
Jennifer Peebles

Journalist in Atlanta, Ga.



Data specialist at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. I (heart) public records.



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Professional Profile

I help reporters find and tell stories in data (and sometimes documents). Tips, documents and data always welcome. For a more extensive resume, check out [my LinkedIn profile](#).

Skills

- Seasoned line editor and newsroom team leader
- Using state and federal freedom of information laws
- Using data to find and report stories
- Using GIS mapping to find and report stories
- Data visualization
- Making interactive maps using tools including Google Maps and TileMill/MapBox
- Podcasting
- Managing multiplatform content production (web, print, tablet)
- Using alternative storytelling methods
- Improving content SEO
- Using social media to engage readers and increase traffic
- Hosting training Webinars on open government

Work Experience

Newsroom Data Specialist

[Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#)

Period: 2015-present

Supervisor: Scott Peacocke

Serve the newsroom with its data needs

- Find and obtain data and documents for stories
- Crunch numbers
- Clean up data
- Create databases as needed
- Create simple interactives with Tableau Public, Fusion Tables, CartoDB

Digital Editor

[Washington Examiner](#)

Period: 2012-2015

Supervisor: [Stephen G. Smith](#)

Supervise digital production for an all-politics news website doing roughly 3.5 million uniques per month.

- Helped lead transformation of the Examiner from a six-day-a-week tabloid local paper to an all-politics news website in 2013
- Manage editors, web producers, video journalists and reporters
- Help direct coverage and coordinate production and publication of content from more than two dozen regular staff contributors
- Pushed organization to use more data visualizations, charticles, infographics, interactive maps and multimedia, including its first podcasts and narrated slideshows
- Supervise publication on web (desktop and mobile), production of tablet editions
- Edit content and supervise team of producers/editors to ensure high standards and proper quality control
- Liaise with corporate web development and IT staff to add functionality and features to site and troubleshoot problems
- Helped lead sitewide improvements in SEO that helped in doubling the percentage of overall site traffic from search

Deputy Editor

[Texas Watchdog](#)

Period: 2008 - 2012

Supervisor: [Trent Seibert](#)

- Produced original enterprise and watchdog journalism that won one national award and multiple statewide awards
- Supervised accountability coverage of the Houston school system and edited my colleagues' work, including a series on insider contracts going to school board members' friends
- Used databases and computer records to find stories
- Helped break story that school district was planning to give a \$600k no-bid contract to a school board member's friend (after which the contract idea quietly died)
- In-house expert on using freedom of information laws
- Led formation of our social media presence and helped build up our Twitter following to 3k+

- Produced GIS maps to find stories, including mapping wreck data to show wreck "hot spots" in Houston and San Antonio
- Produced interactive Google Maps, including a map mashup of Texas legislators' ethics forms that won a national award
- Created interactive social network charts to show connections between players in insider deals in local government
- Hosted podcast on open government issues
- Frequently hosted and co-hosted monthly Webinar on using open government laws
- Counseled journalists, citizen-journalists and others across Texas about using freedom of information laws to access public information

Reporter, editor

[The Tennessean](#)

Period: 1994 - 2008

Supervisors: Too many to list, but they included [Ricky Young](#) and [Tommy Goldsmith](#)

I was proud to work at Nashville's morning daily for 14 years.

- Supervised a team of five reporters covering local, state and federal government (2005-08)
- Oversaw newspaper's 2005 investigation that led to massive changes in the Tennessee Highway Patrol
- Oversaw newspaper's investigation into sexual harassment in state government, which led to changes in how the state deals with harassment cases
- Helped break story that led to the state legislature granting public access to a searchable database of legislative votes
- Used GIS mapping to show "hot spots" of home foreclosures and car thefts in the Nashville area
- Helped coordinate breaking coverage of the 2005 Operation Tennessee Waltz bribery sting arrests
- First person in the newsroom on Twitter and started the first news-side blog
- Stints as night/weekend regional editor, then state editor
- Supervised three reporters embedded with the Army's 101st Airborne Division (two did stints in Iraq and one in Afghanistan)
- Stints as "storm team" editor (for severe weather and major breaking news) and 1A Sunday digest editor
- Started as a summer intern, left when I was government and politics team leader

Education & Training

Professional training

Fellow, July 2011 multimedia workshop, Knight Digital Media Center at the University of California-Berkeley; National Institute for Computer Assisted Reporting mapping boot camp, 2007; Analyst's Notebook Level 1 class, i2, Tyson's Corner, Va., 2009; National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting CAR boot camp, 2001; Poynter Institute newspaper reporting and writing seminar, 2000.

Vanderbilt University

Bachelor of Arts degree in history

Editor of student newspaper, [The Vanderbilt Hustler](#); Richard A. Geyer Jr. Award winner (for student journalists); Charles Forrest Alexander Award winner (for student journalists); McTyeire Hall resident (German hall); McGill Project resident.

Awards & Portfolio

Awards

- 2009 John Aubuchon Freedom of Information Award from [Capitolbeat](#);
- 2009 Open Doors Award from the [Fort Worth Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists](#);
- 2010 Best Online Project award winner from Fort Worth Pro SPJ (shared with my Texas Watchdog colleague Steve Miller);
- Contributed to one installment of the campus sexual assault series by the [Center for Public Integrity](#) and [NPR](#) that won the 2010 Peabody Award, a [Dart Award](#) and an [RFK Journalism Award](#);
- The Tennessee Highway Patrol investigation that I helped direct at *The Tennessean* helped the newspaper win the 2006 Public Service Award from the [Tennessee Press Association](#);
- Coverage of the 2005 Operation Tennessee Waltz bribery sting arrests, which I helped coordinate at *The Tennessean*, won Best Spot News from the [Tennessee Press Association](#);
- Runner-up for *The Tennessean's* annual newsroom "MVP" award, the Jimmy Davy Award, 2005.

Selected Work



