Google News Initiative

Reader Revenue

Optimizing the User Funnel



Upcoming

Overview	Deep Dive 1: Establishing your reader revenue foundations	Deep Div Developin commun your valu propositi	ng and icating e	Deep Div Optimizin user funn	ng the	Deep Di Planning long-ter success	g for m
Oct 5		Oct 26		Nov 9		Nov 23	
	Oct 19		Nov 2		On-demar	nd	On-demand
	Expert Session	1	Expert Session 2		Expert Session 3		Expert Session 4

newsinitiative.withgoogle.com/digital-growth/na-reader-revenue

Join us on Slack!

bit.ly/DGPSlack

- Ask questions
- Share best practices
- Learn from each other

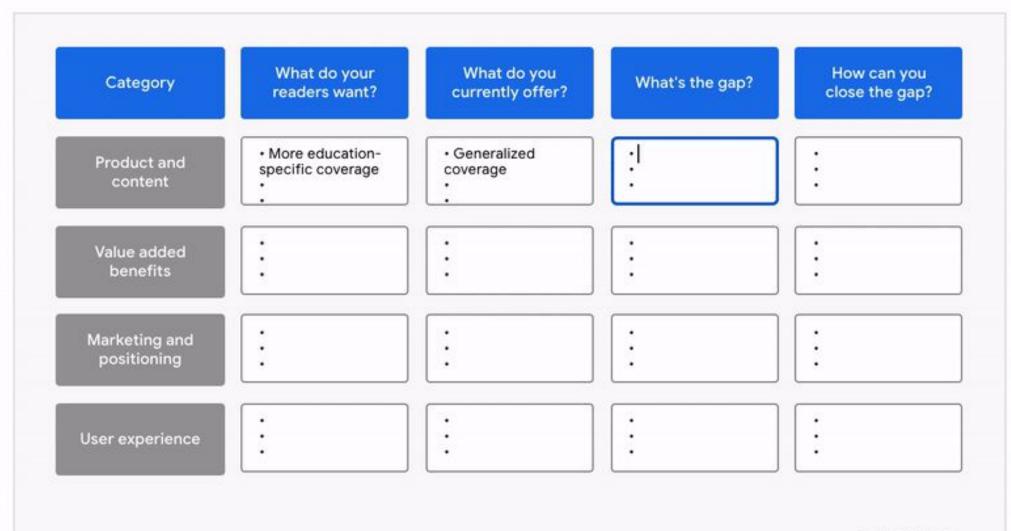
Before we begin

Last workshop's takeaways

- 9.3 out of 10 on willingness to recommend the session to others and 4.7 out of 5 on likelihood to test out anything that was covered in the session
- Respondents really enjoyed the portion on identifying newsroom strengths

Purpose of today's session

Exercise 3: Identify opportunities to strengthen your value proposition



Expand []

Our	ducts / services
help	iser segment
u u	iser segment
who	want to
	g. reducing, avoiding
a user pain	
and b	y increasing, enabling
	•

Content by Strategizer

Purpose of today's session

Optimizing the user funnel

- Growing your readers
- Engaging those readers
- Converting some of those readers into subscribers or contributors
- Retaining those subscribers or contributors

Key Metrics Across the User Funnel

Growing your audience

Key Metrics

- Monthly Active Users
- Monthly Active User Growth Rate
- Monthly Unique visitors / in-market households
- # of Loyal Users & Brand Lovers

Engaging your audience

Key Metrics

- Average Visits Per User
- Average Pages Per User
- Average Page Speed
- Newsletter Opt-in Rate
- % of Known Readers

Converting your Retaining your readers readers Key Metrics **Key Metrics Contributions &** • Churn Rate **Subscriptions** • Conversion Rate • Reader Revenue ARPU **Subscriptions Specific** • Meter Stop Rate • Paid Stop Conversion Rate • Payflow Efficiency

User Funnel Diagnostic

Ver Funnel Diagnostic BETA

METRICS		YOUR DATA	INDUSTRY BENCHMARK	% CHANGE FROM BENC	
•	Engagement Metrics				
0	Newsletter Subscriber Rate	15%	10%	+50%	
0	Average Visits Per User	2.3	2.1	+9.5%	
0	Average Time Spent per visit (seconds)	2:25	2:21	+2.8%	
0	Page Speed Score	55	55	0%	
0	Known Unique Visitor Rate	5%	5%	0%	
0	Average Pages Per Visit	2	3.85	-48.1%	
•	Conversion Metrics				
ŝ	Conversion Pate	2≪	0.05%	110 5%	

User Funnel Diagnostic



Selecting your target metrics



Goal Setting Exercise

Growing your audience

There are two ways to approach this:

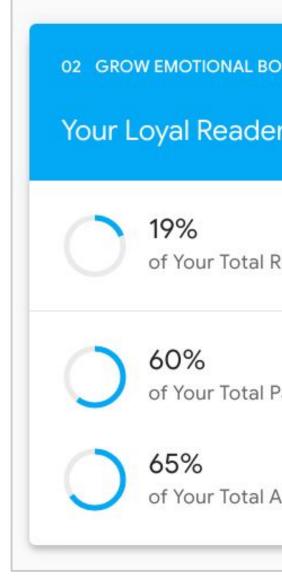
- Increasing your overall reader base
- Increasing readers most likely to subscribe or contribute

For Reader Revenue, volume is important but it shouldn't be the focal point. Bringing more eyeballs shouldn't happen at the expense of bringing loyal readers to your website.

