Apps and Tools for Journalists

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Val Hoeppner's Apps for Journalists (2018)

Val Hoeppner is a digital journalist, teacher, trainer, and media strategist with 20+ years of experience in photojournalism and multimedia design at the *Indianapolis Star*. She spent five years collaborating with journalists, teachers, and students, as the director of education for the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute. She is a multimedia and multiplatform professional journalist who trains and advises other journalists in mobile, social, and video storytelling techniques.

Best Apps for Note-taking, Documents, and File Transfers

- **Evernote** - Note-taking app that syncs notes to all Internet-connected devices. Available on all platforms and devices.
- **Google Drive** - Create and edit documents/spreadsheets; backup photos, videos, audio
- **ABBYY TextGrabber** - Capture text from any written work and then edit it.
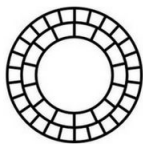- **Genius Scan** - Allows you to create PDFs from scanned documents.

Best Apps for Audio and Call Recording

- **AudioNote** - Record audio while typing notes and sync audio to text notes. Used mainly for meetings and conferences
- **VoiceBase** - Provides machine or audio transcriptions of audio files from your phone, recorder, or laptop
- **Rev Voice Recording** - Record audio interviews and get human transcripts of those interviews for $1/minute
- **TapeACall** - Record cell phone calls

Best Photography/Photo Editing Apps

- VSCO - Basic photo editing app; allows users to lock focus & exposure points, and publish photos directly to social media
- Filterstorm - photo-editing app for the iPhone and iPad
  - Had two tools especially useful for journalists: the ability to add ITPC or caption information to photographs and the ability to send images directly from the app to an FTP server, email, Dropbox, and more
- Teripix - App made by photojournalists to allow them to journalists to easily add images and video to their stories

Best Video and Video Editing Apps

1) **MoviePro** - Filmmaking app that allows tools which provide focus, exposure, and white balance; best feature is ability to listen to audio live as it is recording using a TRRS adapter; available for $4.99 on iOS.
2) **Cinamaker** - Multi-camera app used for streaming live video
3) **Filmr** - Video editing app made meant to be used for mobile-friendly videos; Quickly edit and export clips.
4) **Videoshop** - video editing app that allows you to trim, add text, and other effects; can create videos specifically for different social media platforms (i.e. Vine, Snapchat, and Instagram)

Some Social Media Tools

- **Buffer** - App that allows users to manage social media accounts by scheduling posts to Facebook, Twitter, and Linkedin
- **IFTTT** - Abbreviation for "If this, then that." Allows users to create "recipes" to tell apps what to do
    - For example, a "recipe" which takes Instagram images and converts them into native Twitter images then tweets them automatically.
- **Hootsuite** - Social media management platform that allows users to integrate social networks such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Linkedin, Google+, Youtube, etc.

University of Texas List of Apps for Journalists

Google Photos - Free app that comes with any google account. Unlimited storage to backup all photos and videos. Automatically creates folders.
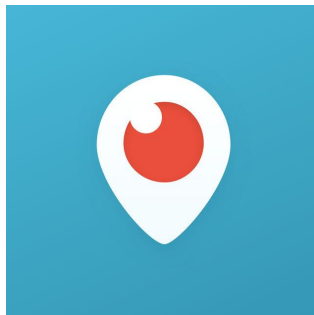

Layout - Basic photo editor created by Instagram for Instagram. Create collages, apply filters, and combine photos into grids

Layout Example

More Apps! (Video, Social, Audio)

- iMovie - Both a desktop and mobile application for Mac/iOS devices. Most basic video editing tool for Apple products.
- Periscope - Live streaming app developed by Twitter. Share what is going on live to viewers
  - Similar to Instagram Live, Facebook Live
- Soundcloud - Upload your own audio for people to see/listen to other people's audio. Songs, podcasts, or any kind of audio track.

Publishing Apps

- Dropbox - Allows people to upload files, share them, and have access on multiple devices
  - Similar to Google Drive
- Wordpress - Allows users to create basic blogs and publish online