News Games

The intersection of videogames and journalism

News Games

The intersection of videogames and journalism

- Rise in importance of digital media
- New approach to journalism
- Games can simulate how things work

Why Games in News?

Types of news games

- Do good journalism.
- Low system requirements, wide distribution, created in Adobe Flash.
- Must balance timelines with with quality.
- Must work hard to help their users understand the context and constraint of the topic.
- Can cover isolated political issue or ongoing social issue.
- Borrow from arcade, home console, and casual games

Current Event Games

- Cutthroat Capitalism (Wired Magazine) = infographics, editorial, documentary, puzzles and platforms

Current Events

- **Layoff!: http://tiltfactor.org/layoff/play.html**
- Kabul Kaboom: http://ludology.typepad.com/games/kabulkaboom.html

Current Events

Types of current event games

•

- Current event games with an argument. See to persuade. Use games to express an opinion

Editorial

- September 12th
- http://www.mcvideogame.com/
- Food Import Folly: http://www.persuasivegames.com/games/game.aspx?game=nyt_food
- http://select.nytimes.com/2007/05/24/opinion/20070524_FOLLIES_GRAPHIC.html?_r=1
- Points of Entry: http://select.nytimes.com/ref/opinion/20070621_IMMIGRATION_GRAPHIC.html
- Layoff: http://www.tiltfactor.org/
- Faith Fighter: http://www.molleindustria.org/faith-fighter

Examples

- Playable versions of soft news, celebrities, sports or political gossip.

Tabloid

- So You Think You Can Drive, Mel: http://www.splashworks.com/pgame.php?id=5
- Hothead Zidane: http://www.corriere.it/Primo_Piano/Sport/2006/07_Luglio/10/pop_zidane.shtml
-

Game

- Falls between editorial and tabloid games.
- Strives to emulate actual reporting, producing the videogame version of a written article or televised segment.
- Reportage games are carefully researched, with an eye toward factual description.
- Less common than editorial or tabloid games.

Reportage

- Mama Kills Animals: http://flashgameawards.com/flash-games.php?game=81

- Dig Dug Kellner: http://www.gothamgazette.com/votegame/digdug.php

- Are static
- Present data and synthesize information
- Find surprising revelations
- Tufte: Instruments for reasoning about quantitative information
- Make sense of data though visual display
- Make complex ideas clear and precise

Infographics

- Narrative, instructive, explorative, simulative
- Readers active participants in unfolding of information

Digital Infographics

- Budget Hero
- http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/01/25/us/politics/sotu-closer-look.html?ref=multimedia
- http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/06/16/magazine/watson-trivia-game.html?ref=multimedia
- http://www.nytimes.com/packages/html/business/2009-private-equity/index.html?ref=multimedia
- http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/us/family-trees.html?ref=multimedia#index
- http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/science/rock-paper-scissors.html?ref=multimedia
- http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/02/15/magazine/what-are-the-chances-for-republicans.html?ref=multimedia
- http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/business/buy-rent-calculator.html?scp=1&sq=%22better%20to%20rent%22&st=cse

Examples

- Engage broader, historical and current events in a manner similar to documentary photography, cinema and investigative reporting

Documentary news games

- JFK Reloaded
- Berlin Wall
- John Kerry's Silver Star

Examples

- Scoop: http://www.red-mercury.com/products_mac.html
- Crickler: http://crickler.com/
- Wonkette: http://wonkette.com/404277/take-intern-julis-advanced-emanuel-brothers-personality-test-from-hel
- http://www.kongregate.com/
- http://www.bogost.com/watercoolergames/
-
- Ny Times Trivial Pursuit 2008
- Numbrix

Puzzles

- http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/puzzles

Washington Post Games

-
- http://www.smallmeans.com/new-york-times-infographics/
- http://www.niemanlab.org/2011/04/the-new-york-times-rd-lab-has-built-a-tool-that-explores-the-life-stories-take-in-the-social-space/
- http://www.newsu.org/courses/be-reporter-game
- http://www.rockpapershotgun.com/2008/12/02/pictures-for-truth-click-click-click-click-boom/
- http://beyond-good-and-evil.ubi.com/beyond-good-and-evil-hd/en-US/home/
- http://www.rockstargames.com/grandtheftauto/
- http://www.newsu.org/courses/be-editor-game
- http://knightfoundation.org/grants/20104679/
- http://knightfoundation.org/grants/20060985/
-
-

Literacy

- News is social because it affects groups of people

Community

- World without Oil Web (1,800 players from 12 countries): http://www.worldwithoutoil.org/

- http://www.erepublik.com/en

Examples

- Instead of … How can you use Web or Facebook to deliver the news?,
- how about .. How might journalists create new platforms for news?

Platforms

- Play the News
- http://www.playthenewsgame.com/portal/home.action
- Fantasy sports
- Videogame platforms
- Scoop!: http://www.red-mercury.com/product_scoop_windows.html

Examples

- http://www.persuasivegames.com/
- http://www.gamasutra.com/
- http://www.womengamers.com/
- http://www.gamepolitics.com/
- http://www.tiltfactor.org/

Resources

- http://www.wired.com/special_multimedia/2009/cutthroatCapitalismTheGame
- http://knightfoundation.org/funding-initiatives/knight-news-challenge/
- The Cartoonist: http://knightfoundation.org/grants/20100442/
- NY Newsgames: http://knightfoundation.org/grants/20060985/
- Playing the News: http://knightfoundation.org/grants/20060997/
- http://kimpearson.net/?p=1241
- http://kimpearson.net/?p=1262
- http://jag.lcc.gatech.edu/blog/
- http://www.upsidelearning.com/blog/index.php/2010/12/15/3-game-mechanics-to-include-in-learning-games
- http://www.upsidelearning.com/blog/?p=991
- http://www.newseum.org/newsmania/
- http://www.playthenewsgame.com/portal/home.action
- *http://jag.lcc.gatech.edu/blog/*

More resources