Written Review by the Official Reviewer

№	Criteria	Compliance with the Criteria (underline the appropriate option)	Rationale for the Official Reviewer's Position (remarks in italics)
1.	The dissertation topic (as of its formal approval) aligns with the priority directions of scientific development and/or state programmes	1.1.Alignment with Priority Directions of Scientific Development or State Programmes 1)The dissertation was carried out within the framework of a project or targeted programme funded from the state budget (indicate the name and number of the project or programme); 2)The dissertation was carried out within the framework of another state programme (indicate the name of the programme); 3)The dissertation corresponds to a priority direction of scientific development, as approved by the Higher Scientific and Technical Commission under the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan (indicate the specific direction).	Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna s dissertation topic, "Transformation of Documentary Film Production in the Digital Age: Challenges and Opportunities in Emerging Practices and Distribution Models," as formally approved, aligns with the Republic of Kazakhstan s strategic scientific and state programmes: it directly addresses the Higher Scientific-Technical Commission s priority direction "Digital Transformation of Cultural and Creative Industries" by analysing the impact of digital technologies on documentary production workflows, distribution strategies, and audience engagement; it advances the sub-programme "Digitalisation of Cultural Heritage and Creative Industries" within "Digital Kazakhstan" (2018–2025) by evaluating modernised film infrastructure and digital production tools; and it corresponds to the Ministry of Culture and Sport s "Culture 2025" initiative by investigating the modernisation of cinematic arts, diversification of film content, and expansion of digital distribution channels for national cinema.

2.	Significance to the Scientific Field	The work makes/does not make a substantial contribution to the scholarly field, and its significance is well articulated/not articulated
		From the standpoint of a documentary practitioner and doctoral researcher, this dissertation advances scholarly and practical understanding by introducing a robust cyclical framework of technological disruption and institutional adaptation—rigorously validated through Kazakhfilm case studies—and by elucidating emergent digital distribution models that directly inform both academic inquiry and on-set production strategies
3.	Principle of Independence Level of Independence 1. High 2. Moderate 3. Low 4. None	Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna demonstrated a high level of independence by independently conceiving the research design, developing the analytical framework, and executing all data collection and analysis of the Kazakhfilm case studies without supervisory intervention. She conducted comprehensive archival and field research—arranging interviews with industry practitioners and sourcing original production documents—on her own initiative, and she synthesized these findings into a cohesive theoretical model of technological disruption and institutional adaptation. Throughout the project, she managed the research timeline, addressed methodological challenges (such as access limitations and data triangulation), and integrated relevant scholarly debates without relying on external prompts, thereby evidencing full scholarly autonomy.

4. Principle of Internal Unity	4.1 Justification of the Dissertation s Relevance 1. justified; 2. partially justified; 3. not justified.	The relevance of Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna's dissertation is justified, as it systematically demonstrates the gap between traditional documentary production practices and emergent digital technologies, exposes the inadequacy of existing distribution models within the Kazakh context, and substantiates the urgent need for a novel theoretical framework to guide both future research and practical innovation in the field.
	4.2 Correspondence of the Dissertation s Content to Its Topic 1. fully corresponds; 2. partially corresponds; 3. does not correspond.	The content of dissertation fully reflects its topic, as each chapter systematically develops the theoretical framework, empirical case studies, and analysis of digital distribution models directly in service of examining the transformation of documentary film production in the digital age.
	4.3 Alignment of the Research Aim and Objectives with the Dissertation Topic 1. fully aligned; 2. partially aligned; 3. not aligned.	In Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna's dissertation, the stated goal—to investigate the transformation of documentary film production in the digital age—and the accompanying objectives align directly with the research topic, as they (a) conceptualize a cyclical framework of technological disruption and institutional adaptation, (b) apply this framework through case studies of Kazakhfilm practices, and (c) assess emergent digital distribution models, thereby ensuring full correspondence between aims and thematic focus.

4.4 Logical Interconnection of All Sections and Provisions of the Dissertation 1. fully interconnected; 2. partially interconnected; 3. not interconnected.	All sections and propositions are fully interconnected, as the historical overview establishes the foundation for the theoretical framework, which in turn informs the design of the empirical case studies, and each analytical finding is consistently tied back to the central cyclical model of technological disruption and institutional adaptation, thereby creating a cohesive and logically integrated structure throughout the work
4.5 Argumentation and Evaluation of the Author s Proposed New Solutions (Principles, Methods) Compared to Established Solutions 1. critical analysis is present; 2. analysis is partial; 3. analysis consists of quotations from other authors rather than original evaluation; 4. analysis is absent.	In Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna's dissertation, a critical analysis is present, as she rigorously juxtaposes her novel cyclical framework of technological disruption and institutional adaptation against established theoretical models. By engaging dialectically with seminal scholarship and empirically validating her propositions through in-depth Kazakhfilm case studies, she not only elucidates the distinct advantages of her approach but also systematically quantifies its efficacy within the evolving digital milieu. This comprehensive evaluative process underscores the originality, methodological sophistication, and scholarly depth of her contributions.

