

# Areena Arora

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## EXPERIENCE

**Data and Investigative Reporter** | Sept 2022 - Feb 2025  
**Knox News**, Knoxville, Tennessee (local daily newspaper)

- Watchdog public education-beat reporter. Covered special education, elections and private fundraising.
- Generated an average of 100,000+ monthly page views.
- Created and managed databases on property sales, crime and government budgets. Conducted newsroom data trainings.

**Senior Sub-Editor** | Dec 2019 - July 2021  
**InMobi Glance**, Bengaluru, India (Curated feed for mobile lock screens)

- Co-led a team of six editors curating news feed for millions of users in India, Singapore, and U.S.
- Wrote and edited breaking news, worked closely with designers to optimize content for 100 million+ users.

**News Publishing Specialist** | July 2018 - Dec 2019  
**Reuters**, Bengaluru, India

- Redesigned bond market and forex market newsletters to make them clearer. Also streamlined workflow for newsletter creation.
- Trained in company news reporting.
- Curated and published financial and political news for Reuters wire service.

**Reporter** | June 2017 - April 2018  
**Idaho Press**, Nampa, Idaho (local daily newspaper)

## EDUCATION

**Columbia University, Graduate School of Journalism**  
**M.S. Data Journalism**, August 2022

- Honours in Media Ethics

**Ohio Wesleyan University**  
**B.A. Journalism and Economics**, May 2017

## SKILLS

- **Reporting and editing:** Copy editing
- **Data analysis:** Python (Pandas, BeautifulSoup, Selenium), SQL and R
- **Data visualization and mapping:** Adobe Illustrator, QGIS, Mapbox, D3.js and Python libraries
- **Web development:** HTML, CSS, JavaScript

## SELECT PROJECTS

- Investigated [the effect of private fundraising on public schools](#) using nonprofit data.
- Built a database disproving government's claim about [police chief searches](#).
- Built a searchable dataset of five newsrooms' style guides.

## TALK

[Lightning talk at NICAR 2022 in Atlanta](#)

## AWARDS

**Tennessee Press Association**  
**July 2024**

Three first place awards: Best Education reporting in the state, single feature and digital presentation

**Golden Press Card, East Tennessee Society of Professional Journalists**  
**May 2024**

First place for continuing coverage on special ed  
**May 2023**

Two first and one second place

**OpenNews Scholarships+**  
**February 2022**

OpenNews funding to attend NICAR

**Shobhana Bhartia Fellowship**  
**August 2020**

**Idaho Press Club**  
**May 2019**

Third place in business reporting

**Chicago Tribune Foundation fellowship**  
**February 2018**

Attended NICAR 2018 in Chicago

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in Hindi and Punjabi  
Beginner level in Odia