Growing your audience

Key Metrics

- Monthly Active Users
- Monthly Active Users / In-Market Number of Households
- Monthly Active User Growth Rate
- Number & Percentage of Loyal / Brand Lovers



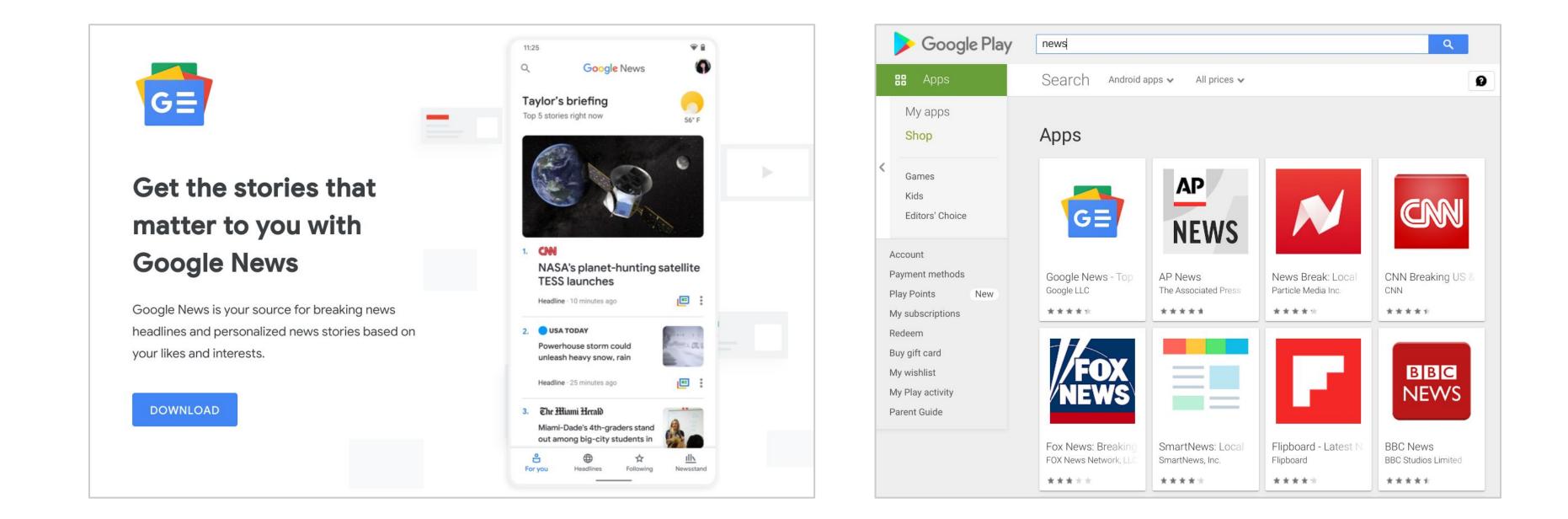
ND 🕕	03 GROW & RETAIN
5	Your Brand Lovers
aders	of Your Total Readers
geviews	O 20% of Your Total Pageviews
Revenue	of Your Total Ad Revenue

Tactics to grow the top of your funnel

- Ensure you're included and properly tagged in all news aggregators
- Improve structured data on your website
- Strengthen your social media strategy
- Perform channel analysis on reader traffic sources and focus on high performing channels

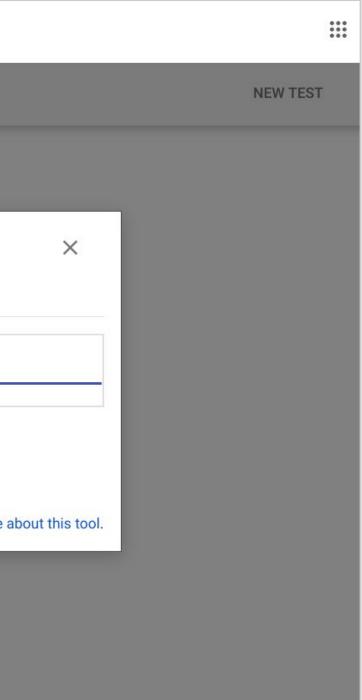
- Ensure your content is **optimally** positioned on audio, video, and voice
- Invest in paid marketing campaigns
- Use engagement focused metrics to track highly engaged users
- **Experiment** with headlines, tags, and сору

Ensure you're included and properly tagged in all news aggregators

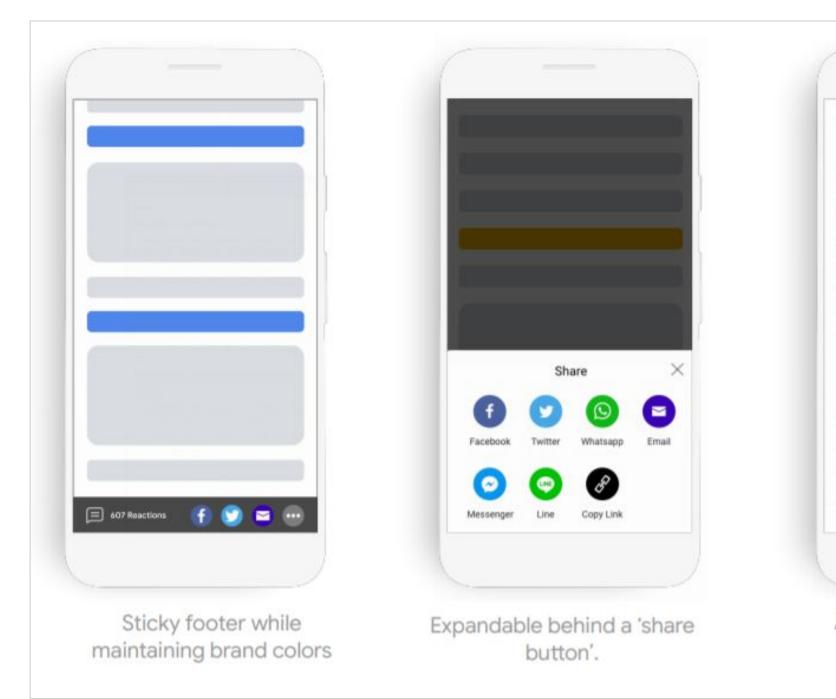


Improve structured data on your website

Google Structured Data Tes	sting Tool			
0				
1				
	Test your structur	ed data		
		FETCH URL	CODE SNIPPET	
	S Enter a URL			
		RU	N TEST	
	Explore the Search Gallery.			Learn more a



Strengthen your social media strategy



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Perform channel analysis on reader traffic sources and focus on high performing channels

TOPLINE INSIGHT

Focus on growing the % of incoming readers for your traffic sources with the best conversion rate and on improving the overall experience of readers coming from the traffic sources with the hightest % of completions.