5. Principle of Scientific Novelty	5.1 Novelty of Scientific Results and Propositions 1. entirely new; 2. partially new (25–75% novel); 3. not new (<25% novel).	In dissertation, the scientific results and theoretical propositions are fully new, as she articulates an original cyclical model of technological disruption and institutional adaptation in documentary film production—a framework neither previously theorised nor applied within the Central Asian context—and empirically substantiates this model through comprehensive case studies of Kazakhfilm. Her integration of digital distribution paradigms into this cycle represents a pioneering synthesis that extends beyond existing scholarship and contributes substantively to both academic discourse and industry practice.
	5.2 Novelty of the Dissertation s Conclusions 1. entirely new; 2. partially new (25–75% novel); 3. not new (<25% novel).	Conclusions are fully new, as they synthesize her original cyclical framework with empirical insights from Kazakhfilm case studies to generate unprecedented strategic recommendations for digital-era documentary production and distribution; these conclusions not only advance theoretical discourse by articulating a novel model of institutional adaptation but also furnish actionable guidelines for practitioners and policymakers that have not been previously articulated in the scholarly literature.

	5.3 Novelty and Justification of Technical, Technological, Economic, or Managerial Solutions 1. entirely novel; 2. partially novel (25–75% novel); 3. not novel (<25% novel).	Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna introduces fully new technical, technological, economic, and managerial solutions, including an innovative digital asset management workflow specifically designed for documentary production, a bespoke hybrid distribution valuation model that quantifies cost–benefit parameters for simultaneous online and theatrical releases, and adaptive scheduling protocols that reconcile production timelines with the demands of digital platforms. Each proposal is meticulously justified through empirical evidence drawn from her Kazakhfilm case studies and critically contrasted with prevailing industry standards, thereby confirming both their originality and practical viability.
6. Justification of the Principal Conclusions	**Reliance of Major Conclusions on Substantive Scholarly Evidence** All principal conclusions are based on substantial scholarly evidence and are adequately justified (for qualitative research and arts and humanities disciplines): 1. are based; 2. are not based.	All principal conclusions in Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna s dissertation are grounded in robust, scholarly evidence and articulated with rigorous justification. Drawing on methodologically sound qualitative inquiry—including in-depth, semi-structured interviews with documentary practitioners, extensive archival analysis of Kazakhfilm production records, and iterative thematic coding—the study employs data triangulation to ensure the validity and reliability of its interpretive claims. This evidentiary foundation conforms to the highest standards of arts and humanities research, thereby substantiating the dissertation s core findings with unequivocal academic rigor.

7.	

Principal Propositions Submitted for Defense	For each proposition, please answer separately:
	7.1 Is the proposition proven?
	  1. Proven
	  2. Likely proven
	  3. Likely not proven
	  4. Not proven
	  5. Cannot verify proof in the current formulation
	7.2 Is the proposition trivial?
	  1. Yes
	  2. No
	  3. Cannot verify triviality in the current formulation
	7.3 Is the proposition new?
	  1. Yes
	  2. No
	  3. Cannot verify novelty in the current formulation
	7.4 Scope of applicability:
	  1. Narrow
	  2. Medium
	  3. Broad
	  4. Cannot verify scope in the current formulation
	7.5 Is the proposition proven within the article?
	  1. Yes
	  2. No
	  3. Cannot verify proof in the article in the current formulation
		7.1. Proven
		7.2. Yes
		7.3. Yes
		7.4. Wide scope
		7.5. Yes

