

Nomoplatform:

An example of efficient watchdog journalism



Author:

Dr. Nicolas Kyriakides

Adjunct Faculty, Co-Director (Procedural Law Unit), Department of Law, School of Law, University of Nicosia, Founder of Oxygono, Cyprus Forum and Nomoplatform, Lawyer

Co-authors:

George Isaia

Policy Officer at Oxygono, Operations Executive at Nomoplatform

Márton Tóth

BA International Relations at Eötvös Lóránd Science University Social Sciences Department, Intern at Oxygono.



Historical evolution of watchdog journalism and its relevance in modern democracies

Early Forms (17th-18th centuries):

The concept of journalism as a check on power emerged in the 17th and 18th centuries during the Enlightenment period. Publications like pamphlets and newspapers began to criticize political leaders and institutions openly.

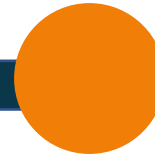
17th-18th centuries



Watergate Era (1970s):

The Watergate scandal in the United States, uncovered by journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, marked a turning point. Their investigative reporting led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon and highlighted the media's role as a watchdog in a democracy.

1970s



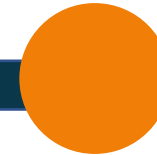
Late 19th-early 20th centuries

Muckraking Era (Late 19th-early 20th centuries): Investigative journalism gained momentum in the late 19th century and early 20th century with the muckraking movement. Journalists exposed corruption, social injustices, and corporate malpractices, leading to significant reforms in various sectors.



Late 20th century-present

Digital Age (Late 20th century-present): The rise of the internet and digital media transformed watchdog journalism. Online platforms enabled a wider reach and allowed journalists to collaborate across borders. WikiLeaks and Edward Snowden's revelations showcased the power of digital journalism in exposing government secrets.



Historical evolution of watchdog journalism and its relevance in modern democracies

Relevance in Modern Democracies:

- **Accountability and Transparency:** Watchdog journalism ensures transparency in government actions, keeping officials accountable for their decisions and actions. It acts as a check against corruption and misuse of power.
- **Informing the Public:** Investigative journalism provides citizens with in-depth, well-researched information, enabling them to make informed decisions during elections and on important policy issues.
- **Protecting Democracy:** By exposing threats to democracy, such as election interference or attacks on civil liberties, watchdog journalism helps safeguard democratic processes and values.
- **Social Justice:** Investigative reporting often focuses on social issues like inequality, discrimination, and human rights abuses. By bringing these issues to light, journalists can catalyse social change and justice.
- **Corporate Accountability:** Investigative journalists scrutinize corporate behaviour, ensuring companies adhere to ethical practices and don't exploit consumers or harm the environment.



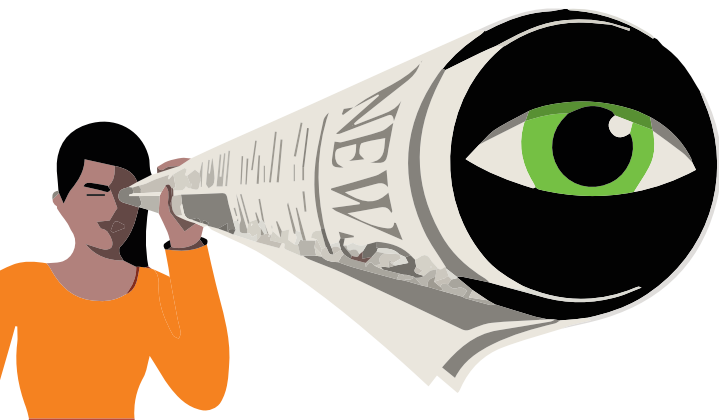
1. Objectives:

Watchdog Journalism:

- Its primary goal is to investigate and expose corruption, abuse of power, and social injustices. Watchdog journalism aims to hold powerful institutions, governments, and individuals accountable for their actions.
- It focuses on in-depth investigations, often uncovering hidden truths and challenging the status quo.

Traditional News Journalism:

- Aims to inform the public about current events, providing a broad overview of news topics, including politics, economy, culture, and entertainment.
- It covers a wide range of topics, often presenting news in a balanced and objective manner without delving deeply into investigative aspects.