		2212 63	 efforts where you see nount of completions. 	higher than average	e
ersion rates and	optimize the area	s with the most al	nount of completions.		
Filter Devices +	Filter Reader Typ	e + Filter Tra	affic * Filter Payw	all +	0
			10 - 30		
TRAFFIC SOURCE	DEVICE	READER TYPE	CONVERSION RATE	COMPLETIONS +	READERS
1 Direct	Mobile	Casual Reader	0.5%	20.95%	20.95%
2 Direct	Tablet	Casual Reader	0.5%	20.95%	20.95%
3 Organic Sea	rch Mobile	Loyal Reader	0.1%	14.99%	14.99%
o organice ora	rch Desktop	Loyal Reader	0%	14.99%	14.99%
4 Organic Sea	ch beaktop				
-		Loyal Reader	0.1%	14.99%	14.99%

Ensure your content is optimally positioned on audio, video, and voice



Ensure your podcasts are discoverable on Google



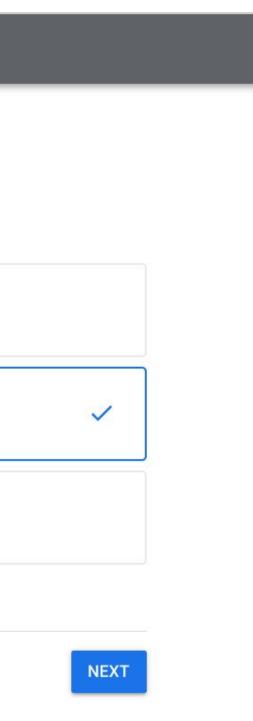
Build your presence on YouTube



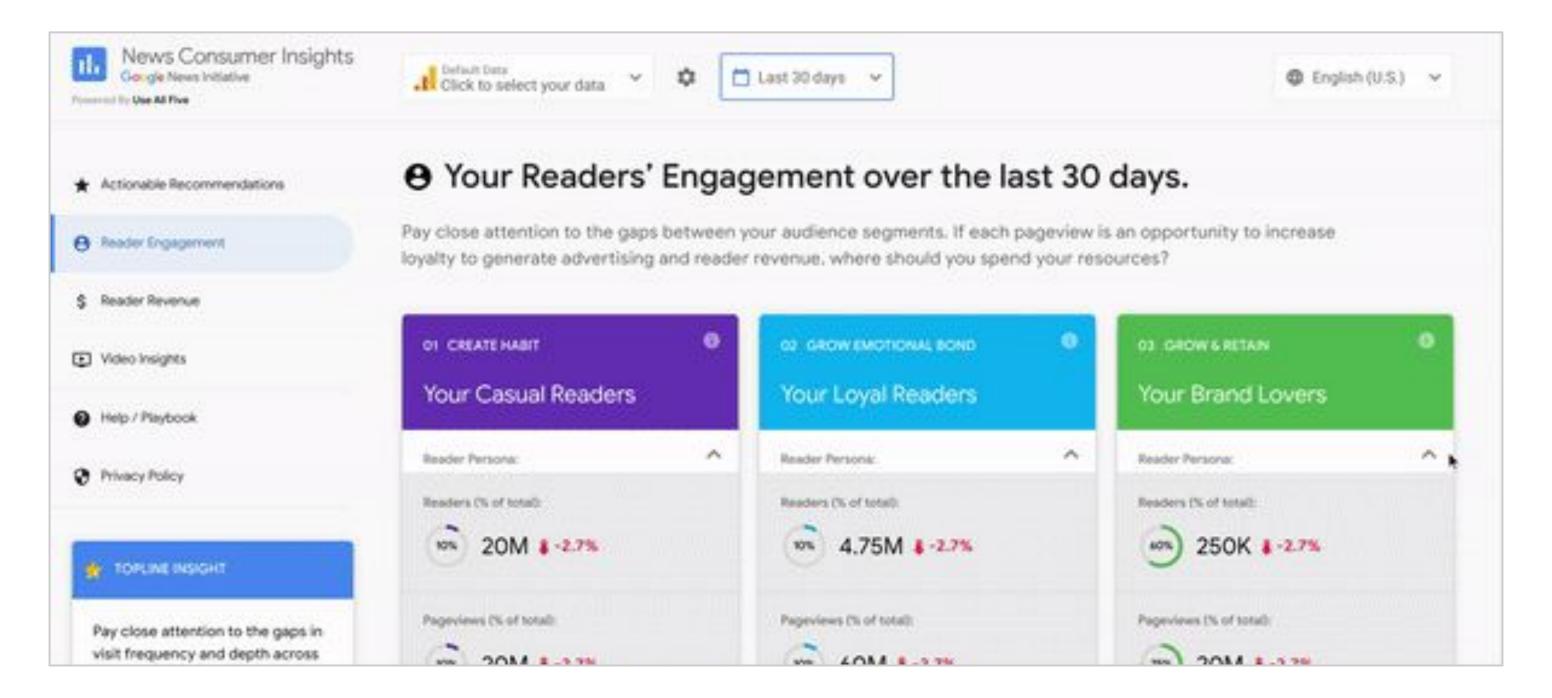
Learn how to build actions on Google Assistant

Invest in paid marketing campaigns

New campa	aign	
		What's your main advertising goal?
	¢.	Get more calls
	X	Get more website sales or sign-ups
	-	Get more visits to your physical location



Use engagement focused metrics to track highly engaged users



Experiment with headlines, tags, and copy





Good morning.

Thanks again for signing up for our newsletter. We hope you're enjoying our stories.

Here are some different ways you can engage with us-and with others in the Vancouver Is Awesome community

Sign up for more newsletters. Click here to review your newsletter options.

Le Comment on our stories. If you have a unique insight or experience, add it in the comments. Sometimes reader comments help inform our reporting or inspire us to write new stories.

