb arrest/US	1:02
			Middle East conflict	0:24
			Kimberlies search	0:44
			Build. Royal Comm.	0:44
			Murdoch/Euro dispute	0:59
			Rabbit Proof Fence	0:38
			Sport (total)	0:35
			Rugby Union	0:26
			Cricket	0:09
			Weather	1:01
		6:00 pm	Mickelberg case	1:58
			Health diag. machine	0:36

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			Catholic Church	0:40
			Hollingworth/WA	0:51
			Dog attack/QLD	0:15
			Food short./Nth Kor.	0:19
			Medical indem. ins.	0:57
			Medibank Private	0:33
			Interest rate rise	0:44
			Mob. ph. Coverage	0:36
			N-bomb arrest/US	0:36
			Sport (total)	0:35
			World Cup Soc.	0:22
			Cricket	0:13
			Weather	0:26

Thu	Jun 13	7:45 am	Item	Duration
			Howard/Wash.	0:41
			N-bomb arrest/US	0:48
			Brit. mil./war terror	0:38
			Hollingworth/WA	1:06
			Mickelberg case	1:44
			O/night storms/Perth	0:40
			Pacific solution	1:22
			Navy/Gurr inquiry	0:38
			Oil/gas price cap	0:51
			Air traffic strike	0:27
			CC reformd	0:55
			US mil. plane crash	0:30
			Rumsfeld/Afghan.	0:26
			Arafat/siege	0:18
			China floods	0:30
			Sport (total)	1:36
			World Cup Soc.	0:40
			Cricket	0:32
			Tennis	0:12
			Golf	0:06
			Hockey	0:06
			Weather	0:15
		12:00 pm		
			Buss. tax reforms	0:48
			BHP Billiton cont.	0:47
			Navy/Gurr inquiry	0:45
			US mil. plane crash	0:49
			Mickelberg case	0:50
			Brown controversy	0:42
			Falconio case	0:48
			Rumsfeld/Afghan.	0:45
			US jour./Zimbabwe	0:50
			Murder trial/Sydney	0:17
			BRL Hardy/China	0:44
			Sport (total)	0:56
			Swim coach cont.	0:13
			AFL	0:14
			World Cup Soc.	0:13

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			Tennis	0:08
			NBA	0:08
			Weather	0:29
		6:00 pm	Lawyer vs magistrate	1:14
			Mickelberg case	0:50
			Pacific solution	1:01
			Children overboard	0:43
			Winton auth. award	0:53
			Bank defraud/Perth	0:25
			Rumsfeld/Afghan.	0:38
			War crimes tribunal	0:54
			Finance	0:21
			Japanese economy	0:36
			Sport (total)	1:17
			World Cup Soc.	0:30
			AFL	0:47
			Weather	0:40
Fri	Jun 14	7:45 am	Howard/Wash.	2:13
			Harvey Beef	0:45
			Buss. tax reforms	0:58
			Western Power	0:42
			Inter. baby	0:36
			Aid agency fraud	0:34
			Pacific solution	0:58
			Afghan ref. crisis	0:52
			Immigration summit	0:53
			Loya Jirga	0:52
			China floods	0:24
			Science/solar system	0:24
			US sub arrives/ WA	0:48
			ADSIC inquiry	0:34
			Sport (total)	1:44
			Golf	0:32
			World Cup Soc.	0:23
			Tennis	0:13
			AFL	0:11
			Hockey	0:06
			Cricket	0:08
			Weather	0:51
		12:00 pm	Buss. tax reforms	1:32
			Navy/Gurr inquiry	0:50
			HMAS Sydney	0:48
			Migration zone bill	0:25
			BHP Steel strike	0:46
			WAFL umpire ass.	0:26
			Loya Jirga	0:43
			Brit intell./Sep 11	0:51
			Asylum inc./Korea	0:42
			Catholic Church/US	0:46

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			Knife threat/Perth	0:22
			Sport (total)	0:30
			Golf	0:15
			World Cup Soc.	0:05
			Tennis	0:06
			NRL	0:02
			AFL	0:02
			Weather	0:29
		5:00 pm	Middle East conflict	0:53
		(AFL @ 6pm)	Perth storm	0:30
			DNA samples/prison	0:55
			Buss. tax reforms	0:58
			Evans & Tate merg.	0:25
			Dummy auction bids	0:43
			Medical indem ins.	0:39
			HMAS Westralia	0:52
			HMAS Sydney	0:37
			Catholic Church/US	0:50
			Sport (total)	1:03
			World Cup Soc.	0:13
			Cricket	0:16
			Rugby Union	0:26
			Tennis	0:08
			Weather	0:27

