

Abstract

This thesis examines the state of critical journalism (or watchdog journalism) in one local and one regional media in the Benešov region today. The selected media are the district mutation of the Daily newspaper published by VLTAVA LABE MEDIA and the town hall newsletter. Together, these media represent the two most dominant types of regional media in the Czech Republic, which is affected by the phenomenon of news deserts. Critical journalism, in understanding of this thesis, is that whose content accurately and with an emphasis on facts informs about events related to processes in public administration in its broadest sense and at the same time provides sufficient relevant context to allow the reader to understand the described issue comprehensively and in its entirety. The aim of this thesis is to verify the functionality of this journalistic process, which is crucial for the functioning of democratic processes at the local level, through the following research methods: content analysis of samples representing one year of the selected media outlets' editions, semi-structured in-depth interviews with creators of the selected media outlets and a questionnaire survey conducted among their readers.