Pollow us on social media. Join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Submit an opinion piece. Vancouver Is Awesome isn't just a place to read taxes? Have something to say about something happening in your neighbourhood? Write to us.

Send tips: Some of our most impactful stories originated from tips from readers. To send us a tip, reply to this email or contact us here.

Become a member. If you think what we do is important, become a supporting member today.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reply to this email.

Thank you.

The V.I.A. team



Welcome to the Vancouver Is Awesome daily newsletter-we're thrilled that you've signed up, and we're so excited to be part of your daily routine!

If you don't know us already, here's a little background on who we are. Vancouver Is Awesome was founded by our publisher Bob Kronbauer in 2008. It originally started as a lifestyle publication, showcasing the best of our fine city. We have since evolved into a news source where locals can stay connected to the people, places and happenings that make Vancouver unique.

Today, the need for local news is clearer than ever.

This is why every Monday through Friday, we'll send you the news and stories happening in your neighbourhood. Look for your next email tomorrow.

To make sure our emails reach your inbox, please add hello@vancouverisawesome.com to your contacts. And if you ever want to change your newsletter preferences, you can always do so here.

As you become more familiar with us, we hope you consider becoming a member.

One last thing: We'd love to know what you want to see covered more in our city. Reply to this email, or email us at hello@vancouverisawesome.com. Your suggestion might make it into an upcoming story.

The V.I.A. team







Good afternoon.

You deserve to know what's happening in your own backvard-from the latest happenings at city hall to that new restaurant on Commercial Drive.

After all, local news is what keeps our community connected.

Here are some stories that have resonated with our readers:

1). Ex-employees go public about workplace abuse at this Vancouver coffee business. You can read the follow-up here.

2). Fake list of COVID-19 'wisdom' attributed to Dr. Bonnie Henry makes the rounds online.

3). Ryan Reynolds offers a \$5,000 reward for a stolen teddy bear.

Now that you've been reading our newsletters for a few weeks, we'd like you to consider supporting us by becoming a member. While our business model traditionally relied solely on advertisers, we've begun transitioning to a readersupported newsroom. Our hybrid approach ensures that we'll be around for a long time.

Will you support us today?



Thank you,

The V.I.A. team

Example: VLT of Bonnier News

- Wanted to maximize conversion without limiting reach
- Open access to all readers for one hour
- Resulted in a new base of traffic and 20% increase in overall conversions four weeks after launch



"Nothing is as effective at increasing reach and acquisition as using existing customers as ambassadors."

Example: The Independent

- Wanted to scale audiences to replace print revenue
- Featured "sticky" stories in paid marketing campaign
- Reached almost 70 million UVs and has solid market penetration (2.54X)/ Developed considerable audience in the US - accounting for 10% of conversions



streams. We are now focusing on the

"Thanks to our trusted brand, and through the power of data, we have created a large online audience that can fuel sustainable revenue segmentation and the engagement of that audience to drive subscription opportunities."

INDEPENDENT

Engaging your audience

Key Metrics & Benchmarks

Average Visits Per User

- 1.9 (Mather Economics)
- 2.3 (FTI Consulting)

Average Pages Per User

- 3.6 (FTI Consulting)
- 4.1 (Mather Economics)

Average Time Spent

- 2:15 (FTI Consulting)
- 2:27 (Mather Economics)

Newsletter Opt-in Rate

10%+ (News Revenue Hub)

% of Known Readers

5%+ (FTI Consulting)

Average Page Speed:

- 25+ for mobile (FTI Consulting)
- 50+ for desktop (FTI Consulting)
- 60+ for desktop (FT Strategies)

Tactics for engaging your audience

- **Newsletter:** Experiment with newsletters. Improve visibility, positioning, and ease of sign-up
- **Regi-wall:** Test a regi-wall. Effective way to capture emails, which increases likelihood to convert
- Web Push Notifications: Use web push notifications to increase average visits per user
- **Re-circulation Strategy:** Maximize visibility of recommended content, employ a sticky header, and implement advanced re-circulation formats to increase average pages per user

- mobile landing page

• **Page Speed:** 50% of all readers will leave a page if it takes 3 seconds or longer to load and page speed is a ranking factor for search ranking

• Video Engagement: Users spend 88% more time on a website that has video

• Optimize landing page on mobile: Make it attractive to subscribe or contribute on your

Engaging your audience: Regi-wall

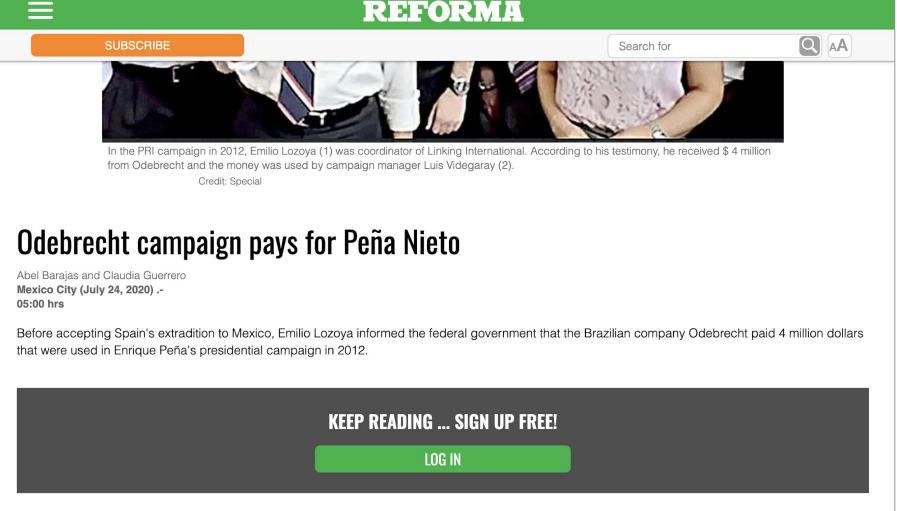
Key Insight

Known readers are significantly more likely to convert

Tactics

Set up a registration wall to capture emails and serve your readers with opportunities to subscribe or contribute.





