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## **Review of documentary film: new forms and possibilities**

**Abstract.** *This article delves into the realm of documentary journalism in contemporary society and its consequential effect on social opinion. It expounds upon novel prospects and opportunities for the evolution of documentary investigations. By providing a comprehensive overview of the development of documentaries and projects in Kazakhstan, this article demonstrates the magnitude of their significance in the sphere of social life.*

*The primary aim of this study is to examine in detail the progress of documentary filmmaking and its impact on public opinion. The significance of documentary investigations in disseminating information and raising social and political issues is also explored. Furthermore, the technological accessibility and distribution of films in modern society are analyzed. Through a thorough analysis of the subject matter, the problems are identified, and feasible solutions are presented, highlighting the role of documentaries in raising pertinent social issues.*

**Keywords:** *documentaries, journalistic investigation, public opinion.*

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### **Introduction.**

The documentary film as a form of investigative journalism is one of the key tools for informing the public about various social and political issues in the country and in the world. In recent years, there has been an increase in interest in documentaries, highlighting a growing need for reliable and objective information. Documentary investigations have their own style, the essence of which differs from other forms of cinematic art, through their representation of real-life events and approach to presenting issues. Such projects facilitate a deeper understanding of problems and enable critical analyses of a wide range of social, environmental, political, cultural, and other concerns. Furthermore, documentaries provide authors with an opportunity to express and convey their perspectives on a given issue, using factual evidence, interviews, and video footage. Consequently, film emerges as a powerful medium for directing attention towards significant public concerns. The results of such films include the promotion of

public information literacy and the potential for regulatory adjustments, such as legal regulations, laws, and rules, relating to the topic of coverage.

Public interest in documentary projects stimulated the evolution of interactive methods and new forms of storytelling in documentaries. Technological advancements have increased accessibility and instant distribution of information, attracting a wider audience. Documentaries receive support through crowdfunding systems, streaming services, and prestigious film awards. This article provides an overview of contemporary documentaries, their emerging opportunities, and their impact on public opinion. These aspects are illustrated by the development of documentary filmmaking in Kazakhstan, which is presented as a diverse and relevant investigative case.

### **Methods and materials of research.**

As a part of this study, the method of analyzing documentary projects was applied,

along with a review of academic articles, publications, interviews, documentary investigations, and other relevant sources. To collect data, information websites, databases, and film platforms were used, which made it possible to analyze modern documentary films and identify its development trends.

#### Literature review.

Investigative journalism highlights the complex and multilayered process, which aims to uncover hidden information, such as corruption, violations of the law, and other injustices. According to Silvio Waisbord, a professor at the George Washington University, investigative journalism differs from traditional journalism in presence of publishing information about wrongdoing that affects the public interest (Waisbord, 2001). Similarly, Hugo de Burgh, Professor at the University of Westminster, characterizes investigative journalism as a tool for exposing corruption, promoting transparency, and strengthening public opinion (Burgh, 2008). Sheila Coronel, an investigative journalist, and dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, considers investigative journalism to be the highest point of the profession, requiring high professional skills and noble principles that call for social change (Coronel, 2016). The primary purpose of investigative journalism is to present evidence that exposes hidden information and offence.

Domestic investigative journalism is accompanied by several difficulties. For instance, investigative journalism in Kazakhstan encounters various challenges, including editorial control over the topic, tone, and presentation of material, which often prevents sharp criticism of the country's socio-political problems. Investigative journalists also face personal dangers while actively identifying complex and pressing issues. Despite the high level of risk, journalists are determined to work in the public interest, persevering through challenges and obstacles. An important aspect of obtaining accurate and objective information is the involvement of knowledgeable individuals with experience in the subject matter, including those who have participated in the events or are acquaintances of the journalist and possess the necessary information.

The documentary film «*From Russia with Cash*,» directed by R. Borisovich, highlights the importance of the topic of «kleptotours». In the film, R. Borisovich poses as a rich man from Russia and approaches an elite real estate agency in London to purchase apartments. As the result, the filmmakers were able to uncover and document the existence of hidden mechanisms that enable foreign officials and businessmen to legalize the proceeds from corrupt schemes in Russia. With the help of this documentary, a large-scale investigation garnered public attention and prompted legal authorities in numerous countries around the world (Bushuyev, 2020).