APPENDIX E

TAPE RECORDED NEWS BULLETINS

720 ABC Radio

Week 2: Monday, 17 June 2002 to Friday, 21 June 2002

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
Mon	Jun 17	7:45 am	Howard/Wash.	1:13
			Ruddock/asylum seek.	1:01
			Afghan refugees	0:28
			Fed. parl. preview	1:04
			Asian gangs	1:37
			Health changes	0:50
			Medical indem ins.	0:42
			SIDS vaccine	0:49
			Teleport laser	0:52
			Israel security fence	0:51
			French election	0:53
			Youth employment	0:51
			New conduct/judges	0:26
			Sport (total)	1:05
			World Cup Soc.	0:36
			Tennis/Wimbeldon	0:23
			AFL	0:19
			Motor Racing	0:06
			Track & Field	0:06
			Golf	0:15
			Weather	0:26
		12:00 pm	WA Census	1:30
			Democrats budget	0:49
			Afghan refugees	0:42
			Int. criminal court	0:52
			Magistrate appeal	0:50
			Israeli fence	0:50
			Timor justice	0:34
			State of emerg./Peru	0:30
			CC reforms	0:42
			Gorton senate	0:56
			Sport (total)	1:04
			Golf	0:24
			Tennis/Wimbeldon	0:08
			World Cup Soc.	0:14

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			AFL	0:14
			Weather	0:19
		6:00 pm	Dwellingup drums	0:31
			Hep C /prisons	0:47
			Property sales	0:49
			Int. criminal court	0:53
			Milosevic ill	0:30
			French election	1:00
			Asian gangs	0:41
			Regional census	0:59
			Girl stab /Goldfields	0:26
			Stem cell research	0:49
			Sport (total)	1:12
			World Cup Soc.	0:20
			Tennis/Wimbeldon	0:37
			AFL	0:15
			Weather	0:21
Tue	Jun 18	7:45 am	Disability pension	0:59
			Pharm benefits sch	0:41
			Int. criminal court	0:52
			Sailor cont /Broome	1:13
			New detention centre	0:30
			Immigration	0:43
			Tobacco case	0:50
			Environ budget	0:57
			Hep C /prisons	0:49
			Loya Jirga	0:56
			Middle East conflict	0:20
			Israel security fence	0:40
			Michalik death inq	1:03
			Weather warning	0:32
			Fossett	0:26
			Sport (total)	1:38
			World Cup Soc.	0:42
			Tennis/Wimbeldon	0:17
			AFL	0:18
			Cricket	0:09
			Motor sport	0:12
			Weather	0:19
		12:00 pm	Police Royal Comm	1:29
			Diesel spill/Sth West	0:46
			Aged care strike	0:55
			Medical indem. ins	0:49
			Migration zone bill	0:22
			ACCC/Woolworths	0:24
			Disability pen	0:43
			European Union	0:52
			Loya Jirga	1:02
			Taiwan black box	0:36

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			Knee tech /Perth	0:33
			Sport (total)	0:52
			Comm. Games	0:13
			World Cup Soc	0:09
			Tennis/Wimbeldon	0:14
			AFL	0:16
			Weather	0:14
		6:00 pm	Middle East conflict	1:01
			Mickelberg case	0:54
			Police Royal Comm.	1:02
			Navy/Gurr inquiry	0:54
			Jail rape	0:40
			Moora feedmill	0:13
			Migration zone bill	0:54
			Diesel spill/Sth West	0:37
			Virgin/Perth, Syd	0:43
			Fossett	0:52
			WA Turf Club/fees	0:38
			Sport (total)	0:33
			World Cup Soc	0:13
			AFL	0:21
			Weather	0:30
Wed	Jun 19	7:45 am	Middle East conflict	1:40
			Blair's wife/apology	0:55
			World Cup Soc	2:19
			Fossett	0:51
			Pharm. benefits sch	0:54
			First strike policy	0:48
			Dun & Bradstreet	0:58
			Medical indem. ins	1:01
			Mickelberg case	0:52
			Apple row/WA	0:53
			Triple fatal car crash	0:20
			Exmouth car death	0:13
			Menopause study	0:28
			Sport (total)	1:12
			Tennis/Wimbeldon	0:22
			Cricket	0:12
			AFL	0:28
			Rugby Union	0:10
			Weather	0:25
		12:00 pm	First strike policy	1:10
			Disability pension	0:48
			Fossett	0:45
			Police clash/party	0:56
			Jail rape	0:46
			Water crackdown	0:21
			Equal opp. case/nurse	0:54
			Coastal plans/Perth	0:36