Reforma, which has historically had a hard paywall, implemented a regi-wall for one article in the wake of the GNI Subscriptions Lab.

Example: Dennik N

- Leverage loyalty of its fans to grow registrations
- "Unlock for a friend" feature drove about 70% of total new registrations
- Subscribers have created more than 250,000 shared links for friends with a 70% click rate.

"The main learning for us is that we need to further leverage the advocacy of our superfans and stress the value of their relationship to us."



Engaging your audience: Newsletter

Key Insight

In our GNI North American Subscriptions Lab, we learned that newsletter subscribers are **10x more** likely to convert to digital subscriptions than anonymous visitors.



Michael Derrick is the owner of three SuperCuts hair salon franchises in WNY. He is very concerned about the coming cut in unemployment benefits and the disappearance of the Paycheck Protection Program. m/Buffalo News

afloat'

The extra \$600 that Congress added to every weekly unemployment check will disappear after today. And the Paycheck Protection Program, the popular federal loan program for small businesses, is scheduled to expire on Aug. 8.

Republicans and Democrats in Congress remain deeply divided over the next round of coronavirus relief - including about whether it should include aid to state and local governments.

When the Buffalo News focused on growing their newsletter subscriber base, they found that more than 14% of their news digital subscribers came from the newsletter subscriber base.

THE BUFFALO NEWS

GOOD MORNING, BUFFALO

COMPILED BY BRIAN MEYER

July 31, 2020



As Covid relief sits in limbo, WNY businesses, employees hope to 'keep

Congress came to the rescue of American workers and businesses when the coronavirus crisis hit in March - but starting today, that federal aid is set to go away.

Example: Gazeta Wyborcza

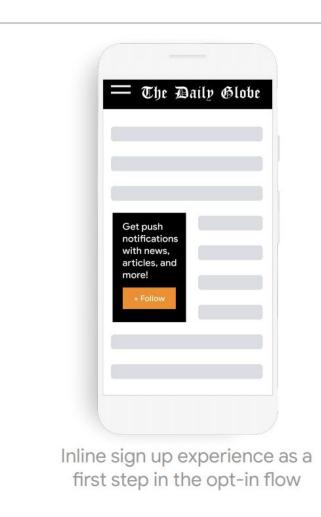
- Gazeta Wyborcza has more than 40 newsletters
- After signing up for a newsletter, non-subscribers view 34% more pages and spend 37% more days per month on the website



Engaging your audience: Web Push Notifications

Key Insight

When targeted, web push notifications -- according to the News Consumer Insights team -- can have a **25% clickthrough rate** and an **opt-in rate between 5 and 15%**. This can be a powerful tool to drive readers on mobile devices back to your website for multiple visits.



Learn how to build your own web push notification or work with a 3rd party, improve the UX of your prompts, and fine-tune your native vs. custom prompts strategy in the <u>News Consumer Insights Handbook</u>.

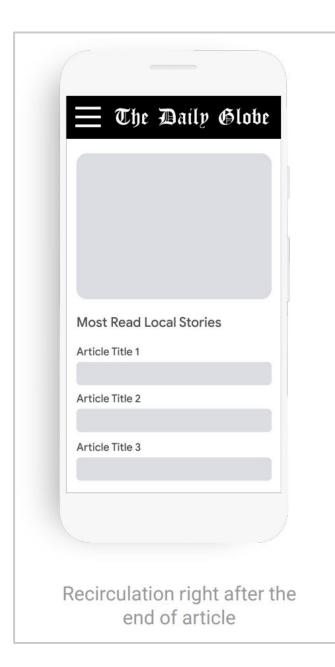


Work to create appealing, brand-native flows which will help boost engagement

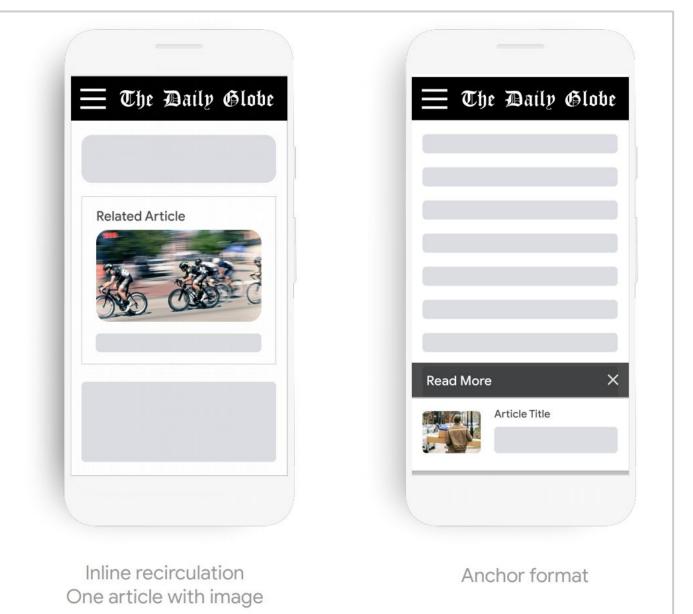
Engaging your audience: Recirculation Strategy

Key Insight

A great way to ensure that your readers consume more articles per visit is with a **re-circulation strategy** that highlights additional content for readers to consume.



Learn how to maximize visibility of recommended content, employ a sticky header, and implement advanced re-circulation formats in the <u>News Consumer Insights Handbook.</u>



Engaging your audience: Page Speed

Key Insight

50% of all readers will leave a page if it takes 3 seconds or longer to load and page speed is a ranking factor for search ranking.

VILLAGE

Village Media found that applying lazy-loading images had the greatest impact on page load times.

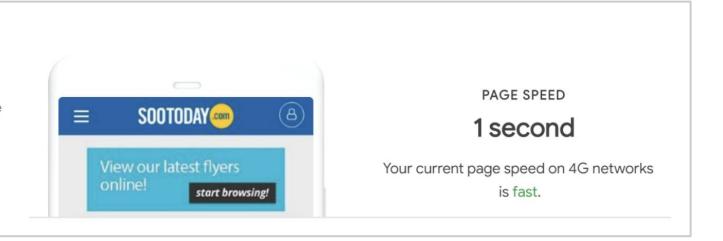
These are just some examples of all the work done by Village Media to improve reader experience across the site.