Documentary films are a unique form of storytelling that describes its appeal from its realistic representation of real-world events. This authenticity gives a sense of direct connection to reality and relevance and actuality, which is one of the appealing features. Documentaries typically give personal narratives of real people to create empathy and emotional engagement, introducing viewers to a world of which the general audience was previously unaware. Patricia Aufderheide, author of «*Introduction to Documentary*», explains that documentaries often provide an overview of major issues and then delve into the sub-genres available for exploration (Aufderheide, 2007). Jack Ellis, author of «*The New History of Documentary Film*», states that documentaries narrate social and cultural phenomena and significant events, aiming to convey knowledge and broaden understanding of the world (Ellis, McLane, 2005). Such films provide a unique perspective on the world by illuminating untold or disregarded narratives and concerns. By introducing different perspectives, documentaries face preconceptions and broaden understanding of the surrounding world.

According to Oscar winning director Alex Gibney, documentary filmmaking serves a purpose beyond simply recording what is seen through a camera lens. Rather, it functions as a tool that can illuminate significant issues, impart knowledge, provide information, inspire action, and ultimately effect change in the world (Gibney, 2021).

### Results and discussion.

According to Nichols, the current era of documentary filmmaking can be considered as a «golden era» (Nichols 2010). Social documentaries created online period have unique features that differentiate them from those produced in previous ages. Due to the appearance of online platforms, streaming services, and streaming channels, documentaries have become more accessible to a broader audience, leading to a significant increase in their popularity. Unlike in the past when socio-political topics were approached carefully, modern documentary culture has been bolding in producing projects on social themes. This largely depends on the results of the successful collaboration between filmmakers, activists, and other stakeholders, facilitated by the use of social media and other online tools that enable easier communication between filmmakers. Investigative documentaries are often produced by independent filmmakers or even by ordinary people and contribute to solving social or private problems. In the networked era, social documentaries are designed to inspire action and promote change in the system. Filmmakers use social media and other online tools to engage with audiences and build communities around their pictures.

The appearance of social activism has involved raising awareness and bringing about significant changes in various spheres of life. The entertainment industry has not been immune to the impact of social activism, with the #MeToo movement gaining power in 2017. This movement, which started as a social media campaign, has had an extreme impact on the film industry, leading to the exposure of sexual harassment and assault cases involving high-profile celebrities as Harvey Weinstein, actor Kevin Spacey, director Woody Allen etc. As a result, many of these celebrities have faced public attention and legal consequences for their actions. The #MeToo movement has had a significant impact in the industry, with studios implementing new policies and procedures to reduce sexual harassment and improve workplace safety. Nowadays, corporations attempt to demonstrate their loyalty towards individuals by documenting every aspect in contractual agreements,

to moderate power imbalances that may lead to transgressions. Overall, the #MeToo movement has been a powerful mechanism for change, raising awareness about harassment and prompting action to create a safer and more rightful environment for all. The subject matter has been comprehensively examined in the documentary titled «*Look Away*» directed by Assaf Bernstein in 2021 ([https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5834760/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5834760/?ref_=nv_sr_srsrg_0)), which dips into the music industry. The film features interviews with victims of sexual harassment suffered by famous figures in the music industry.

Another documentary case introduce the case of Harvey Weinstein, a high-profile Hollywood producer who faced numerous allegations of sexual harassment and misbehavior, in the documentary «*Beyond Boundaries: The Harvey Weinstein Scandal*» (2018, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9129406/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9129406/?ref_=nv_sr_srsrg_0)). This film explores the victims' statements, examines the power in the field that allowed Weinstein to continue his inappropriate behavior, and investigates the politics of silence that provide opportunities for such behavior to continue. The film demonstrates the role of the media in uncovering and exposing Weinstein's actions and evaluates the impact of the #MeToo movement in bringing responsibility to powerful individuals who engage in sexual misbehavior. The subject has also been widely covered in feature films, including «*On the Record*» (2020), «*Bombshell*» (2019), «*The Assistant*» (2019), «*She Said*» (2022), «*Seeing Allred*» (2018), etc.

