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# Andrew Marr attacks 'inadequate, pimply and single' bloggers

Andrew Marr, the BBC political presenter, has dismissed bloggers as "inadequate, pimply and single" loners who rant about the world from the safety of their mothers' basements.

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The so-called "citizen journalists" will never offer a real replacement to newspapers and television news, he told Cheltenham Literature Festival.

He said: "Most citizen journalism strikes me as nothing to do with journalism at all."



Mr Marr was giving a talk about how modern technology is rapidly changing the way people receive news and current affairs information. Photo: BBC

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"A lot of bloggers seem to be socially inadequate, pimply, single, slightly seedy, bald, cauliflower-nosed, young men sitting in their mother's basements and ranting. They are very angry people.

"OK – the country is full of very angry people. Many of us are angry people at times. Some of us are angry and drunk. But the so-called citizen journalism is the spewings and rantings of very drunk people late at night.

"It is fantastic at times but it is not going to replace journalism."

Responding to a question from his audience at Cheltenham Town Hall he added: "Most of the blogging is too angry and too abusive. It is vituperative.

"Terrible things are said on line because they are anonymous. People say things on line that they wouldn't dream of

saying in person."

Marr was giving a talk about how modern technology is rapidly changing the way people receive news and current affairs information.

He said change is happening frighteningly quickly with newspaper sales slumping as people turn to the internet.

It was a sad fact that the media would be employing fewer journalists as sales of hard copies declined, he said. But he believed that we are in a transitional phase and that in future people will be willing to pay for online news and information in the way that they now do for newspapers and magazines.

"I am spending a lot of money on my iTunes account, I am already buying journalism on line, I am buying information on line, I am buying books on line," he said.

"Even if you are not going it, your children and your grandchildren will be doing it."

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