

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ

Соціум. Документ. Комунікація

Том 10, № 2

Заснований у 2016 році
Видається чотири рази на рік



Переяслав
2025

Співзасновники:

Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
ТОВ «Наукові журнали»

Рекомендовано до друку та поширення
через мережу Інтернет Вченою радою
Університету Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
(протокол № 11 від 23 червня 2025 р.)

Ідентифікатор медіа: R30-04679

(Рішення Національної ради України з питань телебачення
і радіомовлення № 1442, протокол № 14 від 25.04.2024 р.)

Наказом Міністерства освіти і науки України № 886 від 02.07.2020 р. відповідно до рішення Атестаційної колегії Міністерства освіти і науки України збірник наукових праць «Соціум. Документ. Комунікація» (серія «Історичні науки») внесений до Переліку фахових видань України, категорія «Б».

Наказом Міністерства освіти і науки України № 894 (Додаток № 2) від 10.10.2022 р. відповідно до рішення Атестаційної колегії Міністерства освіти і науки України збірник наукових праць «Соціум. Документ. Комунікація» (серія «Соціальні комунікації») внесений до Переліку фахових видань України, категорія «Б»

Збірник наукових праць представлено у міжнародних наукометричних базах даних, репозитаріях та пошукових системах: Google Scholar, Національна бібліотека України імені В.І. Вернадського, Dimensions, UCSB Library, University of Oslo Library, University of Hull Library, SOLO – Search Oxford Libraries Online, European University Institute, Cambridge University Library, OUCI (Open Ukrainian Citation Index), WorldCat, CORE, Litmaps, EuroPub, Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory, ERIH PLUS

Адреса редакції:

Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
08401, вул. Сухомлинського, 30, м. Переяслав, Україна
E-mail: info@sdc-journal.com.ua
<https://sdc-journal.com.ua/uk>

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE

Society. Document. Communication

Volume 10, No. 2

Established in 2016
Issued quarterly



Pereiaslav
2025

Co-founders:

Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
LLC "Scientific Journals"

Recommended for printing and distribution
via the Internet by the Academic Council
of Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
(Minutes No. 11 of , 2025)

Media identifier: R30-04679

(Decision of the National Council of Television
and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine No. 1442, Minutes No. 14 of April 25, 2024)

By order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 886 of July 2, 2020,
in accordance with the decision of the Attestation Board of the Ministry of Education
and Science of Ukraine, the collection of scientific works "Society. Document. Communication"
(series "Historical Sciences") is included in the List of professional publications of Ukraine, category "B".
By order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 894 (Appendix No. 2) of October 10, 2022,
in accordance with the decision of the Attestation Board of the Ministry of Education
and Science of Ukraine, a collection of scientific papers. "Society. Document. Communication"
(series "Social Communications") is included in the List of Professional Publications of Ukraine, category "B"

**The journal is presented in the international scientometric databases, repositories
and scientific systems:**

Google Scholar, Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, Dimensions,
UCSB Library, University of Oslo Library, University of Hull Library,
SOLO – Search Oxford Libraries Online, European University Institute, Cambridge University Library,
OUCI (Open Ukrainian Citation Index), WorldCat, CORE, Litmaps, EuroPub,
Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory, ERIH PLUS

Editors office address:

Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
08401, 30 Sukhomlynskyi Str., Pereiaslav, Ukraine
E-mail: info@sdc-journal.com.ua
<https://sdc-journal.com.ua/en>

Редакційна колегія

Vol. 10, No. 2

Головний редактор

Наталія Веретеннікова Кандидат наук із соціальних комунікацій, доцент, Національний університет «Львівська Політехніка», Україна

Національні члени редколегії

Світлана Орлик доктор історичних наук, професор, Центральноукраїнський національний технічний університет, Україна

Алла Зленко кандидат історичних наук, професор, Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі, Україна

Василь Шаркань кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, Ужгородський національний університет, Україна

Микола Ніколаєв доктор історичних наук, професор, Ізмаїльський державний гуманітарний університет, Україна

Наталя Пасічник доктор історичних наук, професор, Центральноукраїнський державний університет імені Володимира Винниченка, Україна

Ренат Ріжняк доктор історичних наук, професор, Центральноукраїнський державний університет імені Володимира Винниченка, Україна

Олексій Гончаренко доктор історичних наук, професор, Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі, Україна

Міжнародні члени редколегії

Корнелія Петр-Балог доктор філософії з інформаційних наук, професор, Осієцький університет імені Йосипа Юрая Штротмаєра, Хорватія

Жоао Канавільяс доктор філософії в галузі комунікації, культури та освіти, професор, Університет внутрішніх справ Бейра, Португалія

Клаудіо Томмасо Гнолі бібліотекар, Павійський університет, Італія

Джонатан Фурнер доктор філософії з інформаційних наук, професор, Каліфорнійський університет у Лос-Анджелесі, США

Джозеф Мармол Яп доктор філософії з літературних наук, старший викладач, West Visayas State University, Філіппіни

Марія Анхелес Чапарро Домінгес доктор філософії зі спеціальності «Журналістика», доцент, Мадридський університет Комплутенсе, Іспанія

Соня Паррат Фернандес доктор філософії зі спеціальності «Журналістика», професор, Мадридський університет Комплутенсе, Іспанія

Панорея Гайтану доктор філософії з інформаційних наук, архівіст-інформатик, Генеральний державний архів Греції, Греція

Франсіско Хав'єр Гарсія Марко доктор зі спеціальності "Філософія та мистецтвознавство", професор, Сарагоський університет, Іспанія

Editorial Board

Vol. 10, No. 2

Editor-in-Chief

Natalia Veretennikova PhD in Social Communications, Associate Professor, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ukraine

National Members of the Editorial Board

Svitlana Orlyk Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Central Ukrainian National Technical University, Ukraine

Alla Zlenko PhD in Historical Sciences, Professor, Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav, Ukraine

Vasyl Sharkan PhD in Philology, Associate Professor, Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine

Mykola Nikolaiev Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Izmail State University of Humanities, Ukraine

Nataliia Pasichnyk Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Volodymyr Vynnychenko Central Ukrainian State University, Ukraine

Renat Rizhniak Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Volodymyr Vynnychenko Central Ukrainian State University, Ukraine

Oleksii Hontcharenko Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav, Ukraine

International Members of the Editorial Board

Kornelija Petr-Balog PhD in Information Science, Professor, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Croatia

João Canavilhas PhD in Communication, Culture, and Education, Professor, University of Beira Interior, Portugal

Claudio Tommaso Gnoli Librarian, University of Pavia, Italy

Jonathan Furner PhD in Information Studies, Professor, University of California, Los Angeles, United States

Joseph Marmol Yap PhD in Literary Sciences, Professorial Lecturer, West Visayas State University, Philippines

María Ángeles Chaparro Domínguez PhD in the specialty Journalism, Associate Professor, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

Sonia Parratt Fernández PhD in the specialty Journalism, Professor, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

Panorea Gaitanou PhD in the specialty Information Science, Archivist-Information Scientist, General State Archives of Greece, Greece

Francisco Javier García Marco Doctor in the specialty Philosophy and Arts, Professor, University of Zaragoza, Spain

Зміст / Contents

Vol. 10, No. 2

О. Плужник, В. Дуда

Інформаційно-аналітична діяльність як фактор підвищення інформаційної безпеки та достовірності даних в системах електронного документообігу..... 8

O. Pluzhnyk, V. Duda

Information and analytical activity as a factor in enhancing information security and data reliability in electronic document management systems..... 8

А. Плужник

Інформаційно-цифрова компетентність як чинник ефективної соціальної комунікації та адаптації молоді.....22

A. Pluzhnyk

Information and digital competence as a factor in effective social communication and adaptation of young people.....22

О. Лахно

Етнографічна документація первісних вірувань слов'ян у архівах XVIII-XX ст.: методологія, репрезентація, проблеми інтерпретації.....32

O. Lakhno

Ethnographic documentation of the primitive beliefs of the Slavs in the archives of the 18th-20th centuries: Methodology, representation, problems of interpretation.....32

А. Майовець

Латинізаційні впливи на церковну іконографію, утвар та облачення в Унійній церкві XVIII ст. за архівними матеріалами генеральних візитацій.....46

A. Maiovets

Latinisation influences on church iconography and vestments in the Union Church of the 18th century: Based on archival materials of general visitations.....46

І. Кононенко, Ю. Лященко

Технології документування в системі електронного документообігу державного сектору України.....59

I. Kononenko, Yu. Liashchenko

Documentation technologies in the electronic document management system of the public sector of Ukraine.....59



Information and analytical activity as a factor in enhancing information security and data reliability in electronic document management systems

Oksana Pluzhnyk

Doctor of Philosophy, Associate Professor
Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
08401, 30 Sukhomlynskiy Str., Pereiaslav, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8780-8288>

Vladyslav Duda*

Lecturer
Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
08401, 30 Sukhomlynskiy Str., Pereiaslav, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-0048-4805>

Abstract. The relevance of the study is driven by the growing need to employ information and analytical activity (IAA) as a key tool for ensuring information security and data reliability amid the active implementation of electronic document management systems (EDMS) in a digitalised society. This study aimed to comprehensively examine the role of information and analytical activity in enhancing information security and ensuring data reliability within electronic document management systems. The research employed methods of systems analysis, review of academic sources, and synthesis of information, as well as critical analysis of modern technical tools. The findings confirmed that IAA is a critically important factor in protecting information resources and maintaining data reliability in EDMS. Its integrated capacity for data collection, processing, analysis, and interpretation enables timely detection of threats, effective risk forecasting, control over the full document life cycle, and verification of authenticity. This facilitates not only prompt response to incidents but also the development of effective security policies that reduce the likelihood of data loss, distortion, or unauthorised access. The study identified key challenges, including a shortage of highly qualified specialists with interdisciplinary competences, difficulties in integrating heterogeneous systems, and legal and ethical constraints related to the protection of personal data and the transparency of analytical algorithms. The development prospects of IAA and EDMS are linked to the active integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies for automated anomaly detection and threat forecasting, the use of blockchain solutions to ensure data immutability, and the application of Big Data tools to identify hidden patterns. Overcoming the outlined challenges and implementing innovative approaches will contribute to strengthening the reliability, security, and trustworthiness of digital documents. The practical value of the study lies in the possibility of applying its results to improve the efficiency of electronic document management systems through the integration of information and analytical tools aimed at ensuring information security and data reliability

Keywords: analytical systems; monitoring systems; security event analytics; information systems security; digital transformation; SIEM systems

Suggested Citation:

Pluzhnyk, O., & Duda, V. (2025). Information and analytical activity as a factor in enhancing information security and data reliability in electronic document management systems. *Society. Document. Communication*, 10(2), 8-21. doi: 10.69587/sdc/2.2025.08.



Introduction

In the current context of digital transformation and rapid automation of business processes, electronic document management has become a foundation for the functioning of organisations in both the public and private sectors. However, as the volume of data created, transmitted, and stored in digital form increases, the issues of information security and data reliability become ever more acute. On a global scale, cyberattacks, interference in digital infrastructure, document falsification attempts, and the deliberate spread of disinformation are becoming increasingly widespread. This problem is particularly pressing for Ukraine, which operates under conditions of hybrid warfare and faces systemic pressure in the informational, cyber, and legal domains. Attempts to disrupt the work of state institutions, substitute or destroy official data, and undermine trust in digital governance tools are not isolated incidents but real threats to national security. In such an environment, information and analytical activity become a strategic tool that enables not only the detection of violations but also the forecasting of risks and the prevention of potential attacks.

A review of current academic research, both within Ukraine and in the international research domain, indicates growing attention to the issues of information and analytical activity under the conditions of digitalised document management. Contemporary studies focus not only on the technical aspects of integrating analytical tools into electronic document management systems (EDMS) but also on strategic questions of ensuring information security, data verification, and enhancing trust in electronic documents within complex digital ecosystems. Recent research highlights the transformation of information and analytical activity (IAA) in the context of digitalisation. N. Zozulya *et al.* (2025) emphasised the integration of advanced technologies – artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, and cloud computing – into information analysis processes in both business and public administration. Particular attention is devoted to the use of cognitive technologies, neural networks, Natural Language Processing (NLP), and modern data visualisation platforms such as Power BI, Tableau, and Qlik Sense, which enhance automation and the timeliness of managerial decision-making. A related study by V. Voronkova *et al.* (2024) also examined the transformation of information and analytical support for organisational management through the introduction of digital technologies for real-time data collection, processing, and analysis. The authors emphasise the importance of integrating data from various sources, applying Big Data analytics to identify hidden trends, and employing cloud technologies to enhance management mobility. The practical value of such research lies in improving the efficiency of management processes, increasing the reliability of analytical information, and contributing to the sustainable development of organisations.

O.M. Odintsov *et al.* (2021) examined the legal and regulatory framework governing the functioning of EDMS and identified key challenges encountered during the implementation of such projects. Particular attention was given to the advantages of introducing electronic document management, including enhanced management efficiency, reduced bureaucratic workload, savings in time and resources, and the creation of a unified information environment. The study also addressed current technological trends and underscored the importance of a systematic approach to EDMS implementation, taking into account both external and internal influencing factors. In their article, S. Muminova *et al.* (2022) analysed the key security issues of electronic documents in the context of digitalised business processes, as well as modern protection technologies, including digital signatures and access control tools. The authors stressed the necessity of ensuring security throughout the entire document life cycle, highlighting six essential criteria: confidentiality, authorisation, accountability, integrity, authenticity, and non-repudiation. The proposed solutions enable the effective integration of protection mechanisms into corporate systems, ensuring the reliable preservation of data in both online and offline environments.

In the study by S. Sternad Zabukovšek *et al.* (2023), the connection between effective document life-cycle management and the increased reliability and security of data within digital systems is emphasised. Examining the influence of organisational maturity on the use of EDMS provides a deeper understanding of how information and analytical activity can contribute to improving control, transparency, and data reliability within the broader context of digital transformation in document management. When considering comprehensive control over the life cycle of an electronic document ensured by information and analytical activity (IAA), it is relevant to refer to the study by S. Kondratyuk & K. Palaguta (2021), which focuses on the selection and implementation of electronic document management systems in Ukraine. The research analyses current trends in the development of EDMS, proposes a system of criteria for software selection, and presents an algorithm for managerial decision-making throughout the entire document life cycle. This approach enables the alignment of analytical verification and document support (as described in IAA) with the stages of EDMS implementation and operation, thereby reducing risks and enhancing the efficiency of digital document management.

Existing academic research deepens the understanding of the transformations of information and analytical activity in the context of digitalisation, particularly in relation to ensuring cybersecurity and data reliability in electronic document management systems (EDMS). It demonstrates how organisations respond to hybrid threats, legal constraints, and the need for technological integration through the adoption of innovative

analytical solutions, automated verification systems, and predictive analytics, thereby underscoring the importance of strategic analytics for the stability of information systems and the development of proactive security policies. Despite this, the effective use of the potential of information and analytical activity to enhance information security and ensure data reliability in EDMS remains insufficiently explored. Most studies focus on the technical aspects of such systems, while the analytical component of risk management and document change control is often overlooked. As a result, analytical mechanisms within EDMS are either insufficiently integrated or applied primarily in a reactive mode, creating risks for business process continuity, organisational digital security, and trust in e-governance.

This study aimed to reveal the role of information and analytical activity in comprehensively enhancing information security and data reliability within electronic document management systems (EDMS). To achieve this aim, the following objectives were defined: to substantiate the theoretical foundations of information and analytical activity in the field of digital security; to identify key threats to data protection and reliability in EDMS; to analyse the potential of analytical tools for threat detection and risk forecasting; and to examine the practical aspects of IAA implementation. The scientific novelty of the study lies in the systematic generalisation of the role of IAA as an integrated mechanism for ensuring data reliability and cybersecurity in the context of digital transformation, taking into account current threats and technologies.

Materials and Methods

The study adopted a comprehensive approach, combining theoretical, applied, and comparative methods with elements of empirical analysis aimed at a thorough assessment of the role of information and analytical activity (IAA) in ensuring information security and data reliability within electronic document management systems (EDMS). The factual basis of the research consisted of recent academic publications from the past three to five years, including studies by I. Aciobăniței *et al.* (2024), D.H. Awang Gani & I.K. Abdul Kadir (2024), and V. Somchenko *et al.* (2024). These studies addressed the practices and trends in the development of electronic document management systems (EDMS), the implementation of information and analytical technologies, risk management and cybersecurity assurance, as well as legal and organisational aspects of electronic document use, including issues of legal validity and document authenticity. The literature review made it possible to identify the key factors influencing the reliability, accuracy, and security of electronic documents, and to establish a foundation for further comparative and critical analysis of various approaches to the implementation of information and analytical mechanisms in the digital environment.

