

LET'S REVISIT: **WHAT'S AT STAKE...**

In this chapter we have seen that the world of information has undergone enormous, one might almost say revolutionary, change in the past half-century, and the rollercoaster ride hasn't come to an end. There are so many new ways to get information that the real challenge seems to be processing it and evaluating it. Worrying about the fate of something as old-fashioned as a newspaper seems almost beside the point.

But what is at stake in the impending demise of newspapers as a business model is more than it might seem on its face. The issue is not about newspapers, *per se*—but about the news they report. As Clay Shirky, an Internet expert and writer, says, “Society doesn’t need newspapers. What we need is journalism.”¹¹¹ By this he means information, well researched and objective, about the world we live in, about the things our elected officials