The widespread inculcation of streaming services has generated a rise in audience interest in documentaries. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 led to a further increase in the demand for such content, and this trend has persisted till date. The shift in viewership preferences is reflected in a dramatic drop in demand for traditional television viewing. According to Netflix, 147 million individuals globally viewed at least one documentary in March 2020 (Netflix, 2020). According to the company's financial report, equity from the service has increased from \$35 million at the beginning of 2020 to \$48.5 million at the end of 2022, indicating a

significant upswing in viewership of streaming sites in general (Netflix, 2023).

One of the most popular genres of documentaries available on streaming services is criminal investigations. These documentaries typically focus on lawbreaking and the criminal justice system, ranging in scope from true crime stories about specific criminal cases to broader studies of the impact of criminal justice systems on society. Viewers are often fascinated by crime documentaries because they provide insight into the psychology of criminals, delving into their motives and behavior in detail. Moreover, crime documentaries can expose the inner workings of the criminal justice system by highlighting flaws and biases and questioning the fairness and effectiveness of the system.

Social media platforms have emerged as a popular and convenient platform for different audiences to share their views and opinions. In comparison to traditional media channels, social media platforms offer several advantages, such as the ability to share information, publish videos, investigative documentaries, and personal narratives. One notable example of an individual who utilized social media to disseminate his message was the Russian social and political activist, A.A. Navalny. His work inspired Canadian filmmaker Daniel Roher to create the documentary project «*Navalny*», which was awarded the Oscar for Best Documentary Film in 2023. This recognition highlights the significant impact and relevance of documentary filmmaking in reflecting and understanding modern society.

Feature films can serve as a valuable tool for gaining insight into the work of investigative journalists:

«*The Insider*» (1999, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0140352/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0140352/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)) is a biographical drama that expresses the true story of Jeffrey Wigand, a former tobacco industry executive who becomes a whistleblower and exposes the industry's practices. In the film, a producer for CBS's «*60 Minutes*» persuades Wigand to reveal information about the tobacco industry's cover-up of the harmful effects of smoking. «*The Insider*» recounts the legal battles and personal challenges Wigand faces in his search for truth, as well as the pressure that the producer and «*60 Minutes*»

encounter from the tobacco industry and their own network. The film effectively illustrates how investigative journalism and integrity can triumph over powerful interests and how the importance of speaking truth can succeed.

«*All the President's Men*» (1976, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0074119/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0074119/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)) is a notable film that explores the investigation conducted by journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein into the Watergate scandal, which ultimately resulted in the resignation of President Richard Nixon. The film provides reporters' uncovering of the political conspiracy, their pursuit of the truth, and the challenges they faced along the way, including intimidation and threats.

«*Spotlight*» (2015, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1895587/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1895587/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)) is a film that portrays the real-life story of the *Spotlight* «»team of the Boston Globe newspaper. This team investigated the child sexual abuse and the cover-ups by the Catholic Church in Boston. Through their work, the team uncovered years of abuse that was hidden by the church, as well as the involvement of lawyers, judges, and other powerful figures in the city. As the investigation proceeds, the team encounters resistance and confrontation from the church, its lawyers, and supporters, however «*Spotlight*» team persevered and brought the truth to light. This film provides a powerful example of the ethical and personal challenges that investigative journalists face as they work to uncover the truth about societal issues. *Spotlight* «»was recognized with two «*Oscars*» – the Academy Awards.

The Academy Awards ceremony, a respected event in the film industry, recognizes outstanding achievements in cinematography through the presentation of awards. One such award is the «*Best Documentary Film*» award, given to feature and non-fiction films for exceptional achievements in the documentary film genre. While the Academy Awards have been held annually since 1929, it was not until 1941 that the award for documentary filmmaking was first introduced. Since then, many documentary filmmakers have received this award, some of the best-known films to win the Oscar include «*The Cove*» (2009), «*An Inconvenient Truth*» (2006), «*Anne Frank Remembered*» (1995), «*Born into brothels*»

*Calcutta's red-light kids*» (2004), and *Free Solo*» (2018). Members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences vote to determine the recipient of the award, which is regarded as one of the most prestigious in the documentary film world. Churchill's Island (Churchill Island, 1941) was the first winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary in 1942, for its portrayal of the British people's efforts during World War II (Nellis, 2006).