To achieve the stated aim, the study employed a set of scientific research methods that enabled a comprehensive analysis and systematic understanding of the examined processes. Systems analysis was used to investigate the structure of EDMS, its functional components, and its interconnections with IAA, allowing the identification of critical control and security points throughout the entire life cycle of electronic documents, as well as a clearer understanding of the interaction between analytical tools and digital platforms. Content analysis of academic sources made it possible to identify current trends in the development of information and analytical technologies, determine effective approaches to EDMS implementation, and assess their impact on data reliability and security. This enabled the identification of priority areas for improving existing systems. Critical analysis was applied to evaluate the effectiveness of specific analytical tools, including Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) systems, access control and user authentication tools, version control and electronic signature solutions, as well as data verification and audit modules. Comparative analysis allowed for the examination of different approaches to integrating IAA into EDMS, assessing their advantages and limitations, and determining optimal strategies for ensuring information security in organisational and technical processes.

The use of this set of methods ensured a comprehensive investigation of the role of IAA in electronic document management systems, integrating theoretical principles with the practical aspects of EDMS implementation, and forming evidence-based recommendations for improving the efficiency of information and analytical support, ensuring data reliability, and strengthening information security in modern digital organisations. This approach allows IAA to be viewed not merely as a tool for responding to threats but as a foundation for preventive risk management and strategic planning of information resource security.

Results and Discussion

Theoretical aspects of the study

Information and analytical activity represent a purposeful process of collecting, processing, analysing, and presenting information aimed at improving the quality of managerial decisionmaking, ensuring data reliability, and strengthening information security. The main objective of this process is the timely identification of potential threats, inaccuracies, or falsifications in electronic documents, as well as monitoring document flow logic, data integrity, and user behaviour within the system. The process of information and analytical activity involves several consecutive stages: from initial data collection (including automated extraction from documents and logs) to preliminary processing (normalisation, filtering, and cleaning), followed by analytical assessment (evaluation of reliability, detection of anomalies or logical inconsistencies), formulation of conclusions and recommendations,

and presentation of results in a decision-friendly format – such as reports, visualisations, or dashboards – as confirmed by O. Tkachenko & M. Humeniuk (2020). Thus, information and analytical activity serve as a strategic component in managing information security and data reliability within electronic document management systems (EDMS), enabling prompt responses to threats, minimising risks, and fostering trust in digital processes.

V.S. Politsanskyi (2021) defined EDMS as a high-tech system of interrelated components functioning as a unified mechanism for electronic document exchange across computer networks. The author emphasised the importance of monitoring document movement and optimising management processes in public institutions, local authorities, and enterprises. The systems automate all stages of working with electronic documents – from input and registration to storage, viewing, searching, editing, execution control, and access management. In addition, the introduction of EDMS increases the efficiency of document handling, reduces printing and delivery costs, and contributes to enhancing the organisation's overall information culture.

A typical EDMS architecture includes several key components: access control, document registration and routing modules, a database for document storage, user interfaces, authentication tools (such as electronic signatures), and audit logs for recording user actions (Anggraini *et al.*, 2024). Additional tools may include integration mechanisms with other IT systems – ERP, CRM, or state registers. The most vulnerable points in EDMS, where information security and data reliability risks arise, are associated with several factors (Han & Son, 2025). These include document transfer stages between nodes (risk of interception or substitution), user authentication (threat of credential compromise), data storage in databases (possibility of unauthorised modification or deletion), and the human factor (errors, misuse of access rights, or deliberate actions). Particular attention should be given to integration interfaces, which – if inadequately protected – may become channels for data leakage or manipulation.

As noted by A. Yasinska (2022), one of the current challenges remains the lack of a unified mechanism for electronic document exchange between different systems, which complicates their centralised storage in a single archive. The author notes that the anticipated implementation of the ASiC Standard is expected to ensure compatibility and enable businesses and government institutions to exchange electronic information efficiently. At present, exchange is possible through the System of Electronic Interaction (SEI), yet neither ASiC nor SEI is mandatory, which raises concerns among business leaders, as electronic document management providers are not required to guarantee compatibility between their systems. The findings of this study support these observations: an analysis of EDMS implementation practices revealed that the absence of unified standards indeed

limits system integration, reduces the speed of data exchange, and complicates the maintenance of archive integrity, highlighting the necessity of implementing mandatory compatibility standards (System of Electronic Interaction of Executive Authorities (SEI EA), n.d.).

In an era of rapid information technology development and the transition to electronic document management, issues of information security and data reliability have become particularly pressing. As noted by D. Liudvenko *et al.* (2023), information and analytical activity “is a factor in enhancing information security and data reliability in electronic document management systems”, emphasising its significance in the modern world. O. Fetisov (2024) observed that electronic document management systems substantially improve data protection by providing access control, transparency, and secure information storage. Through digital traces, restricted access for authorised personnel only, and the use of security labels, EDMS prevents the leakage of confidential information and loss of documents. Moreover, the transition from paper-based to electronic management minimises risks associated with physical storage. Thus, EDMS not only enhances information security but also optimises organisational operations in the face of increasing threats.

According to the authors of this study, data reliability in electronic document management refers to the characteristic of information that determines its ability to truthfully, accurately, and fully reflect the actual state of affairs, serving as a dependable basis for decision-making, legal actions, or managerial processes. In electronic document management systems (EDMS), reliability is particularly significant, as official actions, financial transactions, contract execution, and decisions with potential legal consequences are based on electronic documents. The key criteria for reliability are accuracy, completeness, timeliness, authenticity, and relevance. Accuracy denotes the correspondence of a document's content to the facts or events it describes, without distortion or errors. Completeness implies that all necessary components of the document are present, with no omissions, abbreviations, or missing elements. Timeliness refers to the alignment of data with the current state of affairs at the time of use – information should not be outdated or invalid. Authenticity indicates verified document origin, ensuring that it was created or signed by the declared entity without substitution or forgery. Finally, relevance refers to the appropriateness of the information for its intended purpose or query – it should be pertinent rather than random or extraneous (Nazarova, 2020). The presence of unreliable data in EDMS can have serious consequences, ranging from erroneous managerial decisions to legal conflicts, loss of trust, and organisational compromise. For example, incorrectly recorded details, an erroneous date, or a forged signature can call the validity of a contract into question or provoke legal disputes. Therefore, ensuring data reliability is not merely a

technical or organisational task but a strategic requirement, closely linked to accountability, legal risk, and reputational protection.

Electronic document management systems (EDMS) are information and communication platforms designed to automate the creation, processing, transfer, storage, and retrieval of electronic documents within an organisation or between entities. They support business process continuity, reduce information exchange times, and lessen reliance on paper-based media, as confirmed by D.H. Awang Gani & I.K. Abdul Kadir (2024). The results of this study also demonstrate that effective document management organisation directly reduces the risks of data loss or compromise and enhances the speed of managerial decision-making.

Information security in electronic document management systems is based on three core principles: confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. These principles form the foundation for data protection and the uninterrupted operation of digital infrastructures (Osazuwa, 2023). Within the scope of this study, it was determined that adherence to these principles during the analytical processing of electronic documents improves the reliability of results and reduces the risk of logical errors or falsification. Confidentiality ensures that access to information is restricted to authorised personnel. In EDMS, this involves limiting document access rights, monitoring user accounts, and protecting transmitted data from interception. Breaches of confidentiality can occur through information leaks caused by phishing, malicious software, credential compromise, or internal threats – for example, dishonest employees (Fedoruk, 2024). In particular, under conditions of hybrid warfare and cyberattacks against Ukraine's state and corporate resources, the risk of theft of critically important documents is especially high. Integrity refers to maintaining the accuracy, completeness, and authenticity of data throughout the entire document life cycle. This is critically important for EDMS, as any unauthorised editing or falsification of documents can compromise their legal validity, result in financial losses, or create reputational risks. Typical threats to integrity include document modification without proper auditing, technical errors due to system failures, virus infections, or manipulation by malicious actors who have gained access to internal resources.

Availability ensures that documents can be accessed legally and without hindrance when needed. In EDMS, this means that users must be able to retrieve information quickly for work or decision-making. Threats to availability encompass both external attacks (such as DDoS attacks on servers) and internal failures – software errors, equipment malfunctions, inconsistent system updates, or the absence of backups. In contexts where document management supports critical processes (such as public administration, defence, or healthcare), loss of availability can have extremely serious consequences. Thus, the protection of confidentiality, integrity, and

availability forms the foundation of secure electronic document management, with information and analytical activity playing a key role in the timely identification of threats, incident response, and reduction of the system's overall risk profile.

Accordingly, the authors of this study define information and analytical activity as a comprehensive set of processes aimed at collecting, processing, analysing, and evaluating information to ensure the reliability and security of electronic data. Within this research, information and analytical activity are treated as a tool that enables systematic verification, monitoring, and maintenance of data reliability in electronic document management systems by analysing the logical structure of documents, verifying sources, cross-referencing information with internal and external registers, and recording potential deviations requiring attention. In this way, data reliability is regarded as the cornerstone of the entire digital document management ecosystem.

The role of information and analytical activity in enhancing information security in electronic document management systems

Information and analytical activity (IAA) play a central role in monitoring the security of electronic document management systems (EDMS) and identifying potential threats before they escalate into actual incidents. Effective IAA in this context relies on the continuous collection, processing, and analysis of large volumes of data generated during EDMS operation, including log files, event journals, user actions, and metadata related to document workflows. In particular, log analysis forms the basis for detecting both technical and behavioural anomalies. IAA enables the systematisation of events – such as system logins, access-rights changes, document edits, and signings – and the identification of patterns that may indicate suspicious activity. Examples include repeated login attempts from different IP addresses, access to documents outside working hours, or edits made by users without the necessary authorisation (Martín *et al.*, 2021).

Another important tool is the analysis of user behavioural patterns. Machine learning algorithms can be used to create profiles of "normal" activity for each user or department. Deviations from these patterns – such as a sudden increase in the volume of downloaded documents or access to unusual categories of files – are automatically flagged as potential indicators of compromise or internal threats (Shi *et al.*, 2020). Additionally, IAA allows for the monitoring of anomalous information flows, including atypical document transfer routes, data duplication, and attempts to export or import files without authorisation via integration interfaces. This is particularly critical during external cyberattacks, where disruption of document workflow logic can be one of the earliest signs of intrusion (Perapu, 2025).

Overall, information and analytical activity provide the foundation for proactive cyber protection of EDMS.

It enables the system not only to respond to threats that have already occurred but also to detect potential vulnerabilities at an early stage, preventing data loss, integrity breaches, and business process interruptions. When combined with visualisation tools, reporting mechanisms, and early warning systems, IAA establishes an intelligent layer of information security management within electronic document management. Risk forecasting in electronic document management systems (EDMS) is a crucial aspect of information and analytical activity, enabling not only a reactive response to information security incidents but also their proactive prevention by assessing both the likelihood and potential impact of such events (Alotaibi, 2023). This significantly enhances the system's overall resilience to threats and supports a proactive approach to information security management.

One of the key tools in this process is the analysis of historical incident data. By examining accumulated logs, failure reports, attempts at unauthorised access, internal breaches, or user errors, recurring patterns, typical vulnerabilities, and temporal or behavioural trends can be identified (Landauer *et al.*, 2025). For instance, statistical analysis may reveal that the number of violations rises sharply during certain periods of the year – such as during staff changes or reporting cycles – providing a basis for strengthening controls during these times. Predictive models are then built using these data – algorithms that employ machine learning or mathematical modelling techniques to assess risk levels according to defined indicators. For example, if the system records a user changing IP addresses, altering access rights, and downloading large volumes of documents, this combination of factors may be interpreted as a high risk of an internal threat. Predictive models allow such situations to be automatically classified as critical and trigger appropriate response protocols. Furthermore, IAA is used to evaluate the potential consequences of incidents, which is equally important as assessing their probability. For example, a breach of clients' personal data or the falsification of a contract can have varying degrees of impact on an organisation, ranging from reputational damage to legal liability. Modern analytical systems, therefore, take into account not only the occurrence of an incident but also the associated risk value – reputational, financial, or legal. As a result, risk forecasting based on IAA enables organisational leadership to make informed decisions regarding the allocation of security resources, the refinement of access policies, software updates, staff awareness training, and other preventative measures. In this way, analytics becomes the foundation for strategic security management in a digital document environment (Levandovska, 2023).

According to the authors of this study, analytical data collected and processed through information and analytical activity (IAA) constitute a critical basis for developing and continuously improving information

security policies and procedures in electronic document management systems (EDMS). By leveraging these data, policies become actionable tools for risk management and the maintenance of data integrity rather than mere declarative documents. The analysis of incidents and vulnerabilities allows the formulation of evidence-based access policies for electronic documents, defining which categories of users should have access to specific types of documents, how authenticity checks should be conducted, and how misuse of access rights can be prevented. For instance, if analytical systems detect a high incidence of issues linked to excessively broad access rights, policies can be adjusted according to the principle of least privilege. IAA also helps determine the need for detailed backup and data recovery procedures (Tekin *et al.*, 2023). Based on statistics regarding data loss or corruption, as well as assessments of potential damage, it is possible to determine the appropriate frequency for creating backups, identify which components of an EDMS are critical to business processes and require enhanced protection, and establish the most reliable storage formats and repositories.

Analytics also plays a crucial role in shaping incident response policies. By modelling scenarios and analysing past response times to security events, clear procedures can be developed for staff to follow when breaches are detected – specifying who should be notified, which resources must be isolated, and which actions should be recorded. Additionally, user behaviour analysis forms the basis for internal digital hygiene regulations, such as the frequency of password changes, requirements for multi-factor authentication, and restrictions on the use of personal devices (Noori & AlHashimi, 2023). IAA enables these rules to be tailored to actual organisational needs and risks, rather than merely adhering to general standards.

Within the scope of information and analytical activity, key functions include the collection of relevant data, its systematic organisation, analytical processing, and subsequent synthesis, interpretation, and forecasting based on the findings. As noted by V. Savchuk & V. Derii (2023), this study emphasises the importance of monitoring deviations from standard procedures within the document management system, identifying logical errors in the content or structure of documents, and detecting potential signs of falsification. The predictive component, highlighted by G. Sichkarenko & S. Yaremko (2022), is also supported in this study, demonstrating the effectiveness of modelling potential risk scenarios and implementing proactive cybersecurity measures. Analytical data provides feedback between the actual state of information security and the organisation's regulatory framework. Consequently, policies and procedures not only comply with current legislation and international standards but also dynamically adapt to changes in threats, technologies, and organisational processes.

Ensuring data integrity through information and analytical activity

Information and analytical activity play a key role in ensuring data integrity within electronic document management systems (EDMS), particularly through the verification and validation of electronic documents. These processes guarantee that the data processed, stored, and transmitted within the system is authentic, complete, unaltered, and compliant with established standards. Methods for

ensuring data integrity in electronic document management systems include electronic signature verification to confirm document authenticity, hashing to monitor integrity and detect modifications, timestamping to record the moment of creation or signing, audit logging to trace the history of changes and access, and behavioural analysis of users to identify anomalies and unauthorised actions. Together, these measures provide comprehensive protection and control over information (Table 1).

Table 1. Methods for ensuring data integrity in EDMS

Method	Purpose	Example of use
Electronic signature verification (ESV)	Confirms the authenticity and integrity of a document by verifying the sender's digital signature	Checking electronic signatures in documents using certificates from trusted authorities
Hashing (Checksum, Hash functions)	Creates a unique digital fingerprint of a document to monitor integrity and detect changes	Detecting unauthorised modifications to files after editing or transmission
Timestamping	Records the exact time a document is created or signed to protect against date manipulation	Protecting electronic documents from falsified dates and altered timestamps
Audit logging	Tracks and records all changes, operations, and access to documents to ensure transparency and control	Logging the history of edits, access, and deletions of documents in an EDMS
User behaviour analysis	Identifies anomalies in user activity by analysing deviations from normal behaviour	Detecting unauthorised access attempts or atypical document operations

Source: J. Kim *et al.* (2019), A. Saepulrohman & A. Ismangil (2021), V. Semchenko *et al.* (2024), I. Aciobăniței *et al.* (2024), D.H.A. Gani *et al.* (2024)

Verification of electronic documents involves confirming their authenticity – that is, ensuring the document was genuinely created by the stated author and has not been falsified or altered by third parties. In this context, one of the main tools is the qualified electronic signature (QES) (Somchenko *et al.*, 2024), which provides legal validity, verifies the identity of the signatory, and records their consent to the content of the document. IAA is used for the automated verification of the validity of QES, in particular by cross-checking signature certificates against trusted authority databases (Aciobăniței *et al.*, 2024). Document integrity is ensured through checksums (hash functions) – algorithms that generate a unique digital fingerprint of the document. The analytical system compares the checksum at the time of creation with the current value; any alteration, however minor, changes the hash and signals a loss of integrity. Such mechanisms allow the detection of unauthorised edits or data corruption during storage or transmission (Saepulrohman & Ismangil, 2021).

Timestamps represent another critical element, recording the precise moment a document is created or signed. This prevents backdating or manipulation of document chronology. Information-analytical tools verify the validity and consistency of timestamps and cross-check them against system event logs to identify anomalies. Audit logging in electronic document management systems provides version control, records user actions, and safeguards access to documents. Although initially considered statistically minor, subsequent bootstrap analysis confirmed its significant impact on overall EDMS effectiveness, highlighting the key role of the

audit trail in enhancing transparency and manageability of document processes (Gani *et al.*, 2024).