Tactics

- Use Google's Page Speed Insights to receive a page speed score for your website.
- You can use Google Lighthouse to improve the quality of web pages, remove resources that are unnecessary, optimize your images, and enable lazy loading. Learn more in the <u>News</u> <u>Consumer Insights Handbook</u>.
- Implement Accelerated Mobile Pages.

+19% in visits, +4% pages per visit

By reducing the page load time from 6 seconds down to 3 seconds,



Converting Your Readers

Key Metrics: Subscriptions & Contributions

Conversion Rate

- Subscriptions: 2-4% (FTI Consulting & Mather)
- Contributions: 0.8-1.1% (News Revenue Hub)

Digital Reader Revenue Average Revenue Per User (ARPU)

Developed Markets

- Subscriptions: \$10-15 (FTI Consulting)
- Contributions: \$9-15 (News Revenue Hub)

Emerging Markets

- Subscriptions: \$5-7 (Mather Economics)
- Contributions: \$3-5 (GNI Contributions Labs)

Subscriptions Only

Meter Stop Rate

• 5-7% (FTI Consulting)

Paid Stop Conversion Rate

0.5% (FTI Consulting) 0.9% (Mather Economics)

Conversion Rate

The number of your monthly active users that are subscribers or contributors.

Benchmarks

- Subscriptions: 2-4% (FTI Consulting and Mather Economics)
- Contributions: 0.8-1% (News Revenue Hub)

Average Reader Revenue Per User (ARPU)

The average amount your readers pay in either subscription or contributions per month.

Benchmarks

Developed Markets
 Subscriptions: \$10-15 (FTI Consulting)
 Contributions: \$9-15 (News Revenue Hub)
 Emerging Markets
 Subscriptions: \$

Google News Initiative

Subscriptions: \$5-7 (Mather Economics)
 Contributions: \$3-5 (GNI Contributions Labs)

Meter Stop Rate (Subscriptions Only)

The percentage of unique users who hit your subscriptions paywall.

Benchmarks

• Subscriptions: 5-7% (FTI Consulting)

Paid Stop Conversion Rate (Subscriptions Only)

The percentage of unique visitors that hit the paywall and go on to subscribe.

Benchmarks

0.5-0.9% (FTI Consulting and Mather Economics)

Tactics for converting your readers

Average Reader Revenue Per User

- Implement tiered Pricing
- Run pricing test
- Test price and discount sensitivity

Payflow Efficiency

• Simplify check-out flow simplification (data points, UX)

Meter Stop Rate

- Test impact of locking more content
- Run experiment on meter settings
- Implement a dynamic paywall

Paid Stop Conversion Rate

- Segment the paywall
- Special offers on abandoned carts
- test conversion campaigns with targeted discounts
- Provide exit intent promo offers

General Conversion Rate

- "Try before you buy" newsletter
- tier offer)
- on-site and off-site

Develop a crude propensity score and

Third party subscription (Subscribe with Google) and new payment methods • Upselling campaigns (trials on premium

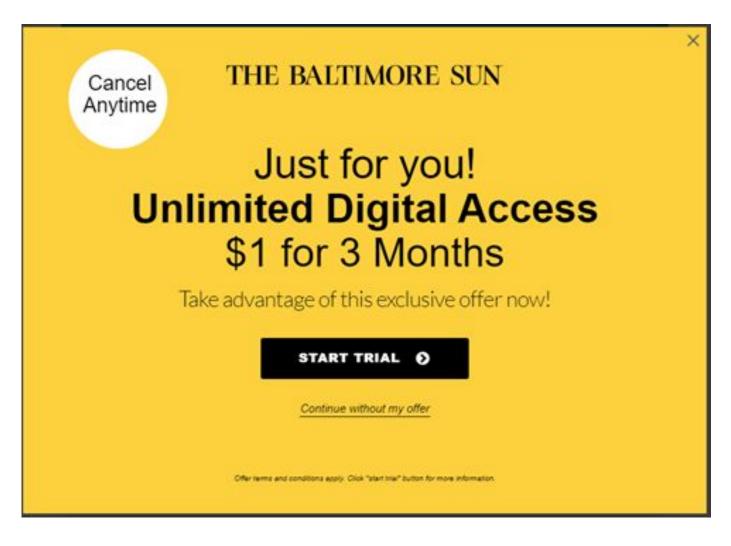
• Increase visibility of premium content

Subscriptions: Paid Stop Conversion Rate

Paid Stop Conversion Rate

Percentage of unique visitors that hit the paywall that go on to subscribe (New Subscribers / Unique Visitors Hit the Paywall)

- Optimize payflow
- Improve call-to-action
- Exit intent promo



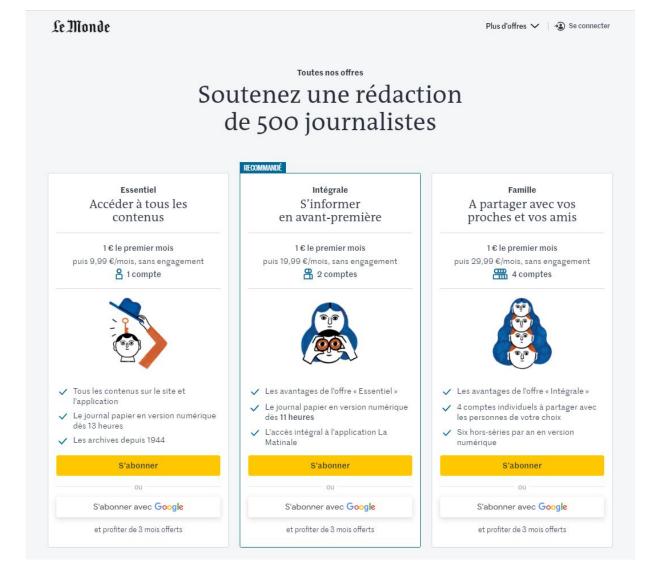
An example of an exit intent promotion offer from The Baltimore Sun

Subscriptions & Contributions: ARPU

Average Reader Revenue Per User

Increasing average subscriptions revenue per user is usually contingent on smart, effective pricing strategies.