In contemporary documentary filmmaking, multi-part documentaries and short investigative films have emerged as popular forms. Documentary television series have gained widespread popularity, with filmmakers experimenting with various techniques and approaches to storytelling. Examples of successful and best-known documentary television series include *«Making a Murderer»* (2015), *«The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst»* (2015), *«Wild Wild Country»* (2018), and *«The Staircase»* (2022). Overall, documentary television series offer a unique and engaging way to explore significant issues while providing entertainment and education. On the other hand, short documentaries are used to tell specific stories or explore particular topics in a brief and compact format. They are used as individual works or as a part of a larger project, such as a documentary series or a feature film. The evolution of digital platforms, such as YouTube or Vimeo, has helped the popularity of short documentaries, providing filmmakers with a platform to share their work with a broader audience. These films often serve as a medium to draw attention to pressing issues and raise public awareness.

The field of film production is currently undergoing a significant change towards interactive media. This transformation is largely driven by the appearance of innovative business models and the introduction of interactive documentaries (i-docs), which offer viewers experiences that go beyond traditional documentary contexts. Despite these developments, there remains a need for further research and analysis in these areas. López-García, Pérez-Seijo, Vázquez-Herrero, and García-Ortega suggest that there is still much to be explored in terms of the potential of interactive media and its impact on the field

of documentary filmmaking (López-García, Pérez-Seijo, Vázquez-Herrero, García-Ortega, 2020).

Interactive documentary (I-doc) is an innovative form of documentary filmmaking that employs interactive technology to facilitate a non-linear viewing experience, engaging the audience as active participants. This genre represents a novel research and presentation approach that enables viewers to gain a profound comprehension and appreciation of the subject matter (Nash, 2017).

I-docs represent a departure from traditional linear documentaries as they offer viewers the ability to explore a story through multiple paths, thereby allowing different perspectives and themes to be examined from various angles. I-docs employ interactive elements such as new access points, 360-degree video, virtual reality, and game elements to create a more immersive and engaging viewing experience. The interactive nature of i-docs opens up new possibilities for documentary creation and audience interaction, providing opportunities for viewers to become active participants in the storytelling process. The increasing popularity of i-docs in digital media and online platforms underscores the growing interest and significance of this innovative documentary form (Aston, Gaudenzi, & Rose, 2017).

In his article *«Interactive Documentaries (Representing Reality)»*, Hsham Aburghif, a professor at RMIT University, provides an overview of the concept of interactive films as defined by various scholars such as J. Aston and S. Gaudenzi, K. Berenguer, K. Nash, and J. Harris. These scholars share their perspectives on the significance and importance of interactive documentaries, which they consider to be a new contribution to the study of reality and an evolutionary step in the development of cinema (Aburghif, 2022). J. Aston and S. Gaudenzi highlight the uniqueness of web documentaries as a new form of storytelling that differs from traditional documentaries, indicating the significant potential of interactive documentaries to explore and present reality in new formats. This could have an impact on the future of documentary and filmmaking in general (Aston, Gaudenzi, 2012). K. Berenguer defines interactive documentary film as a new

type of interactive narrative that is considered within the context of hypertext and video games (Berenguer, 2007). K. Nash believes that Internet documentary represents a new vision of the classical concept of documentary discourse, incorporating contemporary structure and functionality that is adapted to specific contexts (Nash, 2012). Finally, J. Harris provides a brief definition of i-docs as a '«non-linear»' spatial and temporal organization where interactive possibilities allow multiple narratives of history through documentary footage and materials (Nash, 2017).

For instance, an i-doc production titled «Pirate fishing» (2014), which was created through the collaborative effort of journalists, filmmakers, game developers, and the Al Jazeera television channel. This project explores the issue of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in Sierra Leone and provides viewers with an immersive experience that sheds light on the dire consequences of this phenomenon on the environment and local communities. As a result, «Pirate Fishing» represents an innovative approach in documentary film and game design, which allows the audience to actively participate with the content of the film, engaging them in research and analysis of the information.

