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Presenting a Model for News Coverage of Cultural Events in Iraq in the Arab Electronic Press

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence "Media content not only reflects existing realities but also constructs new layers of meaning..." could benefit from further clarification by explicitly naming which cultural narratives or identities are being constructed in Iraq.

The paragraph discussing "digital journalism and citizen reporting" would benefit from including comparative examples from neighboring countries (e.g., Lebanon, Egypt) to contextualize Iraq's media transformation.

The section on contextual conditions describes ethnic diversity but does not sufficiently discuss how such diversity impacts audience segmentation or media policy formation in Iraq. Elaborate on these socio-political implications.

The discussion lacks integration with grounded theory literature. For instance, how does the final model correspond to Strauss and Corbin's conditional matrix or paradigm model more explicitly?

The statement "educational institutions need to incorporate cultural media literacy..." should be expanded with concrete curriculum or training program examples tailored to Iraq's higher education context.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The authors refer to "Ahmad & Murad (2020)" multiple times in the introduction and discussion. Consider integrating these references into a broader conceptual discussion on media-induced public panic or digital trust dynamics.

While grounded theory is well explained, there is no visual or textual depiction of the theoretical scaffolding before coding. Consider adding a pre-model conceptual map to show theoretical assumptions pre-analysis.

All tables are labeled as "Table 3," regardless of different themes. This repetition is confusing and should be corrected to reflect proper sequential numbering (e.g., Table 1–6).

The claim that "participatory platforms such as social media...enabled the co-creation of narratives" needs more data backing. Were specific platforms or user demographics identified during interviews?

While limitations are mentioned, geopolitical constraints (e.g., media censorship, regional power dynamics) should be addressed more directly as they are crucial in Iraq's media context.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.