		8.1 Choice of Methodology – Is the methodology justified or described in sufficient detail?	Yes. The dissertation rigorously justifies the selection of its historical-logical and case-study approaches and provides a comprehensive description of data-collection and analysis procedures
8.	Principle of Reliability: Credibility of Sources and Information Provided.Достоверность источников и предоставляемой информации	8.2 Have the dissertation results been obtained using modern scientific research methods and data processing and interpretation techniques employing computer technologies? 1. yes; 2. no.	Yes. The dissertation employs contemporary qualitative research tools, digital archival databases for primary-source analysis, and statistical software to model distribution scenarios, thereby integrating advanced computer-assisted data processing and interpretation.
		8.3 Have the theoretical conclusions, models, identified relationships, and patterns been demonstrated and validated through experimental research (for pedagogical fields, validated via a pedagogical experiment)? 1. yes; 2. no.	**Yes.** The dissertation s theoretical propositions and models are substantiated through systematic empirical investigation—specifically, in-depth case studies of Kazakhfilm productions and targeted practitioner interviews—that confirm the identified interrelations and patterns.
		8.4 Have the key assertions been confirmed, partially confirmed, or not confirmed by references to current and credible scientific literature? 1. confirmed; 2. partially confirmed; 3. not confirmed.	**confirmed.** The dissertation systematically cites up-to-date, peer-reviewed scholarship—including recent works by Momeni (2024), Lees (2023), and Hight (2021)—to substantiate its principal assertions.

		8.5 Are the literature sources used sufficient or insufficient for the literature review? 1. sufficient; 2. insufficient.	**Sufficient.** The dissertation integrates a comprehensive array of current and foundational works—spanning global digital documentary studies, Central Asian film scholarship, and relevant methodological texts—thereby ensuring a robust and well-rounded literature review.
9	Principle of Practical Value	9.1 Does the dissertation have theoretical significance? 1. yes; 2. no.	**Yes.** The dissertation contributes a novel theoretical paradigm—a cyclical model of technological disruption and institutional adaptation—thereby advancing conceptual understanding within documentary film studies.
		9.2 Does the dissertation have practical significance and is there a high likelihood that its results will be applied in practice? 1. yes; 2. no.	**Yes.** The study delivers actionable frameworks for digital workflow optimization and distribution strategy, which practitioners and policy makers in documentary production can readily implement.
		9.3 Are the practical recommendations new? 1. entirely new; 2. partially new (25–75% novel); 3. not new (<25% novel).	**Fully new.** The dissertation s practical proposals—including the digital asset management workflow, hybrid distribution valuation model, and adaptive production scheduling protocols—constitute entirely novel contributions to documentary practice.

10.	Quality of Writing and Formatting	Quality of Academic Writing: 1. high; 2. average; 3. below average; 4. low.	The quality of academic writing in Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna s dissertation is assessed as **high**, as the manuscript consistently employs precise scholarly terminology, coherent and logically structured argumentation, and demonstrably rigorous attention to stylistic conventions and citation standards.
11.	Reviewer's Comments on the Dissertation		The cyclical framework of technological disruption and institutional adaptation is both original and rigorously situated within existing scholarship; it would benefit from an expanded discussion of its epistemological foundations in relation to parallel models in media and cultural studies. The qualitative methodology—combining archival research with semi-structured interviews—is robust and well executed; nonetheless, the criteria for selecting interview participants should be more thoroughly justified to ensure representativeness across varied production roles. The Kazakhfilm case studies are richly detailed and convincingly demonstrate each phase of digital transformation; incorporating a succinct comparative vignette from an independent studio could further substantiate the broader applicability of the model.

	Scientific Level of the Doctoral Candidate's Articles on the Research Topic (In cases where the dissertation is defended as a series of publications, official reviewers assess the scholarly quality of each article authored by the candidate that pertains to the research topic.)	Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna has produced three peer-reviewed publications of high scholarly calibre that directly inform her dissertation. Her first article, Documentary Cinema as Social Therapy: Kazakhstan's Experience in Portraying Collective Trauma on Screen, appeared in the Scopus-indexed *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema* (vol. 19, no. 1, 2025) and exemplifies nuanced theoretical engagement and methodological rigor. The second, co-authored with Gulnara Abikeyeva—"Creativity as a Defining Trend of Evolvement in Modern Documentary Cinema"—was published in *CAJAS* (vol. 7, no. 1, 2022) and delivers substantive qualitative analysis of national production practices. The third, co-authored with Anita Chernykh—"Animadoc – A Hybrid Phenomenon of Modern Cinema"—was featured in *Central Asian Journal of Art Studies* (vol. 8, no. 3, 2023), where it systematically theorises the documentary animation hybrid form, situating animadoc within global and Central Asian contexts
13.	Decision of the Official Reviewer (pursuant to Clause 28 of the Current Standard Regulations)	Having conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Ramazanova Banu Kuandykovna's dissertation—assessing its theoretical innovation, methodological rigor, empirical foundation, and scholarly presentation—I find that the work fulfils the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Accordingly, I recommend that the dissertation be approved for defence without further substantive revisions.

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