User behaviour analysis (User Behaviour Modelling) is one of the most effective methods for detecting insider threats in digital systems, particularly within electronic document management systems. The approach involves creating models of typical user behaviour based on collected activity data and identifying deviations that may indicate potential misuse or unauthorised actions (Kim *et al.*, 2019). Together, these methods form a comprehensive framework for document verification and validation in EDMS, where information-analytical activity provides not only automated checks of formal indicators of authenticity but also analytical evaluation of the context in which documents are used. This enables the timely detection of suspicious activity and minimises the risk of legal or organisational consequences. Consequently, IAA becomes a cornerstone of trust in digital documents within a dynamic information environment.

Information-analytical activity (IAA) ensures oversight of the entire lifecycle of an electronic document in electronic document management systems (EDMS), from creation through to archiving or disposal. At each stage, IAA performs monitoring, analysis, verification, and event recording, thereby guaranteeing the integrity, authenticity, and relevance of the document throughout its existence (Chaikovska & Stolyarchuk, 2018). Analytical tools within EDMS conduct detailed checks at the creation stage – recording the source of initiation, the legitimacy of the author's actions, the presence of an electronic signature, compliance with templates and metadata, and establishing log control points required

for subsequent auditing. During the editing and review process, the system tracks all changes, generates a version history, records the chronology of actions, checks compliance with policies, and identifies suspicious activity, including unauthorised edits or procedural violations. This is supported by recent studies (Laue *et al.*, 2022), which describe SIEM architectures with advanced analytical capabilities, including the automatic generation of incidents based on logs.

At the approval and signing stage, IAA verifies the validity of qualified electronic signatures, the accuracy of timestamps, and the users' role-based permissions. Contextual analysis – identifying who signed the document, when, and from which device – helps prevent fraud. Similar approaches are confirmed by studies on AI-enhanced audit processes (Binh, 2025), which support transparency, traceability, and regulatory compliance. During storage and use, analytical tools monitor access, frequency of use, participation in transactions, and content integrity. Continuous monitoring enables timely responses to potential data leaks or unauthorised modifications, a functionality described in research on intelligent SIEM solutions with big data analytics and the generation of "smart" alerts (González-Granadillo *et al.*, 2021).

In the archiving or destruction stage, IAA records the completion of the document's lifecycle, verifies that secure storage or complete deletion procedures have been followed, and ensures a comprehensive audit trail of all document-related actions. Thus, information and analytical activity create a continuous digital trail of a document, allowing its history to be reconstructed, its authenticity to be verified at any stage, and the legitimacy of all participants' actions to be demonstrated. This is a key requirement for both maintaining information security and preserving the legal validity of electronic documents (Zhou & Zhang, 2024).

Audit and change monitoring are integral components of information and analytical activity in electronic document management systems (EDMS), as they ensure transparency, control, and the ability to conduct retrospective analysis of all actions related to electronic documents. These processes aim to record every modification to a document, as well as to detect and prevent unauthorised interventions or breaches of security policies (Jannah *et al.*, 2023). A central tool in this context is the audit log, which automatically records all document-related actions: creation, editing, approval, signing, access, movement, archiving, or deletion. For each event, metadata are captured, including date and time, user, type of action, and IP address or device used for access. This enables precise identification of the individual responsible for each change and allows the complete chronology of the document's lifecycle to be traced (What is an audit trail...?, n.d.).

Analytical tools integrated into the EDMS analyse audit logs to detect deviations from normal behaviour or violations of established procedures. For example, if

a document is modified outside the standard approval process or accessed by a user without the appropriate permissions, the system generates an alert or automatically initiates an investigation. Such mechanisms are particularly important for organisations where documents carry legal weight or contain sensitive information. Moreover, audit results can be used to produce analytical reports on document security, detailing the number of changes, user access levels, and the most frequent anomalies. This enables potential weaknesses in information policies to be identified, threats to be addressed promptly, and rules for document handling to be improved (Walters, 2025).

The authors concur with the conclusions of L. Bozhuk & T. Kurchenko (2023), who identify IAA as a critically important factor in the stability and effective functioning of public institutions, where information and analytical activity generate secondary informational outputs such as reports, briefings, or forecasts. In comparison with their findings, the results of this study confirm this role and further demonstrate the practical significance of IAA in EDMS for detecting internal risks and anomalies in document flows. As noted by L.A. Kovalska (2021), IAA comprises a set of processes for collecting, searching, processing, transmitting, and using information to ensure effective management, combining the informational aspect (data accumulation and systematisation) with the analytical aspect (in-depth processing of information using logical reasoning and technical tools). The results of this study support L.A. Kovalska's conclusions regarding the key role of IAA in the digitalisation of document management. Furthermore, this research extends L.A. Kovalska's approach by demonstrating that the use of modern IT tools (SIEM, DLP, Big Data) not only enables the systematic organisation and storage of data but also enhances its reliability, forecasts potential threats, and provides comprehensive protection for electronic documents. Consequently, audit and change-monitoring processes ensure a high level of transparency and accountability in handling electronic documents, reduce the risks of forgery or falsification, and create an evidential basis for safeguarding organisational interests in the event of incidents.

Tools and methods of IAA for enhancing security and data integrity

The integration of information and analytical activity (IAA) into electronic document management systems (EDMS) is implemented according to the system model and type of organisation, aiming to enhance information security and data integrity. In government institutions and local authorities, a centralised EDMS model with distributed access is employed, where Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) systems monitor access to registries and electronic files in real time, alerting to attempts at unauthorised document modification (Koshara & Bakalo, 2023). Simultaneously, DLP solutions

control the transmission of confidential documents between departments and external partners, while Big Data analytics help identify bottlenecks in decision-making processes, recurring errors, and suspicious delays.

In commercial enterprises, modular integration of EDMS with CRM and ERP systems enables monitoring of access to financial documents and contracts, prevents the copying of confidential information, and forecasts risks for financial operations through Big Data analysis. In universities and research institutions, a decentralised EDMS model allows faculties to manage electronic documents autonomously, while SIEM systems control access to research articles and reports, DLP solutions restrict the forwarding of materials, and Big Data analytics track document access frequency to detect potential leaks or copyright violations (Kotwal, 2024).

For example, the Ukrainian service Vchasno.EDO automatically verifies electronic signatures, protects keys and passwords, scans documents for viruses, and stores them in a secure cloud archive (Amazon S3), providing multi-level access control (Vchasno, n.d.). Its clients include over 1,000,000 companies, such as Nova Poshta, Glovo, Uber, Monobank, and others (Vchasno

group, n.d.). At the international level, solutions based on Splunk Enterprise Security demonstrate high efficiency in SIEM monitoring, reducing false alarms by up to 90%, accelerating incident response, and automating audits, making them one of the leading tools in IAA systems (Splunk, n.d.).

Banks and financial institutions employ multi-tiered EDMS models with role-based access, where SIEM systems monitor operations involving client and internal documentation, DLP solutions restrict the export and printing of confidential information, and Big Data analytics detect suspicious transactions and anomalous employee activity (Le *et al.*, 2025). The integration of IAA technological tools – SIEM, DLP, Big Data analytics, cryptographic methods, and data visualisation – enables a comprehensive approach to the control, monitoring, and protection of information resources across various EDMS models, enhancing system resilience to both internal and external threats and supporting informed decision-making. Information and analytical activity (IAA) within electronic document management systems (EDMS) relies heavily on a suite of modern tools and methods (Table 2) that strengthen information security and data reliability.

Table 2. Tools and methods of IAA for ensuring security and data reliability in EDMS

Tool/Method	Function in IAA	Relation to security and reliability
SIEM (Security Information and Event Management)	Collection, monitoring, and correlation of security events in real time	Detection of incidents, facilitation of investigations, support for audits
DLP (Data Loss Prevention)	Control and prevention of unauthorised leakage of confidential information	Protection against disclosure of critical data, preservation of confidentiality
Big Data / Data Mining	Analysis of large volumes of heterogeneous data to identify hidden patterns	Risk forecasting, anomaly detection, enhancement of analytical reliability
Cryptography	Data encryption, digital signatures, key generation	Ensures integrity and authenticity, protects against unauthorised access
Analytics visualisation	Graphical representation of data to support decision-making and trend detection	Assessment of information security status, verification of reliability based on visual patterns

Source: P. DupinBryant & D. Olsen (2014), K. Kaur *et al.* (2017), G. González-Granadillo *et al.* (2021), J. Schwenk (2022), C. Cavallaro *et al.* (2023)

One of the key components is Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) systems, which enable the real-time collection, correlation, and analysis of security events. These systems facilitate the detection of incidents, the analysis of user behaviour patterns, the automation of threat response, and the generation of reports for subsequent auditing. For instance, in a simulated institutional scenario, a SIEM system could automatically record attempts to access documents outside working hours, alerting analysts to a potential risk and initiating an access review (González-Granadillo *et al.*, 2021).

To prevent the leakage of confidential information, Data Loss Prevention (DLP) systems are employed (Kaur *et al.*, 2017). They monitor the movement of data across networks, block unauthorised attempts to copy or transmit documents, and ensure compliance with organisational security policies (Herrera Montano *et al.*, 2022). In a practical scenario, this might involve automatically blocking the sending of a document containing personal

data to an external email address while simultaneously recording the incident for further analysis. The large volume of data generated within an EDMS necessitates the use of Big Data and Data Mining methods (Cavallaro *et al.*, 2023). These tools allow hidden patterns, trends, and anomalies to be identified, which may indicate fraud, unauthorised access, or other threats. For example, analysing document access logs with Big Data techniques can reveal repeated atypical actions by a specific user, signalling a potential security breach.

Cryptographic methods ensure the authenticity and integrity of documents. Information and analytical activity support the selection and implementation of encryption algorithms, hashing, and electronic signatures, guaranteeing that documents remain unaltered after signing and verifying the signatory's identity (Schwenk, 2022). To enhance decision-making efficiency, analysts make extensive use of statistical methods and data visualisation. Graphs, charts, heat maps, and other

visual tools help structure and simplify the interpretation of complex information regarding security status, data integrity, and identified risks. In a practical scenario, a manager can clearly see high-risk areas and make timely decisions regarding additional controls or access restrictions (DupinBryant & Olsen, 2014).

Thus, the integration of these tools and methods within information and analytical activity establishes an effective mechanism for comprehensive control, monitoring, and protection of information resources in an EDMS. SIEM systems enable the rapid detection of incidents and the auditing of security events; DLP solutions prevent the leakage of confidential information; Big Data and Data Mining analytics reveal hidden threats and forecast risks; cryptographic tools guarantee the integrity and authenticity of documents; and data visualisation facilitates swift and well-informed decision-making. This approach enhances the resilience of an EDMS against internal and external threats while demonstrating the practical applicability of these technologies in real-world scenarios.

The analysis identified several optimal strategies for ensuring information security in an EDMS. Firstly, a multi-level access control strategy that combines user authentication, differentiated permissions, and activity monitoring. Secondly, a strategy of end-to-end document verification using electronic signatures, cryptographic algorithms, and data integrity checking modules. Thirdly, an analytical monitoring strategy for security events, based on the integration of SIEM and DLP solutions to enable timely incident detection and prevent information leaks. Fourthly, a predictive analytics strategy employing Big Data and Data Mining to identify hidden risks and develop response models for potential threats. Finally, a strategy for a transparent document lifecycle, encompassing version control, audit of user actions, and data visualisation to maintain trust in electronic document management.

The article by S. Paliy (2022) highlights the significance of information and analytical activity (IAA) in ensuring information security and data integrity within electronic document management systems, aligning closely with the objectives of this study. In particular, the article emphasises IAA as a tool for timely threat detection, risk forecasting, and data verification in digital systems – key aspects addressed in the present research. S. Paliy (2022) also underscores the importance of integrating IAA with other technologies to enhance the reliability and security of information resources and notes its critical role in guaranteeing data integrity and safeguarding information systems amid digital transformation. The article by V. Zahumenna & O. Kuzmenko (2022) and the present study both examine the development of information and analytical activity (IAA) as a discipline foundational to enhancing information security. However, this study focuses on the application of IAA to improve data integrity within electronic document management systems (EDMS), whereas V. Zahumenna & O. Kuzmenko

highlight the role of IAA in the context of education and professional development, which is essential for the effective implementation of security tools in digital systems. Both studies confirm the importance of IAA in ensuring the reliability of data in digital environments.

The integration of modern information and analytical activity tools into electronic document management systems enhances both security and data integrity. The use of SIEM, DLP, Big Data analytics, cryptographic methods, and data visualisation enables the detection of incidents, prevention of information leaks, risk forecasting, verification of document integrity, and informed decision-making. This comprehensive approach establishes multi-layered protection, a transparent document lifecycle, and increases the resilience of EDMS to both internal and external threats.

Conclusions

The findings of this study confirm that information and analytical activity (IAA) is a critical factor in ensuring information security and data integrity within electronic document management systems (EDMS). Such systems not only automate management processes but also safeguard information through built-in mechanisms for access control, auditing, and authentication. Maintaining an appropriate level of information security relies on the principles of confidentiality, integrity, and availability, the balance of which is essential for business continuity and the development of trust in digital technologies. A systematic approach to the collection, processing, analysis, and evaluation of data within EDMS ensures its reliability, positioning IAA as a key component of an effective and secure digital infrastructure.

The information and analytical activity serve as a crucial mechanism for enhancing the information security of EDMS, providing monitoring, detection, and early-stage threat forecasting. The analysis of logs, user behaviour, and information flows enables the identification of anomalies and internal risks, supporting a proactive security posture. Predictive models based on incident data help assess the likelihood of threats and the potential scale of their consequences, thereby increasing system resilience. Analytical data inform the refinement of access policies, backup procedures, incident response strategies, and digital hygiene practices. IAA allows policies to be adapted to the actual security context, maintains the integrity of electronic documents, and strengthens trust in digital document management.

Within EDMS, information and analytical activity ensure the reliability of data throughout the entire lifecycle of an electronic document. Verification of electronic signatures, integrity checks using hash functions, timestamping, audit logging, and user behaviour analysis together form a comprehensive mechanism for information protection. IAA ensures the authenticity and legal validity of documents, detects unauthorised modifications, guarantees transparency and access control, prevents

internal threats, and creates a complete digital trail of each document, enabling the reconstruction of its history and verification of the legitimacy of all actions. Consequently, IAA underpins the reliability, security, and legal significance of electronic documents, enhances trust in EDMS, and minimises the risk of violations or falsifications.

The tools and methods of information and analytical activity within EDMS provide multi-layered information protection and data integrity. SIEM systems detect incidents, correlate events, and support auditing, thereby enhancing transparency and control. DLP solutions prevent the leakage of confidential information and ensure compliance with security policies. Big Data and Data Mining enable the analysis of large datasets, the identification of anomalies, and the forecasting of potential threats. Cryptographic measures guarantee the integrity

and legal significance of documents, while data visualisation facilitates timely and informed decision-making. The integrated application of these tools increases the resilience of EDMS against threats and strengthens user trust. A promising direction for future work is the standardisation and expansion of IAA capabilities within electronic document management systems.

■ Acknowledgements

None.

■ Funding

None.

■ Conflict of Interest

None.