«Pirate Fishing» serves as an exemplary i-doc production that includes various multimedia elements such as text, images, videos, and interactive components to provide a comprehensive understanding of illegal fishing activities. The documentary game applies a complex network of elements, ranging from large fishing fleets to corrupt officials and criminal organizations, to convey the overwhelming impact of illegal fishing on the environment and local communities. This i-doc presents a new approach for documentary filmmaking by enabling the viewer to interact with and influence the content of the film, contributing to their active engagement in the research and analysis of the information presented. This innovative approach enabled the broadcaster, Al Jazeera, to attract about 80% of new visitors to its website by converting a traditional documentary into a two-part game, expanding its audience, and transforming them into regular users (Bullet, 2015).

«Fukushima, Le Couvercle Du Soleil» (Fukushima, Cover of the Sun, 2012, [https://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm\\_gen\\_cfilm=269692.html](https://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm_gen_cfilm=269692.html)) is another example of an i-doc film that allows viewers to explore the exclusion zone around «Fukushima Daiichi» nuclear power plant, where the disaster occurred. The film employs various media, such as videos, photographs, and interviews, to investigate the impact of the disaster on the environment, economy, and lives of residents. The official DVD of the film offers interactive features that enable viewers to explore different aspects of the disaster, including interviews with experts and local people. The film also features interactive simulations that enable viewers to visualize radiation levels within the exclusion zone. «Inside Fukushima» is a prime example of how i-docs can be used to educate and raise awareness about complex issues like nuclear disasters, providing a more immersive and interactive experience than traditional documentaries.

Nevertheless, with the developments in technology, it is necessary to acknowledge the significance of traditional research approaches in documentary investigations. Documentary filmmakers greatly rely on archival research to locate historical footage, documents, and photographs that can be incorporated into their work. The documentalist's search for archives requires enormous analysis of various sources, including public archives, private collections, and news archives, to uncover historical materials that may not be available elsewhere. An example of this method is demonstrated in the documentary film «Citizenfour» (2014, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4044364/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4044364/?ref_=nv_sr_srsrg_0)), which uses archival footage and documents to describe the events surrounding the leak of classified information from the National Security Agency.

Archival footage, including old audio recordings and photographs, is extensively used in crime documentaries commissioned by the streaming service Netflix to bring history to life. Documentary filmmakers often rely on archival interviews with significant figures to ensure that the events depicted are legitimate and realistic. These interviews may be conducted by other

journalists or documentary filmmakers who have previously investigated the subject. The documentary «*The Act of Killing*» (2012) is an example of such an approach, where archival interviews with members of Indonesian death squads were employed to examine the legacy of political violence in the country. In his interview, Joshua Oppenheimer acknowledges the significant number of archival material of interviews with perpetrators, survivors, and victims' families. This material was used to explore the psychological and ethical aspects of violence, as well as its impact on individuals from different sides of the conflict (The VICE Podcast, 2015).

Documentary investigations have a significant impact on public opinion as they bring attention to important issues, revealing hidden or undervalued stories, and offer a platform for the expression of views and opinions that may otherwise be overlooked. Such investigations can expose social inequality, environmental concerns, political misconduct, and human rights violations. Documentary research can challenge the present circumstances, stimulate public dialogue, and impact social and political processes by presenting well-reasoned arguments and convincing scientific evidence. While using emotionally powerful and persuasive narratives, investigative documentaries can humanize complex issues and help comprehension by a broad audience. They can stimulate empathy and understanding in viewers and encourage them to reflect on their values and beliefs.

The 2013 film «*Blackfish*» (2013, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2545118/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2545118/?ref_=nv_sr_srsrg_0)) sheds light on the mistreatment of captive whales, specifically focusing on the case of Tilikum, a whale associated with multiple fatalities at SeaWorld Park. This documentary brought significant attention to the issue of cruelty toward killer whale in captivity, leading to increased public awareness of the problem. The film's impact was considerable in changing policy at SeaWorld Park, including ending the orca breeding program and the discontinuation of animal performances for entertainment purposes. The film was highly praised by critics and received numerous awards. Similarly,

«*The Cove*» (2009, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1313104/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1313104/?ref_=nv_sr_srsrg_0)) became an important investigative documentary that raised awareness about inhumane methods of dolphin hunting in Japan. This film generated widespread public awareness of the issue and prompted viewers to take action to protect dolphins and other marine animals (Vokrug, 2010). The documentary had significant socio-environmental impacts, including the prohibition of dolphin-hunting methods in Japan. The film was well-received by critics and garnered several awards, including the Academy Award for Best Documentary. This documentary serves as an illustration of how impactful documentaries can be in creating awareness of important environmental and animal protection issues, revealing hidden or underreported stories, and exerting influence on public opinion and policy changes.

