I believe that the work that we are about to comment is the first electronic book, of an original academic character and lacking a printed version, that is published in the Basque Country. The book is written in Basque and it also marks the beginning of Eusko Ikaskuntza’s electronic book section. Without any doubt, this new modality of book editing represents a considerable advantage for the dissemination of scientific research, as the editing and distribution costs are drastically reduced. A scientific society like Eusko Ikaskuntza can now undertake initiatives towards renovation through this new modality of editions.

The book starts with the work by Jean Fauvet of Bayonne "Juan Dauphin cenaren eritsioneko circonstancia berecien errelacioneak", printed in Bayonne in 1766. The book then makes a vast tour throughout the history of journalism in the Basque Country until the recent present. The author has compiled research accomplished over the last 10 years and effectively blends previous publications that began with the publication of a doctorate thesis in 1995 on the birth and development of the press in Basque, which was also edited by Eusko Ikaskuntza. The electronics edition includes all the preceding projects, duly updated and rearranged.

The work is split into seven parts: the first comprises the period between 1766 and 1848; the second analyzes the diffusion of the press in Basque until 1914, including the press in Basque of the emigrants; the third refers to the culmination of the press in Basque, a period which ends in 1936; the fourth part is on the press during the civil war; the fifth analyzes the press until 1945; the sixth is about the press during the Franquist period and, finally, the seventh analyzes the development of the written and oral media in the current times.

It is, without doubt, the book that offers the best global comprehension of journalism in Basque, but it also provides an updated summary of wholly in Basque or bilingual titles with a complete chronological index as an appendix. This book takes advantage the facilities of hypertext, which facilitates rapid reading and prompt consultations in the book.

Joseba Agirreazkuenaga