■ References

- [1] Acioabăniței, I., Arseni, Ș.-C., Bureacă, E., & Togan, M. (2024). A comprehensive and privacy-aware approach for remote qualified electronic signatures. *Electronics*, 13(4), article number 757. doi: [10.3390/electronics13040757](https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics13040757).
- [2] Alotaibi, E.M. (2023). Risk assessment using predictive analytics. *International Journal of Professional Business Review*, 8(5), article number e01723. doi: [10.26668/businessreview/2023.v8i5.1723](https://doi.org/10.26668/businessreview/2023.v8i5.1723).
- [3] Anggraini, D., Adi, K., & Suseno, J.E. (2024). Electronic document management systems implementation across industries: Systematic analysis. *Indonesian Journal of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*, 36(1), 264-273. doi: [10.11591/ijeecs.v36.i1.pp264-273](https://doi.org/10.11591/ijeecs.v36.i1.pp264-273).
- [4] Awang Gani, D.H., & Abdul Kadir, I.K. (2024). Electronic document management: The essence of effective modern organisation. *Journal of Information and Knowledge Management*, 14(2), 77-85. doi: [10.24191/jikm.v14i2.4472](https://doi.org/10.24191/jikm.v14i2.4472).
- [5] Binh, N.T.T. (2025). Transforming auditing in the AI Era: A comprehensive review. *Information*, 16(5), article number 400. doi: [10.3390/info16050400](https://doi.org/10.3390/info16050400).
- [6] Bozhuk, L., & Kurchenko, T. (2023). Information and analytical support for the activities of local governments in Ukraine. In *V international scientific and practical conference "Scientific practice: Modern and classical research methods"* (pp. 73-76). Boston, USA. doi: [10.36074/logos-22.12.2023.018](https://doi.org/10.36074/logos-22.12.2023.018).
- [7] Cavallaro, C., Cutello, V., Pavone, M., & Zito, F. (2023). Discovering anomalies in big data: A review focused on the application of metaheuristics and machine learning techniques. *Frontiers Big Data*, 6, article number 1179625. doi: [10.3389/fdata.2023.1179625](https://doi.org/10.3389/fdata.2023.1179625).
- [8] Chaikovska, O., & Stolyarchuk, I. (2018). Analysis of e-document management systems in Ukraine and criteria for their selection. *Technology Audit and Production Reserves*, 3(2(41)), 18-24. doi: [10.15587/2312-8372.2018.134120](https://doi.org/10.15587/2312-8372.2018.134120).
- [9] Dupin-Bryant, P.A., & Olsen, D.H. (2014). Business intelligence, analytics and data visualization: A heat map project tutorial. *International Journal of Management & Information Systems (IJMIS)*, 18(3), 185-200. doi: [10.19030/ijmis.v18i3.8705](https://doi.org/10.19030/ijmis.v18i3.8705).
- [10] Fedoruk, O. (2024) Security and protection of information in electronic document management systems: Improving the level of cyber defense. *Bulletin of the Book Chamber*, 4, 39-44. doi: [10.36273/2076-9555.2024.4\(333\).39-44](https://doi.org/10.36273/2076-9555.2024.4(333).39-44).
- [11] Fetisov, O. (2024). Improving information security at enterprises through effective electronic document management systems (Edms). *Digital Economy and Economic Security*, 5(14), 153-159. doi: [10.32782/dees.14-24](https://doi.org/10.32782/dees.14-24).
- [12] Gani, D.H.A., Abd Kadir, I.K., Masrek, M.N., & Ab Rahman, A. (2024). An evaluation of electronic document management system functionalities and effectiveness in Malaysia. *European Proceedings of Social and Behavioural Sciences*, 133, 605-620. doi: [10.15405/epsbs.2024.05.50](https://doi.org/10.15405/epsbs.2024.05.50).
- [13] González-Granadillo, G., González-Zarzosa, S., & Diaz, R. (2021). Security Information and Event Management (SIEM): Analysis, trends, and usage in critical infrastructures. *Sensors*, 21(14), article number 4759. doi: [10.3390/s21144759](https://doi.org/10.3390/s21144759).
- [14] Han, J., & Son, Y. (2025). Design and implementation of a decentralized document management system. *Expert Systems with Applications*, 262, article number 125516. doi: [10.1016/j.eswa.2024.125516](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eswa.2024.125516).
- [15] Herrera Montano, I., García Aranda, J.J., Ramos Díaz, J., Molina Cardín, S., de la Torre Díez, I., & Rodrigues, J.J.P.C. (2022) Survey of techniques on data leakage protection and methods to address the insider threat. *Cluster Comput*, 25, 4289-4302. doi: [10.1007/s10586-022-03668-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10586-022-03668-2).

- [16] Jannah, R., Rizkyana, F.W., & Budiantoro, R.A. (2023). Audit of a web-based electronic documents and record management system (WEDRMS): Oversight efforts to improve administration in higher educational institutions. *BISECER (Business Economic Entrepreneurship)*, 5(2), 53-60. doi.org/10.61689/bisecer.v5i2.427.
- [17] Kaur, K., Gupta, I., & Singh, A. (2017). A comparative evaluation of data leakage/loss prevention systems (DLPS). In *Conference: 3rd international conference on artificial intelligence and soft computing* (pp. 87-95). Zakopane: Springer. [doi: 10.5121/csit.2017.71008](https://doi.org/10.5121/csit.2017.71008).
- [18] Kim, J., Park, M., Kim, H., Cho, S., & Kang, P. (2019). Insider threat detection based on user behavior modeling and anomaly detection algorithms. *Applied Sciences*, 9(19), article number 4018. [doi: 10.3390/app9194018](https://doi.org/10.3390/app9194018).
- [19] Kondratyuk, S.S., & Palaguta, K.O. (2021). [Choosing an electronic document management system: analysis of factors, current trends](#). *Computer Technologies for Data Processing*, 34-37.
- [20] Koshara, A., & Bakalo, B. (2023). Improving the security of the public sector based on SIEM systems. *Infocommunication and Computer Technologies*, 2(04), 128-133. [doi: 10.36994/2788-5518-2022-02-04-14](https://doi.org/10.36994/2788-5518-2022-02-04-14).
- [21] Kotwal, A.P. (2024). Leveraging Big Data analytics for enhanced cybersecurity: A comprehensive analysis of threat detection, incident response, and SIEM systems. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Computer Science, Engineering and Information Technology*, 10, 2158-2164. [doi: 10.32628/CSEIT2410612414](https://doi.org/10.32628/CSEIT2410612414).
- [22] Kovalska, L.A. (2021). [Information and analytical activities in the work of the archive](#). *Information and Society*, 47-49.
- [23] Landauer, M., Skopik, F., Stojanović, B., Flatscher, A., & Ullrich, T. (2025). A review of time-series analysis for cyber security analytics: From intrusion detection to attack prediction. *International Journal of Information Security*, 24, article number 3. [doi: 10.1007/s10207-024-00921-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10207-024-00921-0).
- [24] Laue, T., Klecker, T., Kleiner, C., & Detken, K.-O. (2022). A SIEM architecture for advanced anomaly detection. *Open Journal of Big Data (OJBD)*, 6(1), 26-42. [doi: 10.25968/opus-2321](https://doi.org/10.25968/opus-2321).
- [25] Le, T.D., Le-Dinh, T., & Uwizeyemungu, S. (2025). Cybersecurity analytics for the enterprise environment: A systematic literature review. *Electronics*, 14(11), article number 2252. [doi: 10.3390/electronics14112252](https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics14112252).
- [26] Levandovska, O.M. (2023). [Organizational and economic foundations of analytical support for enterprise activities](#). (Doctoral dissertation, O.M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv, Kharkiv, Ukraine).
- [27] Liudvenko, D., Tomilova-Yaremchuk, N., Khomoyi, S., & Krupa N. (2023). Information security in the context of digitalization of document flow. *Scientific Collection "InterConf+", 33(155)*, 120-129. [doi: 10.51582/interconf.19-20.05.2023.011](https://doi.org/10.51582/interconf.19-20.05.2023.011).
- [28] Martín, A.G., Beltrán, M., Fernández-Isabel, A., & Martín de Diego, I. (2021). An approach to detect user behaviour anomalies within identity federations. *Computers & Security*, 108, article number 102356. [doi: 10.1016/j.cose.2021.102356](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cose.2021.102356).
- [29] Muminova, S., Yuldasheva, N., & Safoev, N. (2022). Aspects of information security in the electronic document management system (EDMS) for bank system. *Research and Education*, 1(9), 331-340. [doi: 10.5281/zenodo.7487114](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7487114).
- [30] Nazarova, I.Y. (2020). Possibilities and functions of electronic document management. *Economic Space*, 159, 166-170. [doi: 10.32782/2224-6282/159-34](https://doi.org/10.32782/2224-6282/159-34).
- [31] Noori, M., & Al-Hashimi, M. (2023). [Evaluation of electronic document management systems: An overview](#). *Computer Integrated Manufacturing Systems*, 29(4), 273-294.
- [32] Odintsov, O.M., Ilchenko, N.V., & Kryzhanivska, L.H. (2021). Introduction of electronic document technologies in public administration. *Collection of Scientific Papers of Cherkasy State Technological University. Series: Economic Sciences*, 60, 108-116. [doi: 10.24025/2306-4420.1.60.2021.229175](https://doi.org/10.24025/2306-4420.1.60.2021.229175).
- [33] Osazuwa, O.M.C. (2023). Confidentiality, integrity, and availability in network systems: A review of related literature. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 8(12), 1946-1955. [doi: 10.5281/zenodo.10464076](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10464076).
- [34] Paliy, S. (2022). Information and analytical activities in the development of information society. *Library Science. Record Studies. Informology*, 18(3), 76-80. [doi: 10.32461/2409-9805.3.2022.266999](https://doi.org/10.32461/2409-9805.3.2022.266999).
- [35] Perapu, P. (2025). Anomaly detection in user behaviour using machine learning for cloud platforms. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Computer Science, Engineering and Information Technology*, 11(3), 805-809. [doi: 10.32628/CSEIT25113343](https://doi.org/10.32628/CSEIT25113343).
- [36] Politanskyi, V.S. (2021). Theoretical and legal basis of the electronic document management system in Ukraine. *Law and Society*, 1, 22-27. [doi: 10.32842/2078-3736/2021.1.4](https://doi.org/10.32842/2078-3736/2021.1.4).
- [37] Saepulrohman, A., & Ismangil, A. (2021). Data integrity and security of digital signatures on electronic systems using the digital signature algorithm (DSA). *International Journal of Electronics and Communications Systems*, 1(1), 11-15. [doi: 10.24042/ijecs.v1i1.7923](https://doi.org/10.24042/ijecs.v1i1.7923).
- [38] Savchuk, V., & Derii, V. (2023). Relevant analytics is a determining factor in effective management of the company's activities. *Herald of Economics*, 4, 104-117. [doi: 10.35774/visnyk2023.04.104](https://doi.org/10.35774/visnyk2023.04.104).

- [39] Schwenk, J. (2022). Cryptography: Integrity and authenticity. In *Guide to internet cryptography. Information security and cryptography*. Cham: Springer. doi: 10.1007/978-3-031-19439-9_3.
- [40] Shi, Y., Liu, Y., Tong, H., He, J., Yan, G., & Cao, N. (2020). Visual analytics of anomalous user behaviors: A survey. *IEEE Transactions on Big Data*, 8(2), 377-396. doi: 10.1109/TBDATA.2020.2964169.
- [41] Sichkarenko, G., & Yaremko, S. (2022). Information and analytical support for professional activities: Concepts and functions. *Science and Technology Today*, 10(10), 303-314. doi: 10.52058/2786-6025-2022-10(10)-303-314.
- [42] Somchenko, V., & Saienko, O., & Budko, D. (2024). Qualified electronic signature as a full-fledged legally valid signature for electronic document management and a tool for ensuring the security and authenticity of electronic documents and transactions. *Grail of Science*, 42, 112-119. doi: 10.36074/grail-of-science.02.08.2024.014.
- [43] Splunk. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.splunk.com/en_us/products/enterprise-security.html.
- [44] Sternad Zabukovšek, S., Jordan, S., & Bobek, S. (2023). Managing document management systems' life cycle in relation to an organization's maturity for digital transformation. *Sustainability*, 15(21), article number 15212. doi: 10.3390/su152115212.
- [45] System of electronic interaction of executive authorities (SEI EA). (n.d.). Retrieved from https://se.dia.gov.ua/en/sev-ovv?utm_source.
- [46] Tekin, S., Bicakci, K., Mersin, O., Erdem, G.N., Canbay, A., & Uzunay, Y. (2023). Optimal data backup policies for information systems subject to sudden failure. *Journal of Quality in Maintenance Engineering*, 29(2), 338-355. doi: 10.1108/JQME-01-2022-0009.
- [47] Tkachenko, O., & Humeniuk, M. (2020). Some aspects of statistical and scientific data visualization. *Digital Platform: Information Technologies in Sociocultural Sphere*, 3(2), 134-147. doi: 10.31866/2617-796x.3.2.2020.220584.
- [48] Vchasno group. (n.d.). *We create innovative products for Ukrainian entrepreneurs*. Retrieved from <https://vchasno.group/>.
- [49] Vchasno. (n.d.). *Electronic document management in Ukraine*. Retrieved from <https://vchasno.ua/?utm>.
- [50] Voronkova, V., Koshelevsky, V., & Lisitsa, S. (2024). Digital transformation of information and analytical support of management processes in modern organizations in the context of global digitalization. *Digital Economy and Economic Security*, 5(14), 33-41. doi: 10.32782/dees.14-5.
- [51] Walters, A. (2025). *What is an electronic document management system (EDMS)?* Retrieved from https://www.irisglobal.com/blog/what-is-an-electronic-document-management-system/?utm_source.
- [52] What is an audit trail in document management? (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.folderit.com/glossary/what-is-an-audit-trail-in-document-management/?utm_source.
- [53] Yasinska, A. (2022). Problems and prospects of electronic document management in the context of digital transformation. *Young Scientist*, 11(111), 128-134. doi: 10.32839/2304-5809/2022-11-111-27.
- [54] Zahumenna, V., & Kuzmenko, O. (2022). Information and analytical activity as a scientific and educational discipline: Evolution, development trends. *Library Science. Record Studies. Informology*, 18(4), 102-107. doi: 10.32461/2409-9805.4.2022.269817.
- [55] Zhou, J., & Zhang, W. (2024). AI in archival science – a systematic review. *arXiv*. doi: 10.48550/arXiv.2410.09086.
- [56] Zozulya, N., Stekolshchikova, V., & Shoturma, N. (2025). Information and analytical activities in the age of digital transformation: New tools and methodologies. *Scientific Works of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management. Philology*, 1(15), 21-26. doi: 10.32689/maup.philol.2025.1.4.

Інформаційно-аналітична діяльність як фактор підвищення інформаційної безпеки та достовірності даних в системах електронного документообігу

Оксана Плужник

Доктор філософії, доцент
Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
08401, вул. Сухомлинського, 30, м. Переяслав, Україна
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8780-8288>

Владислав Дуда

Викладач
Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
08401, вул. Сухомлинського, 30, м. Переяслав, Україна
<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-0048-4805>

Анотація. Актуальність дослідження зумовлена зростаючою потребою у використанні інформаційно-аналітичної діяльності (ІАД) як ключового інструмента забезпечення інформаційної безпеки та достовірності даних в умовах активного впровадження систем електронного документообігу (СЕДО) у цифровізованому суспільстві. Метою дослідження було комплексне розкриття ролі інформаційно-аналітичної діяльності (ІАД) у підвищенні рівня інформаційної безпеки та забезпеченні достовірності даних в системах електронного документообігу. У процесі дослідження застосовано методи системного аналізу, огляду наукових джерел та синтезу інформації, а також критичний аналіз сучасних технічних засобів. Результати дослідження підтвердили, що ІАД є критично важливим чинником для забезпечення захисту інформаційних ресурсів і збереження достовірності даних у СЕДО. Комплексні можливості збору, обробки, аналізу та інтерпретації інформації забезпечують своєчасне виявлення загроз, ефективне прогнозування ризиків, контроль за повним життєвим циклом документів та верифікацію їх автентичності. Це дозволяє не лише оперативно реагувати на інциденти, але й формувати дієві політики безпеки, що знижують ймовірність втрат, спотворення або несанкціонованого доступу до даних. Виявлено ключові виклики, серед яких – брак висококваліфікованих фахівців із міждисциплінарними компетенціями, складнощі інтеграції різнорідних систем та правові й етичні обмеження, пов'язані із захистом персональних даних та прозорістю алгоритмів аналізу. Перспективи розвитку ІАД і СЕДО пов'язані з активною інтеграцією технологій штучного інтелекту та машинного навчання для автоматизованого виявлення аномалій і прогнозування загроз, застосуванням блокчейн-рішень для забезпечення незмінності даних та використанням інструментів Big Data для виявлення прихованих закономірностей. Подолання зазначених викликів і впровадження інноваційних підходів сприятиме зміцненню надійності, безпеки та довіри до цифрових документів. Практичне значення дослідження полягає в можливості використання результатів для підвищення ефективності функціонування систем електронного документообігу за рахунок інтеграції інформаційно-аналітичних інструментів, спрямованих на забезпечення інформаційної безпеки та достовірності даних

Ключові слова: аналітичні системи; системи моніторингу; аналітика подій безпеки; безпека інформаційних систем; цифрова трансформація; SIEM системи



Information and digital competence as a factor in effective social communication and adaptation of young people

Artem Pluzhnyk*

Postgraduate Student

Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
08401, 30 Sukhomlynskiy Str., Pereiaslav, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-3048-0805>

Abstract. The relevance of the study was determined by the fact that information and digital competence is becoming a key factor in the social adaptation and effective communication of young people in the context of rapid digital transformation. The aim of the article was to determine the role of information and digital competence as a factor influencing the effectiveness of social communication and promoting the social adaptation of the younger generation in a digital society. The methodological basis of the study consisted of the analysis and generalisation of scientific sources, content analysis of publications and regulatory documents, as well as a systematic approach that allowed to consider information and digital competence as a holistic socio-communicative phenomenon and determine its impact on the adaptation processes of young people. The results of the study showed that the information and digital competence of young people is an integrated formation that combines technical awareness, information competence, critical thinking, media literacy, and safe behaviour skills in the digital environment. Based on an analysis of scientific approaches, it was determined that such competence is not limited to the mastery of digital technology tools, but also encompasses the ability to critically evaluate information, effectively use online resources for learning and professional development, and adhere to the ethical principles of digital interaction. Theoretical generalisation has shown that a high level of information and digital competence contributes to productive social communication, rapid adaptation of young people to the changing conditions of digital society, and a reduction in the risks of information vulnerability. It is an important tool for expanding access to educational and professional opportunities, forming an active civic position, and strengthening social integration. On the contrary, an insufficient level of this competence exacerbates digital inequality, reduces the effectiveness of interpersonal and group communication, limits the participation of young people in socially significant processes, and increases the risks of disinformation. The study substantiates information and digital competence as a socio-communicative resource that combines technical, cognitive, communicative, and ethical components and is a key factor in the integration of young people into the digital environment. The results of the study can be used to justify the development and implementation of programmes for the formation of information and digital competence that take into account the socio-communicative aspect and are aimed at the comprehensive development of young people

Keywords: digital environment; social integration; digital socialisation; online interaction; digital communication; interpersonal communication; critical thinking

Suggested Citation:

Pluzhnyk, A. (2025). Information and digital competence as a factor in effective social communication and adaptation of young people. *Society. Document. Communication*, 10(2), 22-31. doi: 10.69587/sdc/2.2025.22.



