

UMAR HASSAN | JOURNALIST

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ABOUT ME

Journalist who enjoys telling stories on data, sport and technology for various media organisations. Worked with a team of journalists to put together a feature story on how the coronavirus pandemic has changed one part of the UK as a Freelance Journalist for HuffPost UK while also covering news, analysis and feature stories on politics and video games as a Reporter for Birmingham Eastside.

SKILLS

- Designed data visualisations with R, Flourish, Datawrapper and Tableau that tell clear and concise stories about issues or trends in the data.
- Fluent in using the WordPress Content Management System.
- Incorporated advanced Microsoft Excel functions such as SUM, VLOOKUP and COUNTIF for cleaning and analysing data.
- Up-to-date understanding of media law.
- Utilised web scraping to scrape data from a website using the IMPORTHTML and IMPORTXML functions in Google Sheets to turn it into a working dataset.
- Used web programming languages such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript (jQuery and Angular) to build webpages and charts.
- Produced multimedia content for various platforms through the use of the Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere Pro, Illustrator).
- Managed multiple social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) for publications such as Birmingham Eastside and The Scratch.

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 such as [Jane Haynes](#), [Louise Goodman](#) and [Jim Rosenthal](#) as part of Journo Resources' A Day in the Life series.

Birmingham Eastside **Reporter** **Sep 2020 - Aug 2021**

- 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.
- Produced 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 - 2021, Master of Arts Data Journalism**

- Designed a choose-your own adventure newsgame in Twine to put the player in the shoes of a person who is unemployed and living in [digital exclusion](#).
- Collaborated with data and multimedia journalists who planned and produced an overnight livestream of the [2020 United States presidential election](#).
- Administered a major project, covering stories around motor racing championships such as the [British Touring Car Championship](#) and [F1](#).

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