Comparative analysis between watchdog journalism and traditional news journalism

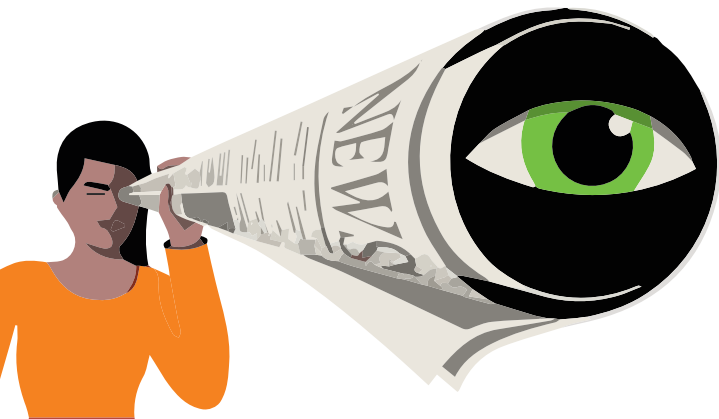
2. Approaches:

Watchdog Journalism:

- Involves extensive research, interviews, and data analysis to uncover hidden information and present comprehensive reports.
- Requires critical thinking and questioning of official narratives, challenging authorities, and demanding transparency.

Traditional News Journalism:

- Focuses on reporting facts, events, and statements from various sources. Traditional journalism emphasizes accuracy, timeliness, and balance in reporting.
- Strives to maintain objectivity by presenting multiple sides of a story without taking a stance, allowing readers to form their opinions.



Comparative analysis between watchdog journalism and traditional news journalism

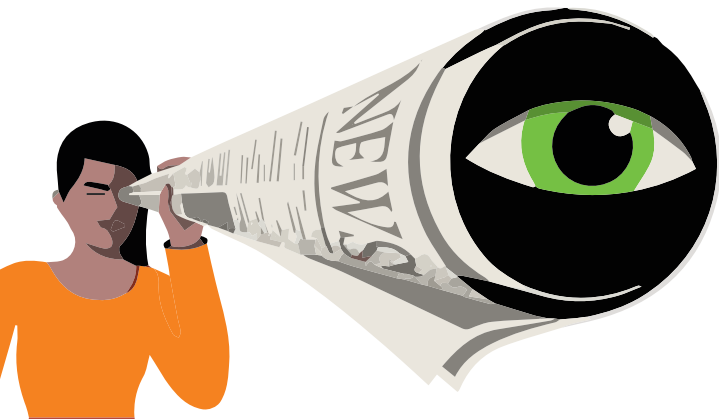
3. Impact:

Watchdog Journalism:

- Exposes wrongdoing, leading to accountability measures such as legal actions, resignations, or policy changes.
- Investigative reports can lead to societal awareness and influence public opinion, sparking social change and reform efforts.

Traditional News Journalism:

- Provides essential information to the public, enabling citizens to stay informed about current events and make decisions based on the available information.
- Encourages civic engagement by informing citizens about their rights, responsibilities, and the functioning of their society.



Comparative analysis between watchdog journalism and traditional news journalism

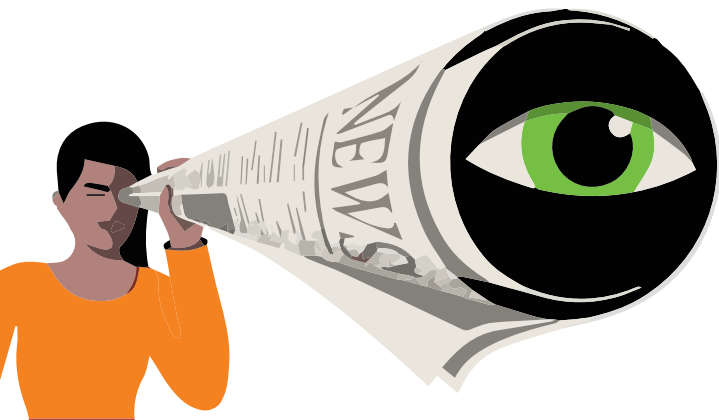
4. Role in Democracy:

Watchdog Journalism:

- Acts as a crucial check on power, ensuring transparency and accountability in democratic institutions. Watchdog journalism safeguards democratic principles by exposing corruption and abuse of authority.
- Empowers citizens with knowledge, enabling them to make informed decisions and participate actively in the democratic process.

Traditional News Journalism:

- Disseminates news and information, serving as a reliable source for citizens to stay updated on local, national, and international events.
- Traditional journalism fosters public discourse by presenting diverse viewpoints, encouraging dialogue and understanding among different segments of society.



Comparative analysis between watchdog journalism and traditional news journalism

Functions and responsibilities of Nomoplatform



Increasing Transparency: Nomoplatform aims to enhance transparency within the Cypriot Parliament by allowing citizens direct access to information about legislative processes.



Citizen Monitoring: It provides a platform for citizens to directly and validly monitor the procedures carried out within the Cypriot Parliament. This enables citizens to actively engage with the legislative processes.



Access to Legislative Procedures: Every citizen has access to detailed information about the submission, examination, and voting procedures of draft laws. This access empowers citizens with knowledge about the legislative decision-making processes.