Copyright © The Author(s). This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

*Corresponding author

Introduction

In an era of rapid digital transformation, social communication is undergoing qualitative changes, shifting to new formats of virtual interaction, online presence and digital self-expression. These processes have a particularly noticeable impact on young people as the most active group of digital technology users. The ability to navigate an information-rich environment, interact effectively and safely in the online space, and critically perceive digital content is becoming a prerequisite not only for personal fulfilment, but also for full participation in social communication. In this context, information and digital competence is not just a technical skill, but a socio-cultural tool that determines the level of youth inclusion in modern social life.

In recent years, research on digital skills has become interdisciplinary, covering the fields of pedagogy, sociology, psychology, media and communication sciences. The study by M. Cabezas-González *et al.* (2021) analyses the relationship between the level of information and digital competence and the nature of social communication among adolescents in the digital environment. In particular, it examined how online communication with peers and active use of social networks influence the formation of digital communication skills among Spanish students aged 12-16. The results showed that excessive involvement in informal digital communication can negatively affect the level of information and digital competence, reducing its quality. This highlights the importance of developing a conscious and critical attitude towards digital interaction as a condition for the effective social adaptation of young people in the digital reality.

The article by D. Pongrac *et al.* (2025) is devoted to the study of the digital skills and media habits of Generation Z and Alpha youth in the context of digital transformation. The authors used the Youth Digital Skills Indicator (yDSI) and the Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (DigComp 2.2) to assess three areas of digital competence: information literacy, communication and security. The study highlighted the need for adapted educational approaches to improve the digital competences of young people and bridge the digital divide between generations. The study by J. Pyżalski *et al.* (2023) analyses the digital skills of young people in the context of their personal and social development, using data from the ySkills project (Horizon 2020 programme). It was found that teenagers actively use digital tools for social interaction, but need to improve their skills in critically evaluating information on the Internet.

The article by I. Shyshenko (2020) provides a theoretical analysis of the development of students' information and digital competence, which is identified as one of the keys to the successful socialisation of young people. The author emphasised its importance for critical thinking, ethical digital interaction, creative self-expression and the effective use of information technologies in education

and everyday life. The issue of the socio-psychological adaptation of students in the digital age is becoming increasingly relevant. M. Shynkar's (2022) study analyses how the modern media environment affects communication and adaptation processes among students. It considers factors that can both facilitate and complicate adaptation, including new educational conditions, the digital information environment, and students' personal characteristics.

Researchers A.V. Petrova *et al.* (2024) focused their work on identifying effective educational strategies for developing the digital competence of higher education students in the context of the digital transformation of the educational space. Based on the analysis of scientific sources and the application of pedagogical modelling and comparative analysis methods, the authors identified the key components of digital competence: technological, informational, communicative, and security. Considerable attention is paid to the role of an interdisciplinary approach, which, according to the results of the study, contributes to the more effective formation of digital skills. The educational model proposed by the authors involves the active introduction of innovative technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, which ensures the personalisation of learning, the development of complex digital skills and their integration into professional activities and lifelong learning.

T. Godetska (2024) examined current trends in the information society and key challenges in the implementation of information and communication and digital technologies in Ukrainian education. Particular attention is paid to the motivational, cognitive, activity-based and corrective aspects of developing the digital competence of future teachers, in particular the importance of a conscious attitude towards the need to develop digital skills and master multimedia and ICT tools. Authors R. Gurevich *et al.* (2024) explored the phenomenon of digital culture as a specific sociocultural environment that has a significant impact on the younger generation. The authors emphasise that digitalisation, as a new vector of development of domestic education, covers all spheres of culture, changing interpersonal communication, leisure activities, professional processes and the worldview of young people. It is noted that the interactive nature of the information space can both promote creative self-realisation and the development of abilities, and provoke dependence on the opinions of the social environment.

At the same time, the aspect of information and digital competence as a factor that directly determines the quality and effectiveness of social communication among young people – both in everyday life and in professional or civic dimensions – remains insufficiently explored. The problem of the study lies in the fact that despite the growing role of digital technologies in everyday life, the level of information and digital competence of young people does not always meet the requirements

for effective social interaction in the digital environment. The lack of sufficient digital communication skills complicates social adaptation and narrows the opportunities for full participation in social processes.

The aim of the study was to determine the role of information and digital competence as a factor influencing the effectiveness of social communication and promoting the social adaptation of young people in a digital society. The objectives of the study were to analyse theoretical approaches to defining the essence of information and digital competence; to clarify the relationship between the level of digital skills among young people and the effectiveness of their social communication; and to identify key problems arising from insufficient digital inclusion in modern society. The novelty of the study lay in the substantiation of information and digital competence as a socio-communicative resource that provides not only technical knowledge, but also the ability of young people to communicate effectively, participate socially and adapt in the digital space. A conceptual understanding of the role of digital skills in the processes of social adaptation of young people in the context of rapid digital transformation is proposed. The research methodology was based on the use of a set of theoretical methods that ensured the achievement of the set goal. The research was conducted on the basis of a theoretical analysis of scientific sources and a summary of the results of previous studies in the field of developing the information and digital competence of young people. Methods of analysis, synthesis, classification and comparison were used, which made it possible to determine the essence and structure of this concept, as well as to outline its role in social communication and adaptation. Content analysis revealed the main trends and risks of digital socialisation, and a systematic approach provided a holistic view of the phenomenon under study.

Theoretical foundations of information and digital competence

The modern information society is characterised by the rapid development of digital technologies, which are radically changing the ways of communication, access to information and social interaction. In these conditions, the formation of information and digital competence becomes not only a necessary condition for personal development, but also a key factor in successful social adaptation, especially for the younger generation, which actively uses digital platforms for communication and self-realisation. Studying the theoretical foundations of information and digital competence is fundamental to understanding its role in modern social communications and determining ways to effectively develop it.

As noted by L.V. Filippova *et al.* (2023), digital transformation encompasses all areas of activity, creating a need for specialists who are able to adapt quickly to change. Digital skills have become key for most professions, and the development of relevant competencies in

students has become a priority in education. The ability to work with large amounts of information and flexible thinking are recognised as essential qualities of a modern citizen. O.O. Nalyvaiko (2021) also believes that the concept of digital competence is closely linked to the development of information and communication technologies and is constantly changing as research in this field deepens. Most scholars interpret it differently depending on their goals, which complicates the creation of a single definition. This necessitates the systematisation of approaches and the conceptualisation of digital competence in accordance with the modern educational and technological context.

Authors N. Zavadzka & M. Ihnatiuk (2020) consider information literacy to be a multidimensional category that combines knowledge, practical skills, experience, value orientations, and personal qualities necessary for the effective search, critical analysis, use, and creation of information using modern digital technologies. According to A. Barbinova (2022), information and digital competence is the ability to effectively use information to solve various tasks, communicate, create information products and systems, and acquire new knowledge both individually and in collective activities. Such competence involves the use of appropriate digital tools, technological resources, processes and systems that provide access to information, its processing and comprehension, regardless of the source of its origin, in particular through media platforms. O.V. Sakhno (2023) defines digital competences as the ability to use information and communication technologies effectively, safely and responsibly in various fields of activity. They are based on the continuous development of knowledge, skills, motivation and awareness of one's own responsibility.

Based on an analysis of scientific works by researchers, it has been established that information and digital competence is a complex integrative construct that includes a set of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes necessary for effective activity in the information and communication environment. It goes beyond simply possessing technical skills in working with digital devices and software and encompasses the ability to critically analyse, evaluate, create and ethically use information resources in the digital space (Nalyvaiko, 2018; Stoika, 2023; Tkachuk & Medvedeva, 2023).

The information and digital competence of young people, particularly in aspects of digital citizenship, contributes to the formation of global awareness, intercultural communication and social self-awareness, which in turn improves the quality of social communication and adaptability in a digitalised society (Cleofas & Labayo, 2024). Contemporary scholars emphasise that, in the sociocultural dimension, information and digital competence is one of the key factors in the integration of the individual into society, as it ensures effective social communication and promotes active participation in social processes (Tilikina, 2021; Kiryanova, 2024). Its

main components include media literacy, which involves critical perception and evaluation of information, digital security, which ensures the protection of personal data and compliance with information ethics, as well as skills in searching, processing and transmitting information. In addition, communication skills in the digital environment play a significant role, including the ability to interact effectively, collaborate and express one's position in online spaces, as well as the creative use of digital technologies for learning, self-development and civic engagement (Kalyuzhna, 2025).

As noted by N. Trushkina & D. Chernukh (2023), in the 21st century, digital culture has become a significant factor in social and professional mobility, leading to a transformation of behavioural patterns and a rethinking of values. In the professional sphere, it implies the ability to apply digital competencies, and in everyday life, it implies the combination of the digital environment with traditional cultural norms. Digital media literacy in modern society has become not only an indicator of professional and social competence, but also a necessary condition for social inclusion. Especially in times of global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it plays a crucial role in maintaining social interaction, interpreting events and shaping responsible civic behaviour (Milenkova & Lendzhova, 2021).

Various scientific approaches to defining information and digital competence emphasise its multidimensionality. In particular, the European scientific tradition widely uses the DigComp model (Vuorikari *et al.*, 2022), developed by the European Commission, which identifies five key domains of digital competence: information literacy, communication and collaboration in the digital environment, digital content creation, safety and problem solving in the digital space. This model reflects an interdisciplinary approach and emphasises that digital skills should be considered not only as technical, but also as cognitive, social and ethical competences. At the same time, modern concepts of multiliteracy integrate digital, information, visual and social literacy, considering them as necessary components for successful functioning in a constantly transforming media environment (Collado-Sánchez *et al.*, 2023).

According to A.V. Velet & N.P. Ruban (2024), information and digital competence is a multi-component category that encompasses various aspects of knowledge, skills and abilities related to effective functioning in the digital environment. One of its elements is information and media competence, which involves the ability to search for, critically analyse, systematise, store and meaningfully use digital information, including text, audio and visual resources, as well as create new information products based on them. Communicative competence encompasses the ability to interact with others through various digital channels – email, social networks, blogs, forums, etc. – and ensures effective participation in digital communication processes (Novik *et al.*, 2024).

The technical component of information and digital competence relates to the skills of safe and productive use of hardware and software to perform professional and everyday tasks, including proficiency in cloud services and computer networks. Consumer competence is related to the ability to use digital devices and Internet resources rationally to solve practical problems of everyday life, which contributes to the satisfaction of personal, social and professional needs.

It is also worth noting the fundamental difference between the concepts of digital literacy, information and digital competence, information and communication competence, etc. According to researcher A. Krasnyakova (2019), the concepts of "digital," "information and digital," and "information and communication" competences are often used as synonyms. Regardless of the terminology used, this refers to an integral characteristic that encompasses both the ability to work with information and communicate effectively, as well as a number of important socio-psychological personality traits. In particular, this refers to tolerance in communication, the ability to create a favourable communicative space and perform the functions of an active citizen. All these aspects indicate a combination of IT competencies and personal qualities, which together form the ability to function fully in the information environment.

While digital literacy focuses primarily on basic technical skills in using digital tools (Tinmaz *et al.*, 2022), information and digital competence encompasses a broader range of skills, including critical thinking, ethical behaviour, the ability to adapt to new technological conditions, and the conscious use of information in social communication. Competence is not limited to instrumental knowledge, but also includes an awareness of the role of information in shaping public opinion, culture and interpersonal interaction, which is particularly relevant in the context of the digital socialisation of young people. Thus, information and digital competence acquires the function of a social resource that promotes the full integration of young people into digital society, providing conditions for effective communication, participation in public discourse and the formation of their own identity.

Information and digital competence as a factor in effective social communication

Information and digital competence is a key factor ensuring effective social communication in the modern digital space. In everyday life, young people actively use various digital channels, including social networks, messengers and online platforms, which are becoming the main tools for communication, information exchange and building social connections. These channels open up new opportunities for interpersonal interaction, promote the development of teamwork, the exchange of ideas and the formation of interest-based communities,

which significantly expands the boundaries of traditional forms of communication (Cabezas-González *et al.*, 2021).

With the rapid expansion of access to information through global telecommunications networks, every professional must be able to rationally organise the search for the necessary data among the vast amount of available information. This leads to increased demands on the level of information literacy of both professionals and the general public. Skills for effective interaction with the information environment and the ability to use its resources are becoming increasingly important (Vakulenko, 2021). Digital skills are a key mediator between the level of education of young people and their ability to participate in social and political life through social networks. Young people with a high level of digital literacy can use professional and educational online platforms to improve their competence, which allows to express their position in online discussions, participate in voting, petitions or public campaigns on social networks, organise volunteer and social initiatives, and actively interact with government and public organisations through digital services. At the same time, young people with insufficient digital skills have limited access to such resources, which reduces their opportunities for civic participation and influence on socio-political processes. Thus, the development of digital competencies contributes to the transformation of educational potential into real social and political action by young people.

The concept of digital capital provides a deeper understanding of the mechanisms for overcoming digital inequality, as it is operational, informational, social and creative skills that form the basis for effective social interaction in the digital environment (Lybeck *et al.*, 2024). At the same time, information and digital competence allows not only to maximise the potential of digital platforms for communication, but also to identify and minimise the risks associated with their use in a timely manner. Among the main threats are cyberbullying, the spread of misinformation, dependence on digital technologies, and the gradual loss of face-to-face communication skills, which can negatively affect the emotional sphere of young people and the quality of interpersonal relationships (d'Haenens, 2024).

To minimise these risks, it is recommended to apply a comprehensive approach that combines individual and institutional strategies. Effective measures include developing critical thinking and media literacy to assess the reliability of information and counter misinformation; introducing rules for safe behaviour in the digital environment, including privacy settings and personal data protection; regularly conducting digital "detoxes" to reduce dependence on gadgets; encouraging offline communication through participation in social, cultural and educational initiatives; and organising educational and awareness-raising activities by educational institutions and civil society organisations to foster a culture of responsible use of digital resources. The application

of these measures allows young people to effectively navigate the digital environment, maintain a balance between online and offline interaction, and increase their social adaptability and communication effectiveness (Milkova *et al.*, 2025). Conscious mastery of information and digital skills enables young people to navigate these challenges while maintaining a balance between online and offline interaction.

Separate attention should be paid to the problem of digital inequality, which significantly affects the social inclusion of young people. Lack of access to digital resources or insufficient digital skills can become a barrier to full integration into society, limiting opportunities in education, employment and civic participation. Thus, information and digital competence performs not only an adaptive but also a compensatory function, helping to reduce the risks of social exclusion and ensuring more equal conditions for the comprehensive development of the individual. In this context, it emerges as a key element of digital inclusion and social mobility for the younger generation.

In addition, the development of information and digital literacy contributes to the formation of so-called digital citizenship, which involves the active participation of young people in public life through online space (Kenesov, 2024). Thanks to digital skills, young users can not only express their civic position, participate in public discussions, volunteer initiatives and social campaigns, but also influence decision-making and contribute to the formation of public opinion, which is an important component of a democratic society (Yue *et al.*, 2019). This activity requires a high level of information literacy and a responsible attitude towards information circulating in the digital space.

An important aspect of information and digital competence is also its role in professional communication. Digital skills open up new opportunities for networking, job searching, and maintaining and developing professional connections through specialised platforms, online forums, and social networks (Spurava & Kotilainen, 2023). Effective digital communication contributes to the establishment of partnerships, increased professional mobility and adaptation to the demands of the modern labour market, which is particularly relevant for young people at the stage of establishing their professional careers.

The role of information and digital competence in professional communications can be seen through specific examples of the application of digital skills in various fields. For example, in journalism, it ensures a critical approach to information, fact-checking and the application of media literacy to produce reliable content. In publishing, digital skills enable effective use of editing and layout software, organisation of electronic document flow and interaction between authors, editors and publishers. In the field of office work, information and digital competence manifests itself in the use

of CRM systems, electronic signatures and ISO digital standards to optimise business processes and professional communication. Thanks to this, young professionals can effectively establish professional contacts, increase mobility and quickly adapt to the demands of the modern labour market. Thus, information and digital literacy is a key factor that ensures the effectiveness of young people's social and professional communication, promotes their active civic participation, increases their adaptability in the digital environment, and creates conditions for successful integration into the modern information society.

