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Ed Ryan Thornburg teaches data reporting, product development and audience engagement at UNC’s School of Media and Journalism. He also runs the Carolina Data Desk, which fosters collaborative data-driven reporting projects among local news organizations. With funding from the Knight Foundation, Google and others he develops tools and techniques that use data to lower the cost and increase the quality of local journalism.

In addition to his teaching and research at UNC, Thornburg has consulted with newsrooms and led workshops for journalists on five continents. His book, *Producing Online News: New Tools, Stronger Stories*, was published in 2010. It has been adopted for use in more than 60 colleges and universities and has been acquired by more than 100 libraries from Singapore to South Africa. Thornburg is also a coauthor of *Reaching Audiences*, 5th Edition, an introductory news writing textbook.

Before coming to UNC in 2007, Thornburg spent a decade in online journalism leadership as the managing editor of USNews.com, the online arm of U.S. News & World Report, the managing editor for Congressional Quarterly’s Web site, www.cq.com, and the national/international editor for The Washington Post’s Web site, www.washingtonpost.com from 2003 to 2005.

Thornburg earned his master’s degree from The George Washington University’s Graduate School of Political Management, where he worked as a research assistant at the Institute for Politics, Democracy and the Internet. His bachelor’s degree is from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.