News Updates: Nomoplatform offers news updates on the processes taking place within the Parliament. Keeping citizens informed about ongoing legislative activities is crucial for promoting an informed citizenry.



Access to MP Information: The platform allows users to refer to the biographical data of each Member of Parliament (MP). Providing information about the representatives enables citizens to make informed decisions and understand the background of their elected officials.

1. Improved Transparency:

Before Nomoplatform:

Draft laws were uploaded on Parliament's website only by their file numbers, making it difficult for the general public to find and understand their content easily.

After Nomoplatform:

Draft laws are now posted on Parliament's website with their official titles and short descriptions. This improvement makes it easier for citizens to identify and comprehend the proposed legislation, fostering greater transparency in the legislative process.

Case studies-examples that highlight the impact of Nomoplatform's work on democracy in Cyprus



2. Enhanced Information Dissemination:

Before Nomoplatform:

Press releases detailing Committee's discussions were not published by the Parliament, limiting public awareness of parliamentary activities.

After Nomoplatform:

Brief press releases regarding Committee's discussions are published.

Case studies-examples that highlight the impact of Nomoplatform's work on democracy in Cyprus



3. User-Friendly Parliamentary Website:

Before Nomoplatform:

The Parliament's website was not user-friendly, which hindered citizens' ability to access relevant information easily.

After Nomoplatform:

Nomoplatform contributed to upgrading the Parliament's website, making it more user-friendly and comprehensive. A user-friendly interface encourages more people to engage with parliamentary information and promotes a better understanding of legislative processes.

Case studies-examples that highlight the impact of Nomoplatform's work on democracy in Cyprus





Comparative analysis with other watchdog journalism organisations globally

1. Commitment to Transparency:

Nomoplatform:

Aims to increase transparency within the Cypriot Parliament by providing citizens access to legislative processes, draft laws, and MP information.

Other Watchdog Journalism Organisations:

Share a commitment to transparency by exposing corruption, abuse of power, and social injustices. They often focus on promoting open government and accountability.



Comparative analysis with other watchdog journalism organisations globally

2. Promoting Civic Engagement:

Nomoplatform:

Encourages citizens to actively engage with the legislative processes by monitoring parliamentary activities directly.

Other Watchdog Journalism Organisations:

Foster civic engagement by informing the public about critical issues, encouraging them to participate in discussions, debates, and sometimes even activism related to social and political reforms.



Comparative analysis with other watchdog journalism organisations globally

3. Advocacy for Accountability:

Nomoplatform:

Holds the Cypriot Parliament accountable by ensuring that citizens have access to accurate and comprehensive information about legislative proceedings.

Other Watchdog Journalism Organisations:

Advocate for accountability at various levels, including government, corporations, and other powerful institutions. They scrutinize actions, policies, and decisions, holding those in authority responsible for their conduct.



Comparative analysis with other watchdog journalism organisations globally

4. Focus on Investigative Journalism:

Nomoplatform:

Focuses on providing detailed information about legislative processes, draft laws, and MP profiles, akin to a form of investigative journalism within the parliamentary context.

Other Watchdog Journalism Organisations:

Specialize in investigative reporting, delving deep into issues, exposing wrongdoings, and revealing information that might not be readily accessible to the public.

How watchdog journalism can be **strengthened** and **supported**



1. Legal Protections and Freedom of Press:

- **Legal Safeguards:** Ensure robust legal protections for journalists, including strong freedom of press laws, whistleblower protection, and anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) legislation.
- **Decriminalization:** Decriminalize defamation laws to prevent the intimidation of journalists and encourage investigative reporting without fear of legal repercussions.

How watchdog journalism can be **strengthened** and **supported**



2. **Financial Support and Sustainability:**

- **Funding Initiatives:** Establish grants, subsidies, and funding programs to support investigative journalism projects. Encourage partnerships between media organizations, NGOs, and governmental bodies to fund investigative reporting initiatives.
- **Diversify Revenue Streams:** Support media organizations in diversifying their revenue streams, including subscriptions, memberships, and crowdfunding, to reduce dependence on advertising revenue.

How watchdog journalism can be **strengthened** and **supported**

3. Training and Capacity Building:

- **Journalistic Training:** Provide specialized training programs for journalists, focusing on investigative techniques, data analysis, digital security, and ethical reporting practices.
- **Collaborative Workshops:** Organise workshops and seminars that encourage collaboration between journalists, experts, and civil society organizations to address specific issues affecting Cyprus.



How watchdog journalism can be **strengthened** and **supported**

4. Access to Information:

- **Transparency Laws:** Advocate for comprehensive access to information laws that enable journalists to obtain government documents and data essential for investigative reporting.
- **Open Data Initiatives:** Promote open data initiatives within the government to provide journalists with accessible, structured data for analysis and reporting.



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