The documentary film «*13th*» (2016, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5895028/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_0](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5895028/?ref_=nv_sr_srsrg_0)) highlights the historical and contemporary impacts of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which, despite its abolishment of slavery, allowed for the continuation of forced labor through incarceration. The film had also a significant effect on public opinion as it drew attention to systemic racism and inequality within the criminal legal system. It started a national dialogue regarding the need for criminal justice reform and to address issues such as racial profiling, police brutality, and mandatory sentencing. Critically acclaimed, the film received several awards, including a British Academy Award and an Academy Award nomination in the documentary category. Its wide distribution on Netflix in 2016, with more than 16 million viewers, indicates the broad reach of the documentary's message.

The investigative documentary in Kazakhstan is rapidly growing, due to the talent of filmmakers and the availability of new technologies that inspire and bring social change. In recent years, several documentaries have been created that focus on various social issues, receiving international recognition and participating in various film festivals and competitions. One notable example is the film «*On the Other Side of Oil*,» which was awarded

the title of best investigative documentary in 2020 by the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN). The documentary describes the lives of people living in Kazakhstan's largest oil field. The nominees for this award were chosen by GIJN editors, with a focus on works that address social issues and offer inspiration for journalists worldwide (crude accountability, 2021). The documentary's production team traveled to Western Kazakhstan, including Aktobe, Mangistau, and Atyrau, regions with significant oil reserves that attract foreign investors. The idea for the film emerged spontaneously when journalist Lukpan Akhmedyarov was working on reports for «Uralskaya Nedelya» (Uralsk Week newspaper) regarding the living conditions of people living in villages near to the country's richest oil fields (crude accountability, 2021).

The documentary is based on interviews with individuals living in proximity to oil production centers, such as Kenkiyak, Kenkiyaz, and Boshan Kool fields, as well as photographic and video documentation. The central focus of the documentary is the limited accessibility of oil and gas resources for the majority of residents living near these fields. The area's inhabitants experience a range of challenges, including deterioration of health, animal diseases, water pollution, and environmental problems. Residents encounter pressure from oil companies and local authorities to suppress their grievances and accept industrial activities (Simanovich, 2021).

The documentary investigation demonstrates the growth of the documentary industry in Kazakhstan and the increasing interest in producing informative and high-quality documentaries. With this growing interest in promoting cultural identity and political openness in the country has created new opportunities for filmmakers to explore various social and political issues through their documentaries. Furthermore, technological advancements, globalization, and new distribution platforms can lead to the way for the industry's expansion and increased audience reach. Therefore, investigative documentaries have become a powerful tool for informing and educating people worldwide.

In 2014, the Kazakh-Spanish documentary «Forgotten in Karaganda» (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAVPVmpb-Go>) was awarded the Gold Award at the Jakarta Film Festival in Indonesia and was recognized as the best European documentary film. The film portrays the tragic story of 14 Spanish nationals who were forced to work in labor camps during the Soviet era, and whose mortal remains have been discovered and buried in the Karaganda region.

The Dosym Satpayev Private Cultural and Educational Foundation plays an active role in supporting research on the topic of Asharshylyk (Famine) occurred during years 1932-1933 and has initiated the production of the documentary film «The Dead Steppe Nomads» (2019). The film draws public attention to the tragedy that the Kazakh people faced. As research has shown, not everyone is aware of this tragedy and its consequences and there has been no decisive action regarding the recognition of the mass starvation in the Kazakh steppe in the 1930s as genocide (Negizbayeva, Nurshaikhova, 2022). The documentary received positive feedback from the public and gotten numerous comments on various video platforms. Initially, it was intended to be a series of mini video reports, but the amount of material collected allowed crew for the creation of a full-fledged film. The project features interesting interviews with foreign scientists and specialists from Central Asia. Many families in Kazakhstan still remember their deceased ancestors, and there is a need to gather their memories while they are still alive (Kruglova, 2019).

