



# WHAT SHOULD WE TEACH JOURNALISM STUDENTS?

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# A NEW PLATFORM FOR QUALITY JOURNALISM?

A study of four U.S. nonprofit university centers and their attempt to save professional reporting through using classrooms as newsrooms.

**What is the *most important* thing that journalism students must learn?**

# WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT JOURNALISM STUDENTS MUST LEARN?

- There is little agreement upon “an adequate university approach”

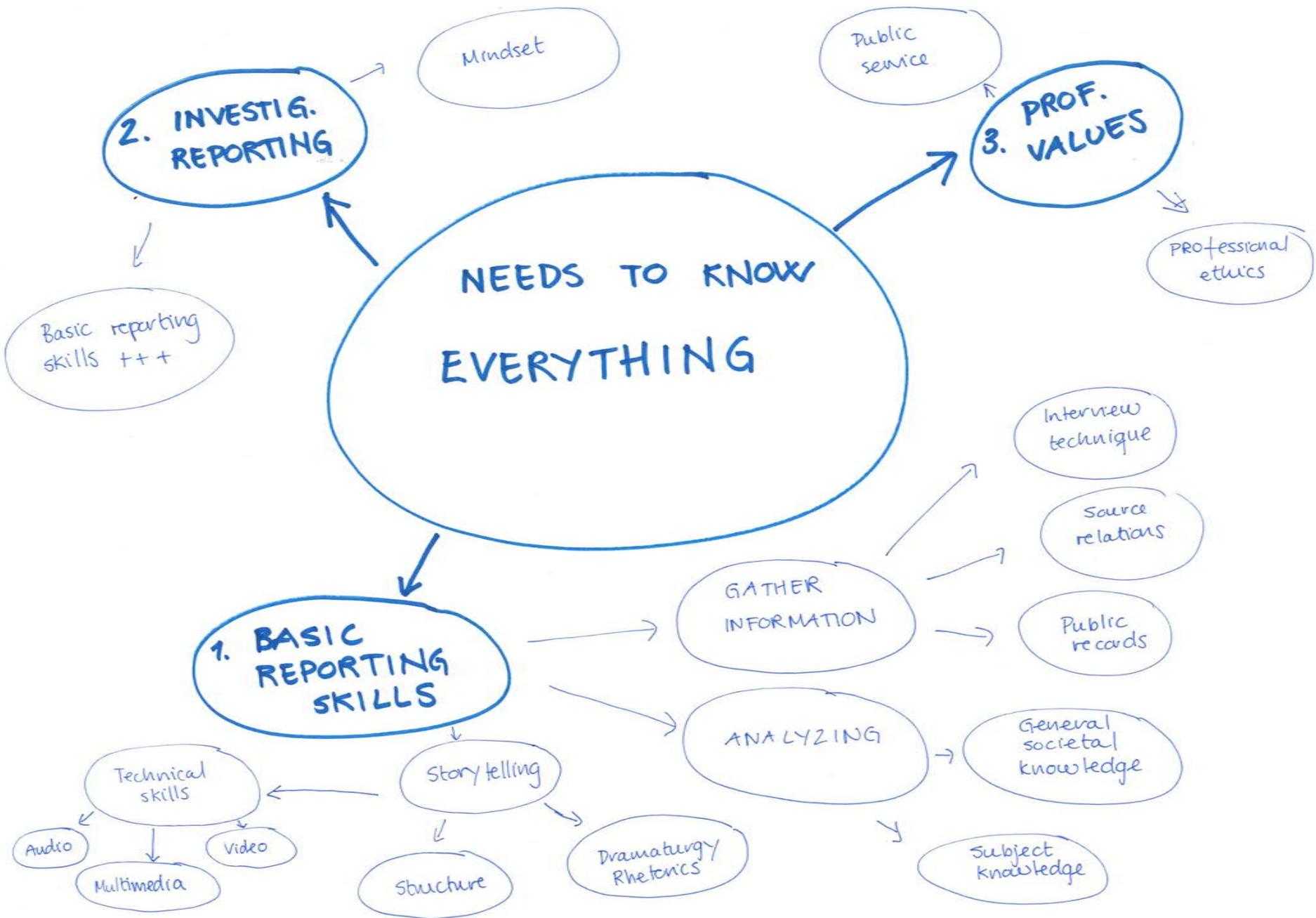
Folkerts, 2014

- Journalism students need to know “everything”