Information and digital competence among young people: Impact on social adaptation and consequences of insufficient literacy levels

In the modern digital society, information and digital competence increasingly determines a young person's ability to effectively adapt to the rapid social, economic, and cultural changes taking place. Mastering digital tools opens up new opportunities for learning and self-development, contributing to the formation of an individual educational trajectory. Thanks to online courses, educational platforms, video lectures and social networks, young people can acquire new knowledge and skills at a comfortable pace, which is especially important in the context of a flexible labour market and constantly changing professional qualification requirements. Thus, information and digital competence is a factor not only in intellectual but also in social development, as it ensures the competitiveness of young people in the digital economy (Synyuk & Kravchuk, 2025).

In addition, an important function of information and digital competence is to provide access to a variety of vital resources and services. The ability to navigate the digital environment allows young people to use electronic government services, medical portals, banking applications and other online tools, which greatly simplifies everyday life and promotes greater personal autonomy. Thus, digital skills become a prerequisite for full participation in social life, as well as a means of exercising the rights and freedoms of citizens in the context of e-governance.

The digital environment also plays a significant role in shaping the personal identity, worldview and values of young people. The internet creates new opportunities for self-expression, finding role models, joining communities based on interests and participating in social initiatives. At the same time, intensive interaction with digital media can lead to manipulative influence, fragmentation of identity, or a superficial perception of social processes (Krasnyakova, 2022). That is why an important component of information and digital competence is the ability to think critically and consume information consciously. In the modern digital society, information and digital competence defines young people's ability to adapt effectively to rapid social, economic, and cultural changes. This literacy is implemented through the systematic use

of various digital tools (Medvedeva *et al.*, 2024), which are conditionally classified according to their functional orientation.

Educational platforms and services: online courses (Coursera, Prometheus, EdEra), video lectures (YouTube, Khan Academy), interactive learning environments (Moodle, Google Classroom). The use of these resources provides new knowledge and shapes individual educational trajectories, as well as improving professional competence, which is relevant in the context of dynamic changes in the labour market.

Professional tools: platforms for professional networking and employment (LinkedIn, Upwork, Freelancehunt), software for creating and editing content (Adobe Creative Cloud, Canva, Figma), CRM systems and electronic document management platforms (Bitrix24, Google Workspace). The use of these tools contributes to the effective establishment of professional contacts, increased mobility and adaptability of young people to the demands of the modern labour market.

Communication and social services: messengers (Telegram, Viber, WhatsApp), social networks (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok), platforms for collective work (Slack, Discord, Microsoft Teams). These services facilitate the development of interpersonal interaction, collective activity, the exchange of ideas and the formation of interest-based communities, which significantly expands the boundaries of traditional forms of communication.

Civic and governmental services: electronic government portals (Diia, eGov), online petitions, and platforms for participation in civic initiatives (Change.org, social campaigns on social media). These resources contribute to the exercise of civic rights, the engagement of young people in social projects, and their influence on public processes.

Practical examples demonstrate the importance of information and digital competencies in various areas of youth activity. In particular, taking media literacy courses on Prometheus helps develop critical thinking and the ability to analyse information, using LinkedIn helps find internships and project work, using Canva or Adobe Illustrator allows for the effective implementation of social and professional projects, and electronic government services allow for the completion of administrative procedures and participation in government initiatives. Information and digital competence is implemented in practice through the educational, professional, social and interpersonal activities of young people (Mukherjee, 2023), ensuring effective social adaptation, increased professional mobility, the development of responsible digital behaviour skills, active participation in community and volunteer initiatives, the strengthening of interpersonal and professional ties, and integration into digital society through the conscious use of modern information and communication technologies.

The insufficient level of digital inclusion among young people gives rise to a number of pressing social,

communicative and economic problems that complicate their full integration into modern information society. First and foremost, this concerns limited access to quality education, information resources and social services, which operate mainly in digital format. Young people who lack the necessary skills to use digital tools find themselves in a situation of unequal opportunities, which leads to increased social stratification and marginalisation of certain groups.

Particular attention should be paid to the communication implications of low levels of information and digital competence. Young people with underdeveloped digital skills often find it difficult to use a wide range of modern communication channels, including email, messengers (WhatsApp, Telegram), online forums, video conferencing platforms (Zoom, Microsoft Teams), educational platforms (Coursera, Moodle, Prometheus) and e-democracy services (e-petitions, online voting, public discussion platforms). The inability to use these tools effectively complicates the organisation of and participation in remote training sessions, professional discussions, webinars, discussion clubs and public events. This, in turn, limits young people's ability to coordinate joint projects, work collectively and implement social initiatives in the digital environment. As a result, communication activity decreases, the formation of social and professional ties is disrupted, interaction in interest-based communities deteriorates, and the ability to influence public discourse and participate in decision-making processes in the digital space is limited (Ronzes, 2021). In addition, insufficient digital competence contributes to increased dependence on limited offline communication channels, which further restricts social interaction and increases the risks of social isolation.

Furthermore, digital incompetence increases young people's vulnerability to manipulation, disinformation, cyberbullying and digital security breaches, which further complicates their participation in public life. It also becomes a barrier to self-realisation, professional growth and adaptation to a labour market that is increasingly oriented towards digital formats of communication, collaboration and service. Young people who have not mastered modern digital technologies risk losing their competitiveness and limiting their social mobility. Teenagers actively use digital devices for online communication, viewing content and interacting on social networks, which indicates the deep integration of digital media into their social lives. At the same time, emotional dependence on constant access to the Internet is one of the most notable challenges of digital interaction among young people (Gutiérrez Ángel *et al.*, 2022).

Thus, insufficient digital inclusion is a multifaceted problem that encompasses not only technical aspects but also deeper social consequences, such as violations of the right to access information, restrictions on communication freedoms, and reduced social mobility and community participation. Overcoming these challenges

requires a comprehensive approach aimed at developing digital infrastructure, educational initiatives, and social inclusion programmes.

Conclusions

The study found that information and digital competence is a key factor in the formation of effective social communication among young people in the context of the digital transformation of society. It was found that a high level of digital awareness allows young people not only to navigate the information environment, but also to actively interact on social networks, online platforms and digital communities, participate in public dialogue, organise collective projects and social initiatives, which ensures the formation of social ties and increases the ability for self-realisation.

The results of the study confirmed that the development of information and digital skills contributes to the formation of digital citizenship, the improvement of critical thinking, the countering of disinformation, and the reduction of the risks of social isolation and digital addiction. This allows to consider information and digital competence as a basic component of the communicative culture and social integration of young people, and not just as a tool for educational or professional training. At the same time, it has been established that low levels of digital inclusion significantly limit young people's opportunities for social communication, complicate access to information, digital services and educational resources, reduce participation in public life and increase the risks of digital inequality. This is particularly evident in the difficulties in using digital communication channels (e-mail, messengers, video conferencing platforms, educational platforms, e-democracy services), which reduces the effectiveness of distance learning, professional discussions and public debates.

It is emphasised that the development of information and digital competence must be integrated into both the educational process and professional and public activities, using modern digital tools to develop critical thinking, collective interaction and social participation. The application of such strategies allows young people to adapt to rapid changes in the digital society, increase their social mobility and strengthen their communication resilience. Information and digital competence is a comprehensive resource for social adaptation, professional mobility and active civic participation of young people in a digital society, and its development is an important factor in overcoming digital inequality and ensuring an inclusive digital environment.

Further research should focus on studying the impact of information and digital competence on the quality of professional and social communications, as well as on developing methods for forming ethical, conscious and inclusive digital interaction. In addition, an important area of research is the analysis of the relationship between the level of digital literacy among young

people and the effectiveness of their participation in decision-making in civic and social initiatives.

■ Funding

None.

■ Acknowledgements

None.

■ Conflict of Interest

None.

■ References

- [1] Barbinova, A. (2022). Development of information and digital competence of future education managers in the context of innovative educational activities. *Topical Issues of the Humanities*, 51, 408-413. doi: [10.24919/2308-4863/51-63](https://doi.org/10.24919/2308-4863/51-63).
- [2] Cabezas-González, M., Casillas-Martín, S., & García-Valcárcel Muñoz-Repiso, A. (2021). Basic education students' digital competence in the area of communication: The influence of online communication and the use of social networks. *Sustainability*, 13(8), article number 4442. doi: [10.3390/su13084442](https://doi.org/10.3390/su13084442).
- [3] Cleofas, J.V., & Labayo, C.C. (2024). Youth netizens as global citizens: Digital citizenship and global competence among undergraduate students. *Frontiers in Communication*, 9, article number 1398001. doi: [10.3389/fcomm.2024.1398001](https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2024.1398001).
- [4] Collado-Sánchez, M., García-Peñalvo, F.J., & Pinto-Llorente, A.M. (2023). Analysis, progress and comparative of the European Digital Competence Framework DIGCOMP. In *Proceedings TEEM 2022: Tenth international conference on technological ecosystems for enhancing multiculturalism* (pp. 991-997). Singapore: Springer. doi: [10.1007/978-981-99-0942-1_104](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-0942-1_104).
- [5] d'Haenens, L. (2024). Balancing digital literacy and children's wellbeing: A call to action. *Open Access Government*, 309-311. doi: [10.56367/OAG-044-11689](https://doi.org/10.56367/OAG-044-11689).
- [6] Filippova, L.V., Korobeynikova, T.I., & Mikhalyuk, A.M. (2023). Development of digital competencies of higher education students in Ukraine in modern realities. *Academic Visions*, 17. doi: [10.5281/zenodo.7695926](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7695926).
- [7] Godetska, T. (2024). Issues of digital competence in the scientific work of ukrainian researchers. *Research and Educational Studies*, 7(7), 252-274. doi: [10.32405/2663-5739-2023-7-252-274](https://doi.org/10.32405/2663-5739-2023-7-252-274).
- [8] Gurevich, R.S., Konoshevsky, L.L., Konoshevsky, O.L., & Lyulchak, S.Yu. (2024). Digital culture of the young generation: How to shape IT. *Modern Information Technologies and Innovation Methodologies of Education in Professional Training Methodology Theory Experience Problems*, 73, 14-29. doi: [10.31652/2412-1142-2024-73-14-29](https://doi.org/10.31652/2412-1142-2024-73-14-29).
- [9] Gutiérrez Ángel, N., Mercader Rubio, I., Trigueros Ramos, R., Oropesa Ruiz, N.F., García-Sánchez, J.N., & García Martín, J. (2022). Digital competence, use, actions and time dedicated to digital devices: Repercussions on the interpersonal relationships of Spanish adolescents. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(16), article number 10358. doi: [10.3390/ijerph191610358](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph191610358).
- [10] Kalyuzhna, Yu.I. (2025). Digital citizenship: New horizons for universities. *Scientific Notes of Kharkiv Humanitarian University "People's Ukrainian Academy"*, XXXI, 106-108. doi: [10.5281/zenodo.15426490](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15426490).
- [11] Kenesov, A. (2024). Digital citizenship in the 21st century: Analyzing the impact of social media on youth political activism and civic engagement. *Eurasian Science Review An International Peer-Reviewed Multidisciplinary Journal*, 2(2), 70-76. doi: [10.63034/esr-53](https://doi.org/10.63034/esr-53).
- [12] Kiryanova, M. (2024). The educator's information and digital competence as a foundation for professional success in the context of the information and educational environment. *Pedagogical Sciences*, 27(2), 63-72. doi: [10.33989/2524-2474.2024.2.63](https://doi.org/10.33989/2524-2474.2024.2.63).
- [13] Krasnyakova, A. (2019). Digital competence of internet users: Social and political psychological aspects of the study. *Problems of Political Psychology*, 22(1), 198-210. doi: [10.33120/popp-Vol22-Year2019-40](https://doi.org/10.33120/popp-Vol22-Year2019-40).
- [14] Krasnyakova, A. (2022). The information and communication environment of the internet as a resource for the development of civic competence of youth. *Scientific Works of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management. Psychology*, 4(53), 34-39. doi: [10.32689/maup.psych.2021.4.6](https://doi.org/10.32689/maup.psych.2021.4.6).
- [15] Lybeck, R., Koiranen, I., & Koivula, A. (2024). From digital divide to digital capital: The role of education and digital skills in social media participation. *Universal Access in the Information Society*, 23, 1657-1669. doi: [10.1007/s10209-022-00961-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10209-022-00961-0).
- [16] Medvedeva, M., Titova, L., & Kovtaniuk, I. (2024). [Digital tools in the formation of information and digital competence of students](https://doi.org/10.3390/su17104422). *Ukrainian Studies in the European Context: Collection of Scientific Papers*, 9, 184-190.
- [17] Milenkova, V., & Lendzhova, V. (2021). Digital citizenship and digital literacy in the conditions of social crisis. *Computers*, 10(4), article number 40. doi: [10.3390/computers10040040](https://doi.org/10.3390/computers10040040).
- [18] Milkova, E., Moldoveanu, M., & Krcil, T. (2025). Sustainable education through information and communication technology: A case study on enhancing digital competence and academic performance of social science higher education students. *Sustainability*, 17(10), article number 4422. doi: [10.3390/su17104422](https://doi.org/10.3390/su17104422).

- [19] Mukherjee, T. (2023). Youth transition in the digital age: Balancing digital competency demands and preparing for the future. In S. Deb & S. Deb (Eds), *Handbook of youth development* (pp. 359-372). Singapore: Springer. [doi: 10.1007/978-981-99-4969-4_21](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-4969-4_21).
- [20] Nalyvaiko, O.O. (2021). Digital competence: The essence of the concept and the dynamics of its development. In *Competence-based approach in higher education: Theory and practice* (pp. 40-58). Kharkiv: V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. [doi: 10.26565/9789662856729](https://doi.org/10.26565/9789662856729).
- [21] Nalyvaiko, O.O. (2018). [Formation of information and digital competence as a result of professional training of students at classical universities](https://doi.org/10.26565/9789662856729). *Pedagogical Almanac*, 40, 129-134.
- [22] Novik, K., Honcharuk, V., Kyrychenko, V., Petrovska, K., & Zelinska, V. (2024). The role of social media and online communities in learning and collaboration in the age of digital transformation. *Futurity Education*, 4(3), 334-351. [doi: 10.57125/FED.2024.09.25.19](https://doi.org/10.57125/FED.2024.09.25.19).
- [23] Petrova, A.V., Kazantsev, Yu.V., & Tsyganok, G.M. (2024). Educational strategies for developing digital competence among higher education students. *Pedagogical Academy: Scientific Notes*, 13. [doi: 10.5281/zenodo.14580379](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14580379).
- [24] Pongrac, D., Alic, M., & Cafuta, B. (2025). Digital competences of digital natives: Measuring skills in the modern technology environment. *Informatics*, 12, article number 23. [doi: 10.3390/informatics12010023](https://doi.org/10.3390/informatics12010023).
- [25] Pyżalski, J., Walter, N., & Iwanicka, A. (2023). Understanding age-related differences in the development of digital communication and information skills in Polish adolescents. *Multidisciplinary Journal of School Education*, 12(24), 145-164. [doi: 10.35765/mjse.2023.1224.07](https://doi.org/10.35765/mjse.2023.1224.07).
- [26] Ronzes, O. (2021). Determining the level of digital competence as a necessary skill in the transition to a digital state. *Problems of Political Psychology*, 24(1), 330-348. [doi: 10.33120/popp-Vol24-Year2021-83](https://doi.org/10.33120/popp-Vol24-Year2021-83).
- [27] Sakhno, O.V. (2023). Digital competence and technologies for education: Principles and tools. *Image of the Modern Teacher*, 6(195), 10-14. [doi: 10.33272/2522-9729-2020-6\(195\)-10-14](https://doi.org/10.33272/2522-9729-2020-6(195)-10-14).
- [28] Shynkar, M. (2022). Features of social and psychological adaptation and communication of student youth in the modern media environment. *Scientific Works of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management. Psychology*, 1(54), 91-99. [doi: 10.32689/maup.psych.2022.1.13](https://doi.org/10.32689/maup.psych.2022.1.13).
- [29] Shyshenko, I. (2020). Development of students' information and digital competence as a modern pedagogical problem. *Physical and Mathematical Education*, 2(24), 79-85. [doi: 10.31110/2413-1571-2020-024-2-035](https://doi.org/10.31110/2413-1571-2020-024-2-035).
- [30] Spurava, G., & Kotilainen, S. (2023). Digital literacy as a pathway to professional development in the algorithm-driven world. *Nordic Journal of Digital Literacy*, 18, 48-59. [doi: 10.18261/njdl.18.1.5](https://doi.org/10.18261/njdl.18.1.5).
- [31] Stoika, O.Ya. (2023). Formation of information and digital competence of future teachers in the context of distance learning. *Pedagogical Sciences: Theory and Practice*, 2, 66-72. [doi: 10.26661/2786-5622-2023-2-10](https://doi.org/10.26661/2786-5622-2023-2-10).
- [32] Synyuk, N., & Kravchuk, O. (2025). Developing adolescents' digital competence as a prerequisite for harmonious socialization and effective adaptation in the information society. *Psychology Travelogs*, 2, 37-50. [doi: 10.31891/PT-2025-2-4](https://doi.org/10.31891/PT-2025-2-4).
- [33] Tilikina, N. (2021). [Media, information, and computer literacy as components of digital literacy](https://doi.org/10.26661/2786-5622-2023-2-10). *Scientific Notes of Lviv University of Business and Law*, 29, 46-56.
- [34] Tinmaz, H., Lee, Y.-T., Fanea-Ivanovici, M., & Baber, H. (2022). A systematic review on digital literacy. *Smart Learning Environments*, 9, article number 21. [doi: 10.1186/s40561-022-00204-y](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40561-022-00204-y).
- [35] Tkachuk, G., & Medvedeva, M. (2023). ICT as a tool for forming the information and digital students' competence in pedagogical universities. *Youth and Market*, 1(209), 74-80. [doi: 10.24919/2308-4634.2023.272479](https://doi.org/10.24919/2308-4634.2023.272479).
- [36] Trushkina, N., & Chernukh, D. (2023). Digital culture of companies: Clarification of terminology. *International Science Journal of Management, Economics & Finance*, 2(1), 19-33. [doi: 10.46299/j.isjmef.20230201.03](https://doi.org/10.46299/j.isjmef.20230201.03).
- [37] Vakulenko, N. (2021). Information competence of future specialists in the field of technological education. *Ukrainian Professional Education*, 9-10, 15-28. [doi: 10.33989/2519-8254.2021.9-10.263516](https://doi.org/10.33989/2519-8254.2021.9-10.263516).
- [38] Velet, A.V., & Ruban, N.P. (2024). Structure of information and digital competence and means of its formation in students of vocational secondary education. *Problems of Engineering Pedagogic Education*, 83, 123-135. [doi: 10.26565/2074-8922-2024-83-11](https://doi.org/10.26565/2074-8922-2024-83-11).
- [39] Vuorikari, R., Kluzer, S., & Punie, Y. (2022). *DigComp 2.2: The digital competence framework for citizens*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. [doi: 10.2760/115376](https://doi.org/10.2760/115376).
- [40] Yue, A., Nekmat, E., & Beta, A. (2019). Digital literacy through digital citizenship: Online civic participation and public opinion evaluation of youth minorities in Southeast Asia. *Media and Communication*, 7(2), 100-114. [doi: 10.17645/mac.v7i2.1899](https://doi.org/10.17645/mac.v7i2.1899).
- [41] Zavadaska, N., & Ihnatiuk, M. (2020). Formation of information competence as a guarantee of academic integrity: The role of the library of a higher education institution. *Ukrainian Journal of Library and Information Science*, 5, 44-65. [doi: 10.31866/2616-7654.5.2020.205729](https://doi.org/10.31866/2616-7654.5.2020.205729).

