HTML Proof - Journalism tools? Come on down!

1 message

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Bite-sized news, tutorials and ideas about the best digital tools for journalism from Poynter's Ren LaForme
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Hello! Welcome to the Try This! — Tools for Journalism newsletter.

You're currently staring at the most text that you'll ever read from me here. You've already got an inbox full of story pitches, messages from your boss (and your boss's boss), hundreds of unread listserv responses and unopened issues of that other newsletter you signed up for a few years back and have yet to unsubscribe from. The last thing I want to do is add to that (P.S. Do yourself a favor and get Email Debt Forgiveness Day on your calendar).

Consider this the *Price is Right* of newsletters.

Every Monday morning, I'll share a mix of digestible (read: very short) features about digital tools. Some will alert you to new tools. Others will offer tips for using old ones in new ways. Some will share advice for implementing a new tool at your workplace, and others will offer lessons learned from failures to do so.

No two issues will have the same mix of features. But, as my colleague Kristen Hare suggested after I told her about this format, "You know eventually we're going to get back to Plinko."

I know that it's hard to learn new tools, especially if you're trapped in the center of the deluge like many of us are. My goal is to introduce you to tools that can make your work more clear or interesting, enhance your abilities or make hard jobs easier. I think those are things we could all benefit from.

If you don't know me, I'm Ren LaForme, Poynter's digital tools reporter. Though I'm new to this gig, I've been tracking digital tools and building training around them for almost five years. I've learned a lot about how best to teach tools to journalists, mostly through trial and error.

With those lessons in mind, here are a few promises for this newsletter:

- I won't overwhelm you with piles of new tools at once.
- I won't share tools with unrealistic price tags for newsrooms (in fact, most will be free).
- I won't feature hard-to-use tools without providing tutorials.
- I won't try to shame you into using a tool.
- I won't write about a tool that I haven't tried myself.

Our official launch will happen next Monday morning. For now, please email me by replying to this message if you'd like to see a particular tutorial, or if you've got a tool you think others should know about, or if you just want to share your biggest challenge (or success) in using tools for journalism.

Until then.

Ren LaForme

Did you find this helpful? Enlightening? Fun? Forward it to a reporter, editor, educator, storyteller, friend, enemy or frenemy. Everyone deserves good tools.

For more on digital tools, visit **Try This! — Tools for Journalism**.

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