*A high quality journalist should have “tons of skillsets”*

Workshop student Ke (Amber) Liu

- “basic reporting skills”
- investigative reporting
- professional values



# THREE MAIN QUESTIONS

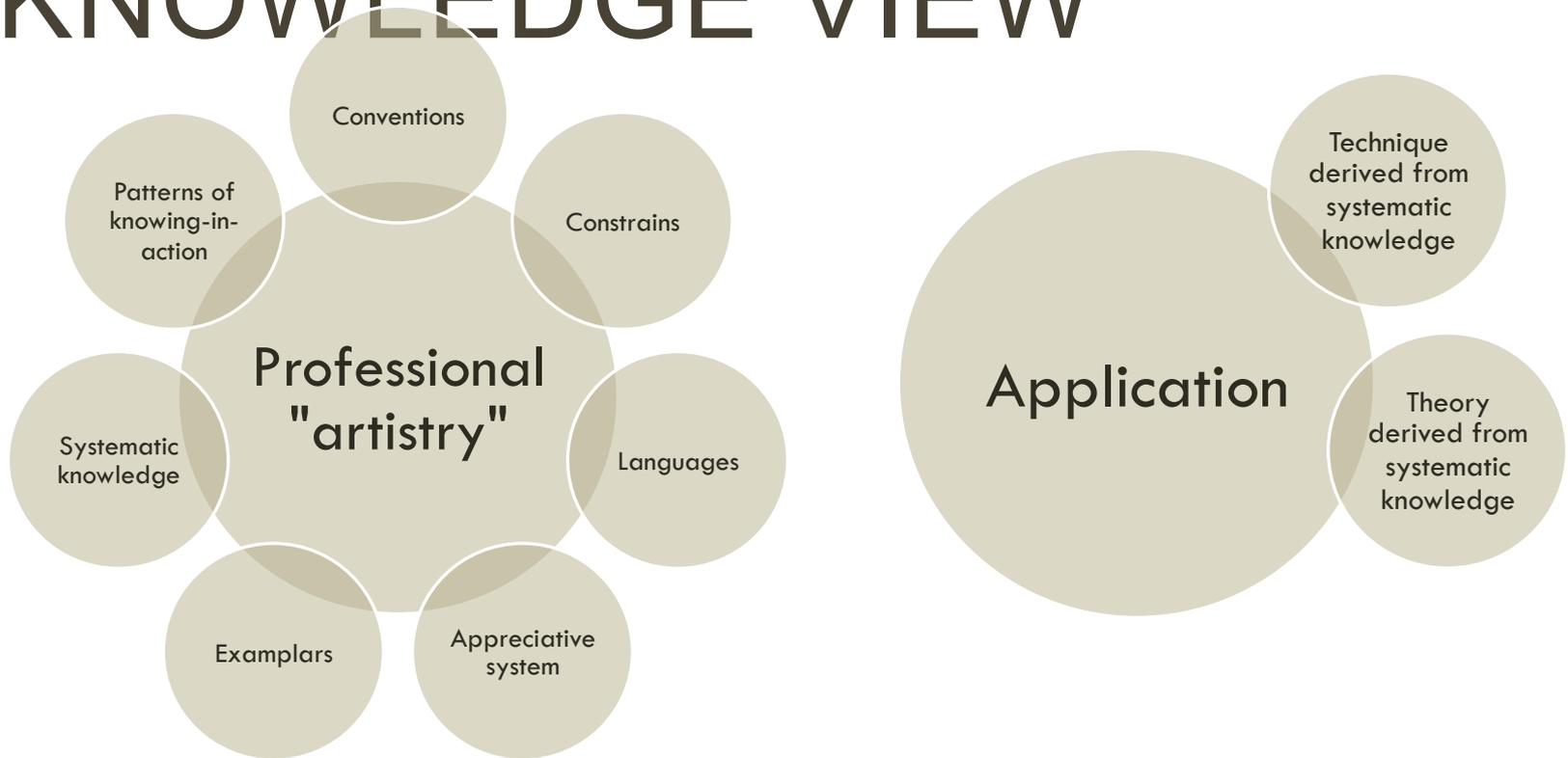
- What characterizes the journalistic knowledge base?
- What is the relationship between practical and theoretical knowledge?
- How is innovation and core values emphasized?

# THE JOURNALISTIC KNOWLEDGE BASE

## **Grimen 2008:**

- Heterogeneous
- Fragmented
- Practice oriented

# PRACTICAL ORIENTED KNOWLEDGE VIEW



# JOURNALISTIC KNOWLEDGE



# ITS COMPLICATED ...

Because the unique case falls outside the categories of existing theory and technique, the practitioner cannot treat it as an instrumental problem to be solved applying one of the rules in her store of professional knowledge. The case is not “in the book”. If she is to deal with it completely, she must do so by a kind of improvisation, inventing and testing in the situation strategies of her own devising