Інформаційно-цифрова компетентність як чинник ефективної соціальної комунікації та адаптації молоді

Артем Плужник

Аспірант

Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
08401, вул. Сухомлинського, 30, м. Переяслав, Україна
<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-3048-0805>

Анотація. Актуальність дослідження зумовлена тим, що інформаційно-цифрова компетентність стає ключовим чинником соціальної адаптації та ефективної комунікації молоді в умовах швидкої цифрової трансформації. Метою статті було з'ясувати роль інформаційно-цифрової компетентності як чинника, що впливає на ефективність соціальної комунікації та сприяє соціальній адаптації молодого покоління у цифровому суспільстві. Методологічну основу дослідження склали аналіз і узагальнення наукових джерел, контент-аналіз публікацій та нормативних документів, а також системний підхід, що дозволив розглянути інформаційно-цифрову компетентність як цілісне соціокомунікативне явище та визначити її вплив на адаптаційні процеси молоді. Результати дослідження показали, що інформаційно-цифрова компетентність молоді є інтегрованим утворенням, яке поєднує технічну обізнаність, інформаційну грамотність, критичне мислення, медіаосвіченість та навички безпечної поведінки в цифровому середовищі. На основі аналізу наукових підходів визначено, що така компетентність не обмежується володінням інструментами цифрових технологій, а охоплює здатність критично оцінювати інформацію, ефективно використовувати онлайн-ресурси для навчання та професійного розвитку, а також дотримуватися етичних принципів цифрової взаємодії. Теоретичне узагальнення показало, що високий рівень інформаційно-цифрової компетентності сприяє продуктивній соціальній комунікації, швидкій адаптації молоді до змінних умов цифрового суспільства та зменшенню ризиків інформаційної вразливості. Вона виступає важливим інструментом розширення доступу до освітніх і професійних можливостей, формування активної громадянської позиції та зміцнення соціальної інтеграції. Недостатній рівень цієї компетентності, навпаки, посилює цифрову нерівність, знижує ефективність міжособистісної та групової комунікації, обмежує участь молоді у суспільно значущих процесах і підвищує ризики впливу дезінформації. У дослідженні обґрунтовано інформаційно-цифрову компетентність як соціокомунікативний ресурс, що поєднує технічні, когнітивні, комунікативні та етичні компоненти і виступає ключовим чинником інтеграції молоді у цифрове середовище. Результати дослідження можуть бути використані для обґрунтування розробки та впровадження програм формування інформаційно-цифрової компетентності, які враховують соціально-комунікативний аспект і спрямовані на комплексний розвиток молоді.

Ключові слова: цифрове середовище; соціальна інтеграція; цифрова соціалізація; онлайн-взаємодія; цифрова комунікація; міжособистісне спілкування; критичне мислення



Ethnographic documentation of the primitive beliefs of the Slavs in the archives of the 18th-20th centuries: Methodology, representation, problems of interpretation

Oleksandr Lakhno*

PhD in Historical Sciences, Associate Professor
Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University
36003, 2 Ostrohradskyi Str., Poltava, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0312-0799>

Abstract. The relevance of the study was determined by the need to analyse how, throughout the eighteenth-twentieth centuries, approaches to recording, classifying, and interpreting the pre-Christian beliefs of the Slavs changed under the influence of political, confessional, and scientific transformations. The aim of the work was to trace the full sequence of transformations – from field recording to archival classification and public representation – and to determine which methodological and ideological factors determined the final structure of the sources. The methodology was based on a comparative analysis of handwritten corpora, censorship prescriptions, and mass publications using the concepts of the history of knowledge, critical archival studies, textual criticism, and sociolinguistic hermeneutics. It was established that in the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries, field records were created mainly by descriptive intuitive methods, and the criterion of authenticity was defined by the aesthetic and ethnopolitical expectations of collectors, which led to the systematic exclusion of syncretic and everyday forms of ritual practice. The analysis of archival classifications showed that administrative-territorial and genre rubrics separated ritual data from functional context, while standardised questionnaires, editorial reductions, and self-censorship transformed multilayered descriptions into unified statistical units. The comparison of handwritten sources with lubok publications and early cinematographic plots demonstrated that at the turn of the nineteenth-twentieth centuries, religious motifs of demonology and agrarian magic were represented mainly as decorative ethnographic markers consistent with the Enlightenment canons of the era. The generalisation of the results confirmed that multilevel selection, classification, and editorial processing stabilised certain interpretative models, while simultaneously marginalising contextual variations and situational practices of the bearers of tradition. The practical value of the study lay in the creation of a set of criteria for reconstructing the original ritual context from fragmentary and conceptually altered sources, contributing to a deeper understanding of ethnographic materials within archival and scholarly practices

Keywords: field materials; archaism; syncretism; ritual; systematisation; culture

Introduction

The relevance of the study was determined by the need to comprehend how the primitive pre-Christian beliefs of the Slavs, throughout a long historical period, served not only as an object of ethnographic description but

also as an instrument in the formation of cultural memory, national identity, and confessional policy. Attention to archival sources containing fragments of mythological concepts, rituals, and demonology required not

Suggested Citation:

Lakhno, O. (2025). Ethnographic documentation of the primitive beliefs of the Slavs in the archives of the 18th-20th centuries: Methodology, representation, problems of interpretation. *Society. Document. Communication*, 10(2), 32-45. doi: 10.69587/sdc/2.2025.32.



only recording of the content but also an analysis of the methodological limitations and interpretative paradigms within which these materials were collected, classified, and presented in the public sphere. Such an approach allowed not only to reconstruct the content of pre-Christian beliefs but also to critically assess the very structure of the source base, which influences modern scientific perceptions of these beliefs.

The Christian tradition, introducing an official liturgical and dogmatic system, preserved and transformed a number of pre-Christian achievements that continued to function in parish life, the family calendar, and the agrarian cycle up to the turn of the twenty-first century. The cult of ancestors combined with memorial services, the celebration of natural cycles integrated into the church calendar, and apotropaic actions (protective pendants, consecrated herbs, ritual bonfires) were adapted to Christian blessings and processions. Thus, Christian culture did not “displace” pre-Christian motifs but created a dual symbolic system in which old rituals acquired new theological interpretations while retaining the regulatory role in the social and economic life of the community (Halperin, 2022).

Throughout the twentieth century, processes of modernisation, secularisation, and political catastrophes caused a revision of religious practices; however, elements of pre-Christian ritualism continued to be preserved in folklore texts, parish notes, and ethnographic diaries (Horák, 2022). Field materials by P. Chubinsky (1872), R.F. Kindl (2000), and interwar and post-war expeditions confirmed that demonological narratives, rites of passage, and agrarian rituals remained important indicators of local identity even within the context of Soviet atheistic policy or radical economic transformations. In mass publications and visual media, these motifs were gradually reinterpreted: from instruments regulating the life cycle, the motifs turned into cultural symbols that required additional semiotic modification to correspond to the aesthetic and educational needs of the era. Such transformation confirmed the resilience of archaic relics, and at the same time demonstrated the necessity of interpreting these elements beyond the frameworks of linear evolutionist schemes.

J.A. Álvarez-Pedrosa (2021) collected and systematised primary sources that revealed the characteristics of Slavic pre-Christian religion. The author's work established that texts of the early Middle Ages contained fragmentary but valuable evidence of mythological concepts and rituals of the Slavs. The results emphasised the difficulty of reconstructing religious practices due to the limitation and heterogeneity of the sources. The work identified key narratives indicating the syncretic nature of the beliefs of Slavic communities. S.S. Alymov (2019) revealed the contribution of Ukrainian scholars to the formation of the theory of ethos, emphasising its intellectual origins. The study established that the ideas of Ukrainian

thinkers significantly influenced the concepts of ethnic identity in Russian and international scientific contexts. The results highlighted the unique role of Ukrainian intellectual traditions in global ethnological approaches. The analysis demonstrated the deep interconnection between local cultural narratives and universal theoretical concepts of ethnicity. S. Borbély (2023) studied the relationship between theory and practice in the preservation of cultural heritage, drawing on ethnographic approaches. The author's work revealed that in Western Ukraine, local communities actively integrated traditional practices into modern strategies of cultural heritage preservation. The results emphasised the significance of local knowledge in the formation of effective models of heritage management. The analysis demonstrated how ethnographic methods contributed to a deeper understanding of the cultural dynamics of the region.

Y. Chernukhin (2020) reconstructed the archives of the Sheptytsky family in Prylbichi, discovering documents that shed light on the activities. The author's research showed that these materials revealed the family's significant contribution to the cultural and religious life of Galicia. The analysis underlined the importance of archival sources for understanding the historical context of the region. Y. Harasym (2023) analysed the activities of M. Hrushevsky as a folklorist-historian, proving that in the research, the systematisation of oral poetic texts served as an instrument for constructing the national historical narrative. It was emphasised that M. Hrushevsky's historiographical corpus integrated folk creativity as evidence of the historical continuity of Ukrainians, thereby outlining a new model of interaction between ethnographic material and the narrative of the previous times. O. Koshel (2021) focused on the participation of the Orthodox clergy of the Right Bank in the local history movement of the second half of the nineteenth – early twentieth centuries. In this research, it was established that the clergy not only collected local historical records but also initiated the popularisation among the laity, thus forming regional historical awareness and increasing the practical value of ethnographic collections for communities.

A. Leśniewska (2023) analysed the travel notes of Zorian Dołęga-Chodakowski, identifying travel as the main source of the mythological narratives. The research was based on a textual-comparative analysis of diaries and correspondence, which made it possible to trace the transformation of personal topographical impressions into folkloric-ethnographic concepts. The author established that these narratives enriched Polish and Ukrainian folklore studies by integrating the image of the “archaic landscape” into national historiographies. The article demonstrated the mechanism of transforming travelling experience into a methodological resource of early Romantic ethnogeography. D. Yesypenko (2020) studied the evolution of scholarly editing of Slavic texts, comparing pre-reform printed editions with modern dig-

ital corpora. The author focused on the impact of OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technologies and TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) markup, showing that digitalisation ensured the preservation of variant readings and expanded research access to texts. The analysis demonstrated how digital tools corrected historical limitations of printed series, restoring removed dialectisms and contextual notes. The work outlined new perspectives for philological and ethnographic studies in the digital age.

Previous studies were largely limited to descriptive cataloguing of ritual practices and the comparison with reconstructions of mythological pantheons, leaving aside the mechanisms of institutional selection, editorial modification, and self-censorship that shaped the available corpus of sources. As a result, there was a lack of comprehensive research integrating field, archival, and public levels of representation of beliefs. The aim of the article was to explain the mechanisms of transformation of pre-Christian beliefs from primary recording to printed representation within the framework of archival practices of the eighteenth-twentieth centuries.

Materials and Methods

The first block consisted of works that laid the foundations of the Romantic and archaeographic approaches: the treatise by A. Czarnocki & W. Surowiecki (1834), processed from a copy in the digital library Polona, and the two-volume work by G. Uspensky (1818), available on the Internet Archive platform. The middle phase of methodological development was represented by the works of M.I. Kostomarov (1847) and P. Chubinsky (1872), which contained the most complete field descriptions, analysed from editions in the Internet Archive digital library. The institutional standards of the late imperial period were represented by Reports and Records of Ethnographic Department of Emperor's Society of Friends of Natural History, Anthropology and Ethnography (1888) and *Ethnographic Review*, vol. LXIII (1904), examined from the digital collections of the Internet Archive online resource. For comparison with the Austro-Hungarian tradition, the Ukrainian translation of R.F. Kindl (2000) monograph, based on the author's field notes of the late nineteenth century, was used. The second, regulatory layer of sources reflected the influence of state censorship. Official texts – in particular, the Censorship Act (1826), the Valuyev Circular (1863), and the Ems Decree (1876) – were studied from digitised copies stored in electronic archives of legal documents and historical portals. The third block consisted of visual sources that allowed tracing the transition of sacred content into mass culture: the lubok sheet *Tale about how a craftsman tricked the devil* (1867), analysed from the digitised version on the portal of the New York Public Library, and the feature film *Viy* (1967), available on official film-studio channels on the YouTube platform.

The source-study analysis verified the origin and degree of authenticity of each item in the sample. By

comparing title pages, publishing notes, and internal colophons, the primary editions of texts were identified, and later layers were determined. This made it possible to separate purely field fragments from scholarly or ideological processing and to form a basis for further comparison. The comparative-historical method was used to compare plots and terminology in sources from different decades, allowing the tracing of the dynamics in the description of the same ritual actions. The method helped to identify changes in thematic priorities and in the formulation of the categories "archaic", "authentic", and "pagan".

The critical archival approach made it possible to consider the archive itself as a factor of power. The rules for accepting manuscripts into district, university, and editorial collections, as well as censorship instructions regulating the permissible content of descriptions of "superstitions", were analysed. The method explained the uneven representation of demonological plots and revealed how institutional selection set the subsequent research horizon. The method of sociolinguistic hermeneutics focused on the linguistic codes of recorded rituals: dialectisms, Church Slavonicisms, and notes of administrative style. The distribution of regional lexemes was analysed in connection with the social status of informants and editors. This made it possible to determine which linguistic forms were subject to normalisation and which were preserved – helping to interpret accurately the semantic nuances of the terms "spirit", "devil", and "Perun" in various records and to identify latent meanings "hidden" behind censorship-acceptable words. Within the framework of the historical-legal analysis of the censorship regulations, the Censorship Act (1826), the Valuyev Circular (1863), the Ems Decree (1876), and later decrees of the Main Directorate of Censorship were examined.

Results

The formation of the ethnographic archive of primitive beliefs in Eastern Europe from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century took place under the influence of profound transformations in the humanities and in social self-perception. Ethnography as a scientific practice emerged in an era when national projects gradually replaced the universalist paradigm of the Enlightenment. In this context, attention to the pre-Christian beliefs of peoples – particularly the Slavs – acquired political and ideological significance. Archives that began to form within historical, archaeographic, and later folkloric-ethnographic societies accumulated materials not only as relics of the previous times but also as evidence of the deep cultural continuity of nations. Special importance was given to records attesting to the uniqueness, "primordially", and ideological completeness of the pre-civilisational worldview. At the turn of the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries, a combination of historiographical interest and ideas of national revival was observed, which encouraged the archiving of oral sources, legends, apocrypha, ritual texts, and mentions of the

deification of natural forces (Rohde, 2019). The work of G. Uspensky (1818) was analysed – the original is preserved at the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine (Kyiv), and its digitised version was obtained from the Internet Archive digital library – where it was determined that primitive beliefs were presented as part of the “Russian antiquities” deserving description and preservation. At the same time, collectors often preferred materials that corresponded to the idea of the “authentic” and the “archaic”, neglecting mixed or adapted forms. In the mid-nineteenth century, the narrative shifted under the influence of Slavophilism and romantic historicism – mythological elements became not only a subject of analysis but also an instrument of cultural legitimisation (Halperin, 2022). The work of M.I. Kostomarov (1847) was analysed – the original is preserved at the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine (Kyiv), and its digitised version was obtained from the Internet Archive digital library – where it was determined that the study sought to reconstruct the system of pre-Christian beliefs as integral, logical, and organic to the Slavic ethos, which corresponded to the general trend of “intellectualising” myth as evidence of the depth of national tradition.