- Implement dynamic pricing
- Run pricing tests
- Implement tiered pricing



Through the Digital News Innovation Fund in Europe, <u>Société</u> <u>éditrice du Monde's (FR) project</u> used deep reader insights to launch a three-tiered subscription program, which led to improvements in both subscriber acquisition and retention.

Subscriptions: Meter Stop Rate

Meter Stop Rate

Percentage of unique users who hit your subscriptions paywall (Unique Users who hit the paywall in a month / Total Monthly Active Users)

Set a tighter paywall

- Mather Economics found that a meter of 2 tends to maximize net revenue
- FTI Consulting's exercise to estimate the impact that tightening a paywall can have on advertising revenue

Run meter experiments to better understand tradeoffs

• Run A/B tests to have a more informed sense of optimizing the mix between advertising revenue and subscriptions revenue

Implement a dynamic paywall

- reader's level of activity
- A reader with high engagement will see the subscriptions paywall at a lower number of articles than a reader with lower engagement
- This assumes that readers with higher lower levels of engagement.

Dynamic paywalls change depending on a

levels of engagement will have a higher likelihood to subscribe than readers with

Example: Gazeta Wyborcza

- Hard lock exercise yielded conversion rate 100% higher versus other measured groups
- Conversion rate was up to seven times better than pre-experiment paywall
- Gained more than 20,000 new subscriptions in first three months - 150% increase on paid stop conversion rate

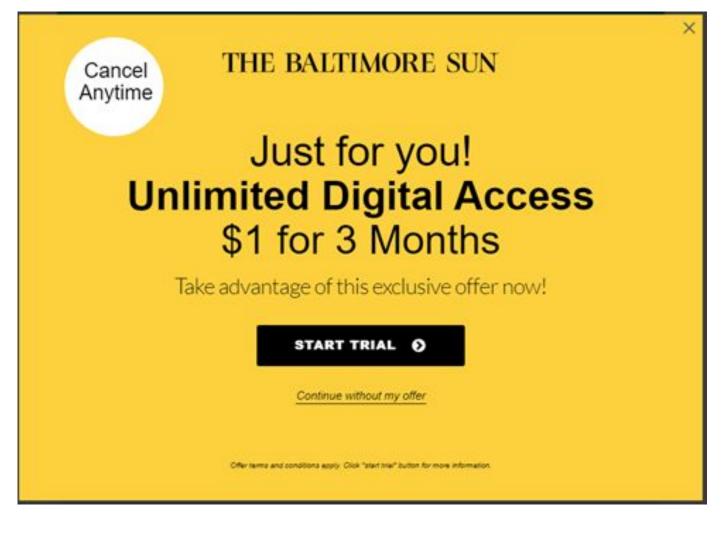


Subscriptions: Paid Stop Conversion Rate

Exit Intent Promo Offer

Another tactic -- recommended by FTI Consulting

 is to provide a promo offer for those subscribers
 that indicate they are going to exit the subscriptions
 payflow. This can help capture readers that may be
 more price sensitive.



An example of an exit intent promotion offer from The Baltimore Sun

Retaining Your Readers

Key Metrics

Churn Rate: 3-5%

Retaining Your Readers Tactics

- Email targeting

• Automated retention touchpoints

• Reinforcing value proposition

Retention: Email targeting

Email targeting

Email targeting of subscribers who are dis-engaging can be a powerful way to prevent churn. In the Latin America Subscriptions Lab, for example, sending subscribers who were beginning to disengage a series of emails led to a 30% decrease in churn for El Espectador.









Emails series called "Why so lost?" sent out by El Espectador to disengaged subscribers

El ingrediente oculto del <mark>Dololed:</mark> zun fármaco 100 % natural?

ablo Correa

oz a voz convirtió este medicamento ontra el dolor en uno de los más conunes entre los colombianos. Miles lo oman cada día con una fe ciega en que la

caléndula con la que es fabricado aliviará sus padecimientos. Varios médicos sospechaban que algo andaba mal y un análisis químico eveló que no es lo que todos cree

Retention: Automated Retention Touchpoints

 Regular and frequent touchpoints with readers early in the relationship are crucial to putting the relationship with the subscriber or contributor on strong footing

• Optimizations led to 81% increase in overall digital subscriptions for the Southeast Missourian

SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Retention: Reinforcing value proposition

• Ensuring that your readers are reminded of why they became subscribers or contributors and continue to get value from their relationship with your news organization is at the foundation of retention

"For our city to overcome its challenges and reach its" potential, we need more people working together on the solutions. The whole idea behind The Devil Strip is to support a community of people who are committed to making Akron a better place to live, which we do by serving Akronites who are already deeply engaged while making it easier for others to get involved."



User Funnel Diagnostic

Ver Funnel Diagnostic BETA

METRICS		YOUR DATA	INDUSTRY BENCHMARK	% CHANGE FROM BENC	
•	Engagement Metrics				
0	Newsletter Subscriber Rate	15%	10%	+50%	
0	Average Visits Per User	2.3	2.1	+9.5%	
1	Average Time Spent per visit (seconds)	2:25	2:21	+2.8%	
0	Page Speed Score	55	55	0%	
0	Known Unique Visitor Rate	5%	5%	0%	
0	Average Pages Per Visit	2	3.85	-48.1%	
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ŝ	Conversion Pate	2≪	0.05%	110 5%	

