UMAR HASSAN | JOURNALIST
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ABOUT ME

Journalist with more than eight years' experience, specialising in data, sport and technology for digital and traditional media organisations. Worked with other journalists to generate a charticle story around how the coronavirus pandemic has changed one part of the UK for HuffPost UK while interviewing journalists such as Jim Rosenthal and Jane Haynes for Journo Resources' A Day in the Life series.

SKILLS

- Create data visualisations using R, Tableau, Flourish and Datawrapper
- Fluent in using the WordPress Content Management System
- Utilised Microsoft Excel functions such as SUM, VLOOKUP and COUNTIF for cleaning and analysing data.
- Up-to-date understanding of media law.
- Managed social media accounts for publications such as Birmingham Eastside and theCheckeredFlag.co.uk.
- Coding experience with web programming languages such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript (jQuery and Angular).
- Search Engine Optimisation (Yoast SEO, Google Ads, Google Trends)
- Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere Pro, Illustrator)

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Journalist   **Various**   **Jan 2019 - present**

- Worked with HuffPost UK, The Overtake and other journalism clients to produce stories across the data, technology and sport beats.
- Specialised in reporting on data centre news around Stockholm Data Parks and EdgeMicro announcing new facilities for DatacenterDynamics.
- Interviewed working journalists as part of Journo Resources' A Day in the Life series, which included Jane Haynes, Louise Goodman and Jim Rosenthal.

Birmingham Eastside   **Reporter**   **Sep 2020 - present**

- Pursued local and regional stories around video games, politics and data, which included a feature on underrepresented communities in gaming.
- Generated multiple data visualisations in Flourish for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council's budget underspending analysis piece.
- Written fast-turnaround pieces such as the Perry Barr flyover explainer and the government sending internet devices for 1 in 20 students in Birmingham.

The Economist   **Data Journalist**   **Mar 2021 - Apr 2021**

- Planned and researched potential stories to pitch to The Economist Data Team's Daily chart editor around internet freedom and heavyweight boxing.
- Learned how to scrape tweets from a Twitter account and then visualise it into a line chart with the ggplot2 data visualisation package in R.
- Used Freedom House and Boxrec data sources to clean and analyse data in Excel to use for creating a two-panel chart to The Economist's house style.

Computer Business Review   **Reporter**   **May 2018 - Aug 2018**

- Written news and feature stories within the B2B IT sector, including an exclusive story on the [£500 million Brexit data centre contract tender](#).
- Reported across the annual results for each yearly quarter from companies within the enterprise IT sector, which includes [AMD](#), [Intel](#) and [Tableau](#).
- Attended conferences such as the 2018 Hewlett Packard Enterprise Discover event in Las Vegas, reporting on the latest [new product updates](#) from HPE.

DESIblitz.com   **Junior Writer**   **Jan 2018 - Apr 2018**

- Pitched and identified story ideas within the sports, data and technology patches that fitted in with the publication's South Asian readership.
- Created original data visualisations using Tableau and Datawrapper, which were used in the [2018 WWE Royal Rumble: By the Numbers](#) story.
- Delivered trending news and feature articles such as the [Huawei P20](#) and [Samsung Galaxy S9](#) within days of each article published on the website.

EDUCATION

Birmingham City University

2020 - present, Master of Arts Data Journalism

2014 - 2017, BA (Hons) - Media and Communication (Journalism), **2:1**

AWARDS

- Media Person of the Year**, 2016 Team BCU Awards**

ADDITIONAL INTERESTS

- Enjoy following the history of sports such as motor racing and snooker.
- A keen swimmer who plans to enter some open water swimming events.
- Active member of the data journalism community who regularly attends events to develop both storytelling and visualisation skills.