			Building downturn	0:54
			Loya Jirga	1:03
			Sport (total)	1:04
			Rugby	0:25
			World Cup Soc.	0:39
			Weather	0:25
		6:00 pm	Mickelberg case	1:04
			Navy/Curr inquiry	0:51
			Pharm benefits sch.	0:47
			Occ. health & safety	0:40
			Volunteer bill	0:46
			Politician arres./Jap.	0:32
			Middle East conflict	1:20
			UK military commit	0:30
			Solomon Island inc.	0:52
			Sunken Yacht/Kimb.	0:43
			Sport (total)	1:24
			Cricket	0:22
			AFL	0:27
			World Cup Soc	0:22
			Rugby	0:13
			Weather	0:26
Thu	Jun 20	7:45 am	Middle East conflict	1:03
			Police Royal Comm.	0:51
			Drug charges/Perth	0:15
			Tom Price/ H.I fire	0:37
			Labor attack	0:52
			Int Criminal Court	1:14
			Migration zone bill	0:59
			Loya Jirga	1:07
			Internet cafe fire/China	0:43
			Kursk investigation	0:52
			Workers entitlements	0:55
			Nurses strike/QLD	0:29
			Fossett	0:47
			US space shuttle	0:14
			Sport (total)	1:22
			Cricket	0:35
			AFL	0:21
			World Cup Soc.	0:18
			Hockey	0:08
			Weather	0:15
		12:00 pm	Mickelberg case	1:21
			WA gov / spend. rev.	0:33
			Prison drug case	0:45
			Int. criminal court	1:30
			Middle East conflict	0:41
			Pharm. benefits sch.	0:50
			H/rights detention inq.	0:48
			Volunteer protection	0:53

Day	Date	Bulletin	Item	Duration (min/sec)
			Red Cross/blood don.	0:40
			Sport (total)	1:19
			World Cup So.	0:45
			Hockey	0:13
			AFL	0:21
			Weather	0:25
		6:00 pm	Mickelberg case	1:26
			Migration zone bill	0:31
			Tampa protocol	0:37
			Navy/Gurr inquiry	0:54
			HHH Royal Comm	0:45
			Photographer appeal	0:28
			Power cut/Perth	0:12
			H.I fire	0:44
			Taxi damage/court	0:38
			New CSIRO	0:42
			Justice Blake killing	0:35
			WA Turf Club dispute	0:38
			Sport	1:15
			World Cup Soccer	0:44
			AFL	0:22
			Finance	0:19
			Weather	0:26
Fri	Jun 21	7:45 am	Middle East conflict	2:04
			Bank fees	1:15
			O/seas finance news	0:51
			Disability funds	1:25
			University fees	0:51
			Stem cell research	1:17
			Chance port. inq.	0:51
			Building indem ins.	0:50
			Police Royal Comm	0:30
			WA Turf Club disp.	0:36
			Illegal immig./Blair	0:51
			Global warming	0:38
			Sport (total)	1:25
			World Cup Soc.	0:34
			AFL	0:26
			Golf	0:14
			Tennis	0:11
			Weather	0:25
		12:00 pm	Pay-TV/ACCC	0:47
			Public sector anger	1:05
			ATO offer/investors	0:51
			Police Royal Comm.	0:44
			Building indem. ins.	0:50
			Paed. teacher case	0:30
			Lawyer arrest/Perth	0:50
			US/executions	1:01

		Ageing pop. research	0:50
		Holden Monaro/US	0:19
		First GM crop app.	0:24
		Sport (total)	0:54
		AFL	0:19
		Golf	0:12
		World Cup Soc.	0:13
		Tennis	0:11
		Weather	0:17
	5:00 pm	World Cup Soc.	1:24
	(AFL @ 6pm)	Lab. state conference	1:01
		Middle East conflict	0:58
		Stem cell research	0:58
		Tasmanian election	0:44
		PNG election results	0:25
		Asteroid/earth	0:45
		Bellevue fire case	0:59
		Maternity leave	0:43
		Sport (total)	1:03
		AFL	0:28
		NBL	0:14
		Rugby Union	0:11
		Swimming	0:04
		World Cup Soc.	0:06
		Weather	0:14

