

Better Reporting With Smartphones

Who:

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Adam Glenn:

Smartphone as note taker

- Use the phone to **capture** a scene as in image or video **for later reference** for your written work (to recreate color and details).
- Use your phone for interview material, even if it's never to air. Video or audio recordings
 - [SkyRecorder](#) Skype has become a near ubiquitous tool for making calls over the internet but with SkyRecorder those calls can now be recorded directly when being made from a mobile device.
- Consider audio dictation, since typing on a keyboard can be challenging
- Don't forget the **organizer potential** of mobile apps as well, whether it's something as simple as Calendar to remind you where you need to be or when, or task-based organizers (I use Asana project management tool founded by Facebook co-founder [Dustin Moskovitz](#)) or **Evernote & Dropbox**

Smartphone as reporter

- Obvs, use for **browsing** the web. Look for and **bookmark mobile friendly**, or so-called "responsive" web sites. Last thing you want to do in the field is be trying to read tiny type or have to finger your way through hard-to-read pages.
 - Jeremy Caplan:
 - Google Search's audio function is invaluable for on-the-go reporting. While you are on the move, you will not always want to type on a tiny screen to conduct research.
 - The Google Search app automatically archives your searches, so you will have no trouble retrieving the exact terms you used in a previous query.
- Also make sure you have **research apps** on your phone. If your newsroom has Lexis/Nexis, WestLaw, be sure to have it set up.
- Set up **apps for major news sites**, and activate alerts
- **Bookmarking tool like Pocket, to tag articles to read later**
- **More advanced/Looking ahead:**
 - [Banjo](#): Taking the search function a step further, Banjo shows where Facebook or Twitter users have checked in or posted from. Not only will this help you spot

stories, but you can quickly link up with witnesses or people on the ground or get in touch with people at the scene before you arrive.

- Also, consider **mobile crowdsourcing** projects - using your audience's phone to gather data or images that could then be part of your reporting project.
- And watch for developments in **facial recognition** technology for mobile. No reason only NSA and Facebook should be able to recognize the face in the crowd, or at a presser or event.

Smartphone as mobile publisher

- It's about connectivity - **Use your phone to keep yourself present** with the online community
- Make sure to **activate your social media's mobile apps and tools** - post to platforms from your phone from the scene (text, images, video).
 - Twitter, FB, LinkedIn, Instagram/Vine/YouTube
 - I like **Hootsuite** (Tweetdeck) for tracking & publishing social media
 - **CoverItLive/ScribbleLive for live blogging coverage on mobile**

Ashley Ahearn

Recording better audio on your Smartphone:

It's amazing what's out there. Smartphones are opening up the world of audio recording to those who can't (or won't) purchase the official Marantz PMD 660 or 661 Industry standard recording devices.

Here are some apps people in the public radio world are talking about (all free):

TASCAM PCM Recorder – This app allows you to monitor levels, choose what file format you're recording in, and share the audio via soundcloud.

WavePad – This app allows you to record in various formats, edit cuts and share the audio to an FTP site or via email

Voice Memos (available in the utilities folder on your iphone) – This app is lower tech in terms of recording capabilities but is already on your iphone and allows you to share files via email.

Sound Cloud – The older version of this app allows you to record audio and share it via the SoundCloud website, twitter and email. However, newer versions appear to

have outsourced the recording capability to another app, which some might find less convenient.

If you are interested in exploring smartphone recording in more depth, I'd recommend spending some time on the transom.org website. Here's a link to get you started:

<http://transom.org/2010/iphone-audio-editing-monle-hindenbug/>

Ok, enough software, let's talk hardware: Getting a good mic can greatly improve audio recording quality on smartphones, and a lot of people say that's the best way to get good sound. You can get a cable that will convert from your headphone jack to XLR for an industry standard mic like the RE50 or Beyer Omnidirectional. However, it's difficult (maybe not possible) to listen to your audio as you're recording, if you don't have the right splitter cable. If it was a choice between hardware or software – I'd say go with the built-in mic on your phone, record in .WAV and use your headphones to monitor the quality of what you're getting.

**Interested in shooting and editing photos and video on your smartphone?
Here are some apps to play with:**

Photoshop Elements
Videolicious
ProCamera
Bambuser
Instagram
Brightcove – video uploading ap
imovie on iphone

And here are some apps from Adam Glenn:

- Apps:
 - [Best App Makers 2013](#)
 - **** iMovie App or [StoryMaker app for Android](#)**
 - [Photoshop Express](#) (post-production, cropping, zooming, color and exposure correction)
 - Filmic Pro
 - **** [Camera+](#) (zoom, horizon line, geotagging, set AF and AE separately, color correction)**
 - Almost dSLR
 - **SnapSeed or Aviary**
 - **Photojojo - for smartphone gear**
 - **** [uStream/Livestream](#)**
 - Videolicious
 - **Voice Recorder [Recording app for Android;](#)**

- Also see voice memo or search other “voice recorders” for iphones
 - Tascam PCM Recorder
- ****PhotoSynth - for panoramas** or [Dermandar](#)
- Echograph

From Adam Glenn: Equipment that can make your smartphone more of a ninja:

- Equipment
 - [Photojojo](#)
 - [Rode mic for iPhone](#)
 - [Rode shotgun mic](#)
 - [GorillaPod for mobile - out of stock](#)
 - [Pocket LED spotlight](#)
 - [Samsung Galaxy Camera](#)
 - [Inexpensive Lavalier Mic](#)
 - Orientation - [photo workshop syllabus](#)
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1325AivkOcsjWzI_J-Vu1X9Y8ZbkaGnX5zIqoumnnpbq/edit
 - [The Journalist's Toolbox: Mobile Journalism Archives](#)
 - [21 Tips for Mobile Ninjas](#) From Jeremy Caplan's 2013 ONA presentation. Great resources.
 - [The must-have apps for journalists | Wannabe Hacks](#)
 - [Mobile apps for investigative journalists](#) Investigative Reporters and Editors Mar 22, 2013
 - [12 Must-Have Apps for Journalists](#) Great list of apps for recording calls, editing video, etc.
 - [Videolicious](#): Our recent app of the week but with good reason. Videolicious is a quick and easy video editing app that has been picked up by reporters at the Washington Post to make narrated videos and audio slideshows on the move.