

**USE OF COMPUTER-ASSISTED REPORTING IN FLORIDA NEWSPAPERS  
WITH A CIRCULATION OF 20,000 AND BELOW**

**By**

**EILEEN GONGORA**

**A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
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OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
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Eileen Gongora

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Chairman: Dr. Bernell Tripp

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This study determined the use of Computer-Assisted Reporting at smaller-circulation daily and weekly newspapers. The researcher chose to survey Florida newspapers, weekly and daily newspapers, with a circulation less than 20,000. This study is a replication of Bruce Garrison's yearly survey sent to newspapers with a Sunday circulation more than 20,000. The researcher obtained a return rate of 72 percent, including mailed questionnaires and follow-up telephone calls. The researcher's findings indicate that larger newspapers used a higher proportion of CAR tools than smaller Florida newspapers.

Larger newspapers used online research more often to supplement reporting than smaller newspapers. Small newspapers used e-mail and file transfer protocol in a limited way. More larger newspapers had a Web site than smaller newspapers. As public records

are being put online, small newspapers will be using more online resources. However, smaller newspapers are just getting started using online resources and CAR.