

Journey of an Investigative Journalist

Introduction

It is a process of collecting and analyzing information in order to uncover hidden facts, corruption, or wrongdoing.

Investigative journalism is a crucial aspect of modern journalism. It is a process of collecting and analyzing information in order to uncover hidden facts, corruption, or wrongdoing. Investigative journalism is not easy and requires dedication, skills, and patience. This research paper will outline a month in the life of an investigative journalist. The paper describes the process of identifying an interest or unexplainable event, forming research questions, gathering publicly available data, analyzing data to find useful connections, verifying claims, compiling and analyzing information,

crafting a narrative, seeking feedback, publishing the story, and defending the story and sources against criticism or backlash.

Keywords: investigative journalism, research, data analysis, fact-checking, narrative, journalism ethics.

“Month” in the life of an investigative journalist

Identifying an interest or unexplainable event

The first step in investigative journalism is identifying an interest or unexplainable event. Investigative journalists are always on the lookout for a story that can lead to a significant revelation. Once the journalist has identified a potential story, they begin to form initial research questions. These questions help to guide the journalist's investigation and identify what information is necessary to uncover the truth.

Gather publicly available data

The next step is to gather publicly available data. Investigative journalists will request data from the relevant municipality and may also hire a data scraper professional to gather data from a wide range of sources. Once the data is collected, the journalist will analyze it to find any useful connections or patterns that relate to their research questions.

Analyze data

To analyze the data, the journalist will typically browse through the data in an excel sheet and write down any useful patterns or connections that they identify. They may also ask a professional to create graphs out of the data if it is not available. Once multiple patterns are found in the resources, it is time to verify those claims.

Verify claims

To verify claims, investigative journalists will typically look for another source with the same data. They may also conduct interviews with relevant individuals, such as experts or eyewitnesses, and contact

sources for more information and confirmation of facts. The journalist will also research any legal or ethical implications of the findings and review any relevant documents, such as contracts or legal agreements.

Fact checking and cross referencing

Fact-checking and cross-referencing with other sources are also important steps in the investigative journalism process. Investigative journalists must be careful to consider potential biases and perspectives of all sources and data used.

Craft a compelling narrative

Once all the information is collected, the investigative journalist will compile and analyze it to form a comprehensive report or story. They will craft a compelling narrative that presents the findings in a clear and concise manner. Before publishing the story, they will seek feedback and input from editors or peers to refine the story and ensure accuracy.

Defend story against criticism or backlash

Once the story is published, the journalist must be prepared to defend the story and sources against potential criticism or backlash. They may also follow up with any necessary updates or corrections to the story.

Conclusion

In conclusion, investigative journalism is a complex process that requires dedication, skills, and patience. Investigative journalists play a crucial role in uncovering hidden facts and corruption and shining a light on wrongdoing. The steps outlined in this research paper provide insight into the work of an investigative journalist and highlight the importance of careful research and analysis.