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# Introduction to the dossier “Language, news media and social media”

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Until well into the second half of the twentieth century, the state of the social use of the Catalan language has always been measured based on its presence in the media, primarily the press. At the turn of the century, the novelty and extraordinary power of digital technology overshadowed a situation that had already been changed by the powerful shifts in the audiovisual media in the 1980s.

Before the traumatic outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, the Catalan language had achieved a prominent presence in the print media, although it was quite uneven in the different Catalan-speaking regions. This presence has been the subject of numerous studies and an exhaustive record of it is now available in the *Catàleg històric general de la premsa en català, 1641-1939* (General Historical Catalogue of the Press in Catalan, 1641-1939). The team behind this research, considered to be an investigation of great importance, presents this dossier's first article, entitled “Language, news media and social media”, which sheds light on the new major challenges that the social use of Catalan is facing today.

This first historical article, called “Language, press and contemporaneity: Newspapers in Catalan, 1641-1939”, has been written by Jaume Guillamet Lloveras and Marcel Mauri de los Ríos from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra; Arnau Company Matas and Sebastià Serra Busquets from the Universitat de les Illes Balears; and Francesc-Andreu Martínez Gallego from the Universitat de València.

From Catalonia, where the use of Catalan in the press has achieved a remarkable level, Clàudia Rius Llorens, a journalist specialising in culture and language, analyses the challenges, possibilities and actions that can ensure a proportional presence of Catalan in the ever-changing and increasingly influential digital world. Her article is entitled “Catalan in the social media: The battle over global linguistic diversity on the Internet”.

From the Valencian Country, where the political circumstances have been less favourable to and hindered the social use of Valencian and even its identification as the local variety of Catalan, Francesc-Tomàs Martínez Sanchis, a professor at the Universitat de València, offers the analysis “The Catalan-language media in the Valencian Country after 40 years of the Law on the Use and Teaching of Valencian (LUEV)”.

From the Balearic Islands, where the use of Catalan continues to hold up despite the unfavourable actions of the right-wing governments, Guillem Suau-Gomila and Metzneri Sánchez-Mesa from the Universitat de Lleida share the results of a study focused on the use of the social media formerly known as Twitter and now called X in their article, “The use of Catalan in the X accounts of *Diari de Balears* and the public radio and TV stations of the Balearic Islands: An analysis of frequency of use and linguistic correctness”.

From the Principality of Andorra, the only state where Catalan is the official language, the journalist and cultural disseminator Albert Roig explains how this fully official status is not a sufficient guarantor of its hegemony in the media space. His article is called “The Catalan language’s current status and prospects in conventional and social media in Andorra”.

This dossier finishes with an article by Vicent Partal, the founder and director of *VilaWeb* and a member of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans (IEC), entitled “Catalan: From minoritised to global language”. He claims that Catalan is acknowledged as a model of success in adapting to digital globalisation, which reinforces its usefulness and brings it global visibility.