Schön, 1988, p. 5

# INNOVATION VERSUS CORE VALUES

- The Internet has changed everything about journalism and the Internet has changed nothing about journalism  
J. Leen, investigations editor, the Washington Post
- I think it's crap. You can quote me on that. I do think it's crap. Here's why. Innovation is really important, and technology is really important. Getting stories out to as many people as you possibly can is really important. But what's more important than that are the stories themselves. And that has not changed, and that never will change  
S. Higham, investigative reporter, the Washington Post
- Journalism schools risk educating data programmers, software operators and marketing specialists instead of reporters.  
Sarah Cohen, editor computer-assisted reporting, the *New York Times*

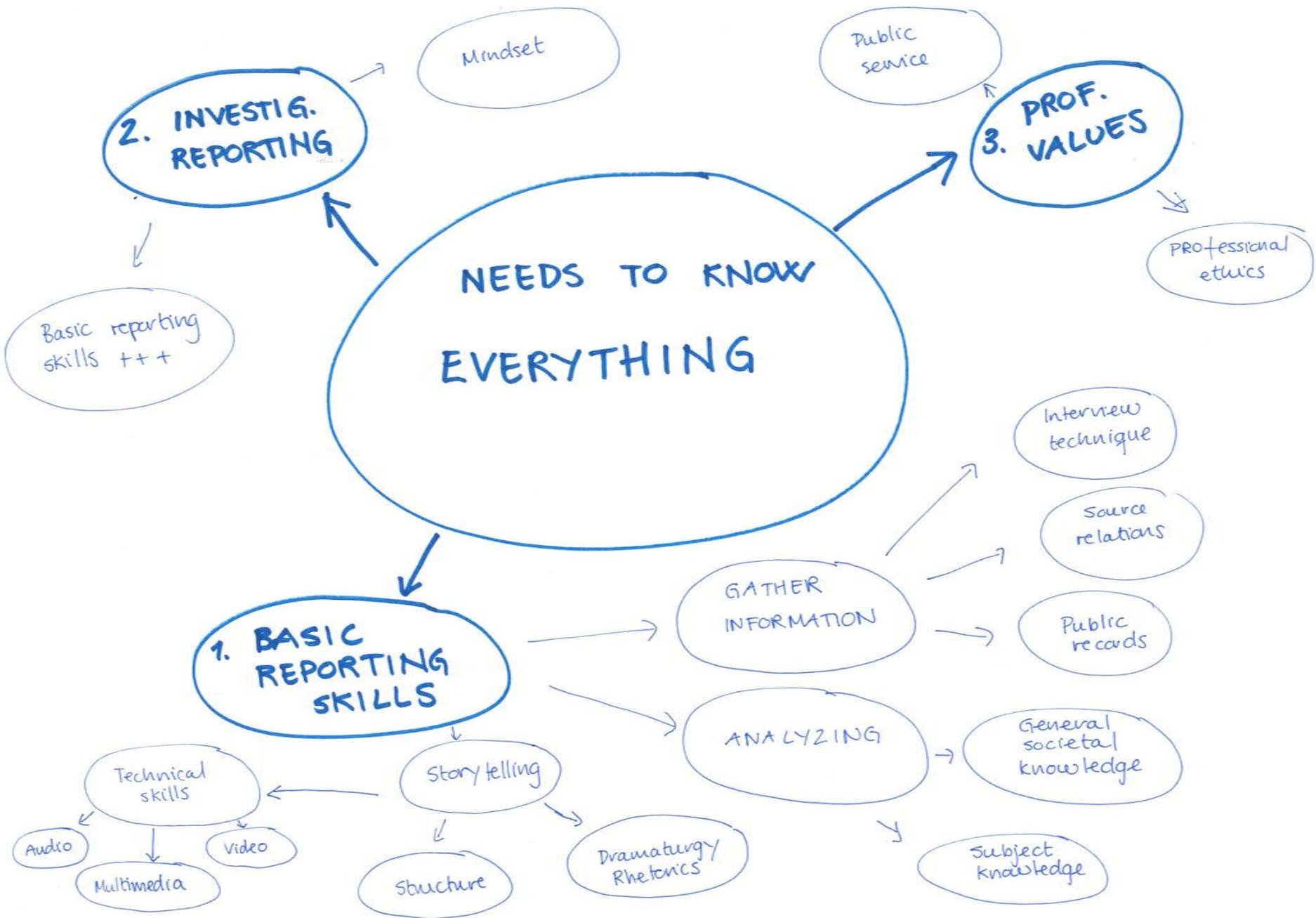
# THE ROLE PERCEPTION OF U.S. REPORTERS

## 2014:

U.S. journalists are less likely to consider reaching the widest possible audiences and getting information to the public quickly as very important roles

U.S. journalists are more likely to emphasize the importance of investigating government claims and analyzing complex problems

Willnat & Weaver, 2014, p.1



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