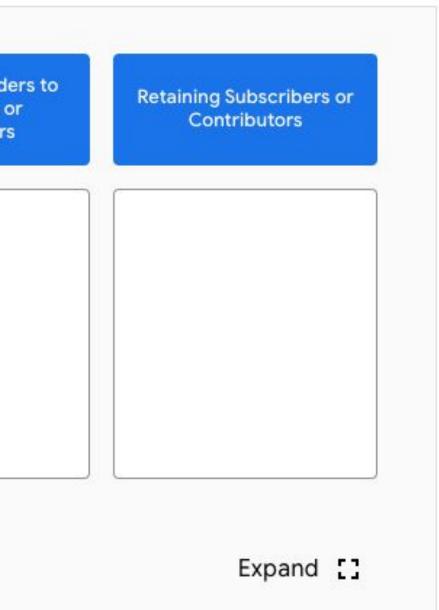
User Funnel Diagnostic



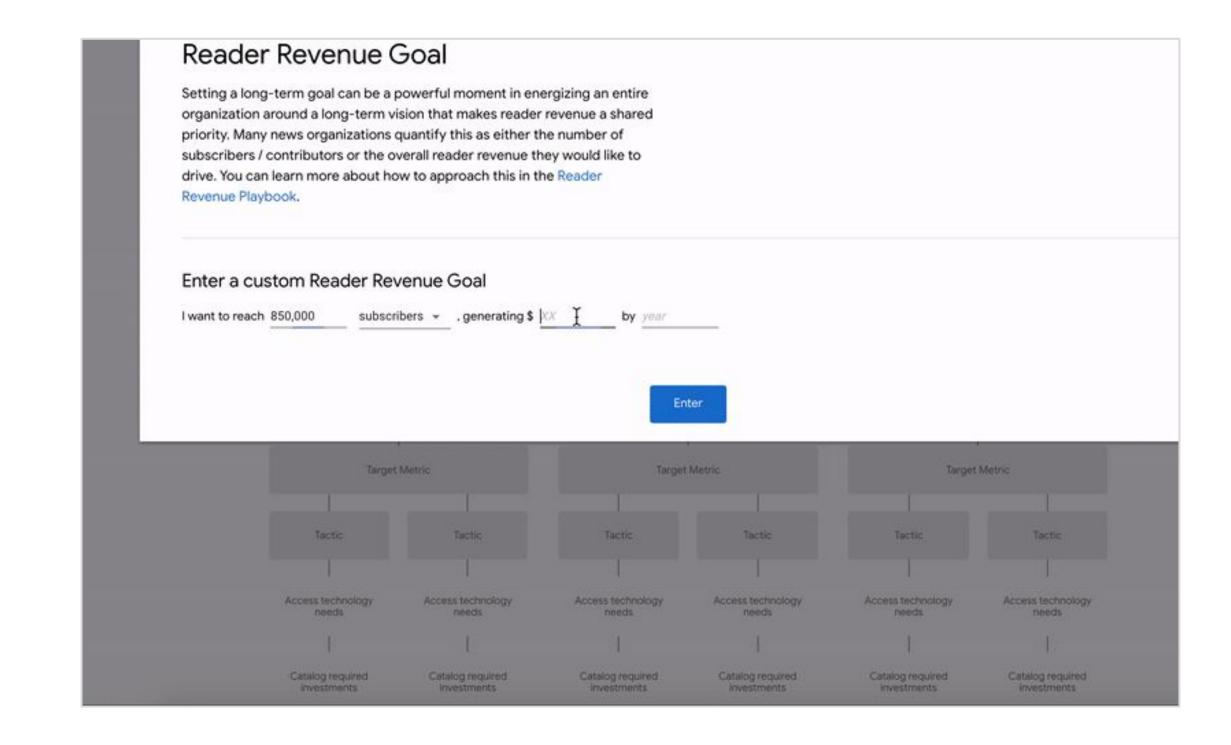
Identifying tactics to improve performance

M 81 676

Converting Readers to Growing Readers Engaging Readers Subscribers or Contributors Tactics



Planning for long-term success





Reader Revenue Workshop Modules

- **Reader Revenue Overview**
- Deep Dive 1: Establishing your reader revenue foundations
- Deep Dive 2: Developing and communicating your value proposition
- Deep Dive 3: Optimizing the User Funnel
- Deep Dive 4: Planning for long-term success

.



ow, we invite you to take a e last three sections, add ecific as possible.				
Category	What do your readers want?	What do you currently offer?	What's the gap?	How can you close the gap?
Product and content				
Value added benefits				
Marketing and positioning				
User experience				

METRICS	YOUR DATA	INDUSTRY BENCHMARK	% CHANG
Engagement Metrics			
Average Visits Per User	3	2.4	
③ Newsletter Subscriber Rate	14%	10%	
③ Average Time Spent	2:43	1:63	
Page Speed Score	40	50	
Average Pages Per Visit	4.8	6	
Known Unique Visitor (%)	8%	14%	
Conversion Metrics			
① Meter Stop Rate	12%	8%	
③ Paid Stop Conversion Rate	0.4%	0.7%	
Conversion Rate	0.4%	2%	

Deep Dive 1 Exercise

Deep Dive 2 Exercise

Deep Dive 3 Exercise





Deep Dive 4 Exercise

Expert Speaker Series

Date	Language	Торіс	Panelists
Available On-Demand	English	Best practices for building and growing a <u>subscriptions model</u> in US & Canada	1.Pete Dou 2.Anna Ma 3.PJ Brown
Available On-Demand	English	Best practices for building a successful <u>contributions model</u>	1.Mary Wa 2.Ariel Ziru 3.Lance Kr
Nov. 17, 11:30am SGT (UTC +8)	English	Best practices for building and growing a <u>subscriptions model</u> in Asia Pacific	1.Matt Linc 2.Malaysial 3.SPH, Fior
Dec. 2, 11am UTC -3	Spanish	Best practices for building and growing a <u>subscriptions model</u> in Latin America	1.Juan Paro 2.Natalia Pi 3.Gabriel D

S

- oucette (FTI)
- larie Menezes (Torstar)
- ning (Post & Courier)
- alter-Brown (News Revenue Hub)
- ulnick (Membership Puzzle Project)
- (noebel (Berkeleyside)
- ndsay (Mather Economics)
- akini, Lynn D'Cruz
- ona Chan
- ardinas (Reforma)
- Piza (El Espectador)
- Dantur (La Nacion)



Please take our survey to let us know how we're doing!

This week's winner is...



Thank You