Nowadays, documentaries have become a powerful tool for civic engagement and social impact. The rise of streaming services, social media, and film awards has led to a growing interest in documentaries. Modern documentary projects incorporate various forms and techniques of information distribution, including interactive platforms, which help draw attention to important social issues. The development of new technologies and the talents of filmmakers have contributed to the development of the investigative documentary genre in Kazakhstan, and several social projects released in recent years have gained international recognition.



### Conclusion.

The process of creating investigative documentaries is a complex task, involving various factors that may arise during the production process and distribution. One of the most notable challenges in creating investigative documentaries is obtaining the necessary funding for the project. Unlike other genres, the production of investigative documentaries frequently requires comprehensive research, travel, and numerous interviews, which may result in substantial expenses.

It is notable that various favorable factors can significantly impact the success of investigative documentaries, including but not limited to the accessibility of information, expertise and resources, efficient collaboration and teamwork, steadfastness and resilience, adherence to ethical norms and reporting principles, and the potential societal implications of the documentary. These factors can measurably enhance the capacity of investigative documentaries to reveal the truth, impose accountability on both individuals and organizations, and promote productive changes.

While working with documentary investigations film directors can involve significant risks and uncertainties, the potential benefits can outweigh the weaknesses. Documentary filmmakers often engage in the investigation of complex and potentially dangerous stories involving corruption, abuse of power, and other societal problems. However, being aware of possible risks and problems beforehand can allow documentarians to better prepare and overcome them.

In recent years, the landscape of media has shifted towards digital platforms and social media, increasing the influence of documentary investigations. Through widespread online distribution and social media sharing capabilities, investigative documentaries have the potential to reach a global audience and engage communities and individuals who previously had limited access to traditional media. Overall, investigative documentaries have the potential to exert a profound influence on public opinion by delivering informative content, expanding perspectives, and motivating audiences to take action on matters that are significant to them.

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### **Деректі фильмдерге шолу: жаңа пішіндері мен мүмкіндіктер**

**Аңдатпа.** Бұл мақала деректі журналистиканың заманауи қоғамындағы орны және оның әлеуметтік пікіріне тигізетін әсерін зерттейді. Сонымен қатар мақала деректі журналистиканың жаңа мүмкіндіктері мен перспективаларды қарастырады. Мақалада Қазақстандағы деректі фильмдер мен жобалардың дамуы талқыланып, зерттеу журналистиканың әлеуметтік өмірдегі маңызы көрсетіледі.

Зерттеудің мақсаты – деректі киноның дамуы мен оның қоғамдық пікірдің қалыптасуына тигізетін әсерін жан-жақты ашу. Әлеуметтік және саяси мәселелерді көтере отырып, ақпараттық тұрғыдан деректі зерттеулердің маңыздылығы қарастырылады. Сонымен қатар, заманауи қоғамдағы фильмдердің технологиялық қолжетімділігі мен таралуы талданады. Автор деректі фильмдер қозғайтын өзекті әлеуметтік мәселелерді сұрыптап, нәтижесінде деректі фильмдер сол мәселелердің шешілуіне қалай көмектескенін көрсетеді.

**Түйін сөздер:** деректі фильмдер, журналистік зерттеу, қоғамдық пікір.

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### **Обзор современных документальных фильмов: новые формы и возможности**

Данная статья посвящена обозначению роли документальной журналистики в современном обществе и ее влиянии на общественное мнение и решение социально-значимых проблем. Рассмотрены новые возможности и перспективы развития документальных исследований. Статья предоставляет собой обзор развития документальных фильмов и проектов в Казахстане, демонстрируя значимость феномена в социальной жизни.

Цель исследования заключается в том, чтобы определить современное развитие документалистики и ее влияние на общественное мнение. Обозначена значимость документальных исследований в информационном ключе, актуализирующие социально-политические вопросы. Кроме того, проанализирована технологическая доступность и распространение фильмов в современном обществе. Авторы анализируют социальные проблемы, поднимаемые документальными фильмами, и приводят примеры того, как документальные фильмы способствовали их решению посредством влияния на общественное мнение.

**Ключевые слова:** документальные фильмы, журналистское расследование, общественное мнение.

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