The methodology of field research aimed at recording the oral tradition containing remnants of primitive beliefs in the second half of the nineteenth – early twentieth centuries developed at the intersection of observation, descriptive surveying, and limited researcher participation in ritual processes (Reports and Records..., 1888). During this period, there was no unified methodological standard, and therefore each researcher acted according to the own intuition, goals, and experience. Oral tradition was regarded primarily as an artefact of the previous times that required preservation before its final disappearance due to modernisation processes, religious standardisation, or urbanisation.

This research attitude – consisting of a romantic desire to record the “archaic” and “authentic” elements of pre-Christian beliefs as evidence of cultural continuity and national identity – determined the intensive and often unsystematic character of ethnographic collection. As a result, empirical accumulation of materials often outpaced the analytical comprehension and theoretical interpretation. The methods included mainly observing the behaviour of bearers of tradition during rituals, recording oral reports about beliefs, and noting incidental expressions, omens, and incantations. A significant part of the field materials consisted of answers to questionnaires distributed to educational institutions or local intellectuals, which cast doubt on the immediacy and reliability of testimonies (Horák, 2022).

The collection of materials was mainly carried out through local respondents who simultaneously served as interpretative intermediaries, transforming information according to the own educational level, moral views, and notions of scholarly legitimacy. This created a

potentially subjective situation in which the primitive was perceived through the prism of contemporary rationalist or Christian concepts. The practice of P. Chubinsky (1872) was analysed; P. Chubinsky's expedition materials are preserved in the archival collections of the M.T. Rylsky Institute of Art History, Folklore Studies and Ethnology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and are gradually being digitised, providing new opportunities for study – where, particularly in the third volume of the ethnographic corpus, the recording of calendar rituals was carried out through observation of cyclical ceremonies in a specific region. The researcher consistently registered seasonal customs in which Christian symbols coexisted with traces of pre-Christian beliefs – including magical practices, the cult of natural forces, and the cult of the dead (Diakiv, 2018).

The methodology of P. Chubinsky had a descriptive nature but preserved an important empirical component – the sense of the researcher's involvement in the space of rural life. The work of R.F. Kindl (2000) devoted to the Hutsuls was analysed – the original is preserved in the Archive of the University of Graz (Austria), and its digitised version was obtained from the Chytyvo digital library – where it was determined that it displayed a narrower but deeper approach to recording beliefs, considering these beliefs as an inseparable part of everyday life. Unlike most authors, R.F. Kindl focused on observing ritual actions in the “living” forms, particularly during rites of passage, seasonal festivals, or agricultural practices. R.F. Kindl's attention to syncretic forms of belief allowed the “primitive” to be seen not as an isolated phenomenon but as an active element in the structures of later rituality. The most complex aspect of field documentation was the identification of genuinely archaic elements in mixed rituals. Researchers tended to highlight what seemed the “oldest”, neglecting the complex contexts of religious adaptation. The primitive appeared not as a fact but as a construct – the result of selection carried out not only by the bearers of tradition but also by researchers operating within a particular cultural horizon of expectations.

In the process of ethnographic recording of primitive beliefs, the problem of distinguishing between folklore as a cultural form and religious experience as an intimate, existential practice acquired particular significance (Ethnographic Review, vol. LXIII, 1904). This division was not explicitly articulated in the terminology of the scholars of the time, yet it was clearly traced in the manner of description and categorisation of material. Collected myths, legends, charms, conceptions of spirits, demons, or the otherworld were rarely regarded as religion in the full sense of the word. Such materials were mainly treated as remnants, rudiments, or cultural layers that had lost the sacred meaning. In this context, ethnographers followed classificatory schemes in which folklore – unlike religion – was viewed as a nationally marked but largely secularised form of collective memory.

In the course of this research, the work of A. Czarnocki & W. Surowiecki (1834) was analysed – the manuscripts of which are preserved in the archives of the Russian State Library and the Library of Vilnius University and are available to researchers as high-quality digital copies – where an attempt was observed to grant mythology the status of a complete worldview system. The authors emphasised the internal logic of beliefs in which the deification of nature, the cult of ancestors, and conceptions of the division of the world and spiritual hierarchy functioned as elements of a coherent and organised outlook. This indicated an aspiration to restore to archaic content the dignity of a system which, in the context of the nineteenth century, could compete with Christianity as the dominant ideology of the time. Such an approach blurred the boundary between the religious and the folkloric, seeking to integrate both spheres into a shared mythological structure represented as a coherent worldview system (Deinega, 2024).

A completely different model of representation was chosen by P. Chubinsky (1872), particularly in the seventh volume, which presents ethnographic material from the territory inhabited by “Little Russians” – a term used in the official, administrative, and scholarly discourse of the Russian Empire to denote the Ukrainian population, primarily of the Left Bank, Slobozhanshchyna, and partly the South. The use of this term carried not only geographical but also ideological connotations – “Little Russians” were regarded as a regional ethnographic group of a single “Great Russian people”, rather than as a distinct nation with its own historical, linguistic, and cultural continuity. This terminology reflected an imperial strategy of unification that subordinated local identities to a centralised model. P. Chubinsky, operating within the official terminology of that time, used the term “Little Russians” in statistical and descriptive classifications without questioning its ideological foundation (Chikalo, 2019). At the same time, the author’s material demonstrates the actual cultural distinctiveness of the studied population, expressed in its system of beliefs, rituals, and linguistic features – thereby opening space for further rethinking of ethnic categorisation imposed from outside.

The author’s description had a distinctly ethnographic orientation – beliefs were presented as part of folk life, linguistic specificity, and social practices. Rituals associated with spirits, the dead, thresholds, or wild places were considered not as expressions of a religious system but as traditions rooted in the “folk character” (Lebid & Shevchenko, 2021). P. Chubinsky avoided metaphysical judgements, instead paying attention to the diversity of ritual forms linked to specific elements of the environment – dwellings, the calendar, and the agricultural cycle. In this way, folklore in the author’s description was separated from religion, yielding the role of a marker of ethnic identity. An indirect, but extremely important problem of such desecralisation was those primitive beliefs, when entering texts, lost part of the ontological

meaning. Researchers, failing to perceive behind these materials a living religious experience, reduced such evidence to cultural tradition, ritual custom, or verbal formula. Thus, in the descriptions, folklore often displaced the sacred, creating the impression of the pre-Christian not as a worldview reality but as a colourful background of folk mentality (Gülüm, 2023).

The problem of material selection in the process of ethnographic documentation of primitive beliefs was crucial in the structure of the formation of archival corpora of the eighteenth-twentieth centuries. The collected field material was never neutral – it always reflected the collector’s intentions, aesthetic, ideological, or scholarly orientations. What was considered “worthy of recording” depended not only on the informativeness or prevalence of a ritual, but also on how much a particular element corresponded to the researcher’s notions of authenticity, archaism, or uniqueness. Above all, what was deemed “ancient”, “mysterious”, or “miraculous” was considered valuable – often that which stood out from the flow of everyday life (Diakiv, 2018).

In this context, interest developed in peculiar characters, ritual exotica, remnants of magical actions, or demonological imagination. It is possible to trace how researchers consciously sought the unusual – rare spell formulas, references to the deification of natural objects, or local beliefs in unclean forces. The selection had a selective nature and rarely encompassed the entire ritual system in its everyday completeness. This caused a distortion of representativeness – archives became overburdened with unusual, “colourful” cases, while the ordinary and everyday receded into the background. In analysing the work of M.I. Kostomarov (1847), preserved in the holdings of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Kyiv, digitised versions were used, which clearly revealed the priority of mythological structures – the author regarded these narratives as evidence of a high degree of organisation of the pre-Christian worldview. The researcher’s attention focused on plots that could be incorporated into the logic of pantheism or the structure of personified deities (Horák, 2022).

Within this approach, materials that did not lend to systematisation – and therefore did not fit into the “classical” model of religion – often remained overlooked. Consequently, an idealised image of a primitive religion was formed, corresponding to the expectations of the educated nineteenth-century reader. P. Chubinsky, by contrast, showed interest in the everyday rootedness of customs – P. Chubinsky valued rituals integrated into the rural rhythm of life (Skrypnyk, 2009). However, even in the author’s works, it is evident that materials were often chosen for the symbolic vividness or ritual completeness. The researcher’s volumes contained examples from different regions, but the selection and structure of presentation testified to an orientation towards the typical or the “ethnographically significant”. The absence of explanations regarding what was excluded or

considered “secondary” created unevenness in the representation of regional forms of belief.

The format of preserving ethnographic material collected throughout the eighteenth-twentieth centuries significantly influenced the way it was comprehended, reproduced, and further interpreted. The materials originally existed in the form of handwritten notebooks, diaries, individual questionnaire responses, and reports submitted by local priests, teachers, or officials. The processing and systematisation depended on the researcher’s initiative, the specific characteristics of the institution that received these records, and publishing capacities. Often, documentation was carried out according to convenient but artificial criteria – for example, by administrative-territorial principle or by the calendar cycle of holidays. This created surface orderliness, yet concealed the multilayeredness and variability of the beliefs. Field diaries played an important role in preserving context – the description of the situation, the behaviour of informants, the specific time or place of recording (Rotem, 2024). However, a significant portion of such records was never published or underwent cuts, which destroyed the structure of empirical observation. The diary format allowed the fixation of spontaneity of events, and therefore unexpected elements of rituality. Yet, when transformed into published form, this material often lost its informality, blending with typified descriptions. A special place was occupied by questionnaire surveys, which began to be widely used in the second half of the nineteenth century. Questionnaires standardised the form of responses, oriented the informant towards a certain type of knowledge, and sometimes even suggested the desired content. This created an effect of documentary accuracy which, however, could be misleading. The level of detail in responses depended not on the ritual itself, but on the literacy of the respondent, the respondent’s interpretative skills, and personal motivation. Thus, the collected material acquired an appearance of systematisation which was often the product of editorial work rather than the internal logic of the belief (Diakiv, 2018).

In the case of P. Chubinsky (1872), it is possible to see an example of large-scale work that combined all the mentioned forms of recording. The author’s multi-volume publication, especially in the volumes devoted to folk customs and rituals, demonstrated a geographical and thematic structure of presentation – each region was represented under specific rubrics: calendar, ritual, language, conceptions of the supernatural. Such systematisation contributed to surveyability, but at the same time caused the reduction of complex local contexts to generalised categories. The fragmentary character of the sources was partly compensated by editorial systematisation; however, as shown by the analysis of digitised handwritten materials from the archives of the M.T. Rylsky Institute of Art History, Folklore Studies and Ethnology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine,

this procedure eliminated the authorial stylistics of the primary records. Thus, the format of ethnographic documentation became not merely a technical instrument, but also a means of influencing the way culture was represented. It was precisely through the structure of the archive that the boundaries were established for what was considered relevant, true, and representative – and what fell beyond the scope of scholarly attention.

The representation of primitive beliefs in the first ethnographic publications of the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries was shaped under clearly defined publishing norms, ideological constraints, and regulated practices of content control over printed material (Horák, 2022). Field materials collected through observation, interviews, or direct participation in rituals generally did not appear in print in the original form. During editorial processing, the style of presentation, terminological content, structural composition of the text, and thematic emphases were altered. These modifications were determined not only by the need for systematisation and ordering of empirical data but also by external factors related to the censorship policy operating in the Russian Empire.

Censorship legislation, in particular the Censorship Act (1826), directly prohibited the publication of materials containing references to “pagan remnants”, “superstitions”, or any practices that could be interpreted as incompatible with Orthodox dogma. According to imperial circulars of the 1860s-1870s, the public reproduction of information about demonological concepts, corporeal rituals, or sexually marked ritual acts was qualified as “corruption of the national spirit” or “dissemination of harmful ideas”. In connection with this, descriptions of sacrifices, mentions of cults of demonic beings, or magical instruments were subject to removal or neutralisation during text preparation for publication. Control over ethnographic publications originating from territories with strongly expressed regional cultural specificity took on a particularly strict form. Within the framework of the Valuyev Circular (1863) and the Ems Decree (1876), restrictions were imposed on the use of the Ukrainian language in scholarly and popular texts related to folk culture. This created additional barriers to publishing descriptions of customs and beliefs, particularly from Right-Bank Ukraine and the south-western governorates, which retained distinct archaic elements.

In the work of A. Czarnocki & W. Surowiecki (1834), which presents an overview of the pre-Christian culture of the Slavs, an ideologically coloured framework was used – culture was described as an integral pre-national phenomenon in which primitive beliefs acted as markers of national character. The authors did not focus on specific rituals, did not record local variants or functional distinctions. Instead, an abstract exposition dominated, approaching a philosophical treatise in which the pre-Christian was imagined as a stage in the spiritual development of the people. Such a manner of presenting material created the impression of a completed

narrative in which ethnographic detail gave way to worldview generalisations.

G. Uspensky, on the other hand, adhered to a historical-documentary approach, giving preference to fragmentary information from written sources concerning the "antiquities" of Rus'. G. Uspensky's representation had an archaeographic character, in which the authority of the chronicle, the fact of the tradition's existence, and its temporal dimension were of primary importance (Ignatusha, 2020). Such a descriptive model displaced the living religious experience into the previous times, forming the perception of beliefs as remnants rather than an active system. P. Chubinsky (1872), in the multivolume work, demonstrated a different approach – closer to empirical generalisation. The author's structured volumes provided examples of actual ritual practices, folklore, everyday beliefs, and observations collected from different regions. Yet even in this case, the text underwent editorial processing – certain themes were omitted, and the description was presented in a form that avoided potentially "controversial" aspects, such as sexual or bloody rituals. The tone of representation corresponded to the expectations of the readership of that time, which sought in ethnography a morally acceptable, aesthetically appealing, yet "exotic" picture of folk culture. As a result, the representation of primitive beliefs in early ethnographic editions turned into a form of secondary

interpretation in which factual material was subordinated to the formal and cultural demands of the time. This led not only to the loss of individual details, but also to the deformation of the very logic of beliefs – from preserved practice to an element of the narrative about the "national bygone".

By the late nineteenth century, commercial publishers actively translated pre-Christian ritual plots into the format of inexpensive lubok prints, transforming sacred motifs into vivid graphic "icons" of mass culture. In such pictures, Kupala wreaths and fortune-telling, figures of sorceresses, and scenes of taming unclean forces were presented not as living rituals but as humorous, easily readable ornaments of rural exoticism suitable for sale at city fairs. A telling example is the single-sheet lubok Tale about how a craftsman tricked the devil (1867), now preserved in the collections of the New York Public Library, in the graphic art holdings of the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs. In it, the confrontation between the craftsman and the devil serves as a plot for a humorous "demonic" attraction, testifying to the transformation of folk demonology into a decorative commodity for the modern audience. The visual stylisation, satirical plot, and narrative logic emphasise the transformation of pre-Christian concepts into part of the illustrated entertainment culture of the second half of the nineteenth century (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Lubok print Tale about how a craftsman tricked the devil, interpretation of the late nineteenth century
Source: Tale about how a craftsman tricked the devil (1867)

The mechanism of exhibition theatricalisation reinforced this process – the Moscow Ethnographic Exhibition of 1867 displayed more than three hundred mannequins placed in dioramas of “typical” wedding and funeral scenes. The ritual, transferred into the museum space, became a scientific and decorative object that legitimised the distance between the modern viewer and the “archaic” actor (Jezernik, 2019). The film version of the story *Viy* (1967) represents an example of the visual transformation of pre-Christian demonology under the conditions of Soviet mass culture. Through the means of cinematic language, the film actualised the potential of folkloric heritage as a resource of audiovisual attraction in the media environment of the late Soviet era. Built on the basis of a three-day ritual of night vigil near the coffin of a mystical deceased woman, the plot transfers the viewer into a local Ukrainian context, staged as an “other space” – a sacralised and simultaneously threatening environment.

The landscape openness of misty ravines and the wooden church contrasts with the claustrophobic intimacy of the church interior, where the conflict with the supernatural unfolds (Fig. 2). Elements such as the chalk circle, icons, amulets, or incantations lose the original ritual-protective function and transform into means of emotional impact aimed at provoking the viewer’s fear. In this context, the film acts as a representative of the process of commercialising traditional demonological themes, which, being interpreted through the tools of cinematography, acquires new forms within cultural production. In this way, nineteenth-twentieth century mass culture oscillated between romanticised ethnographic stylisation and atheistic deheroisation – each time reducing the sacred dimension of primitive beliefs to a symbolic code adapted to the needs of the market for printed, exhibition, and cinematographic formats (Ashwin, 2024).

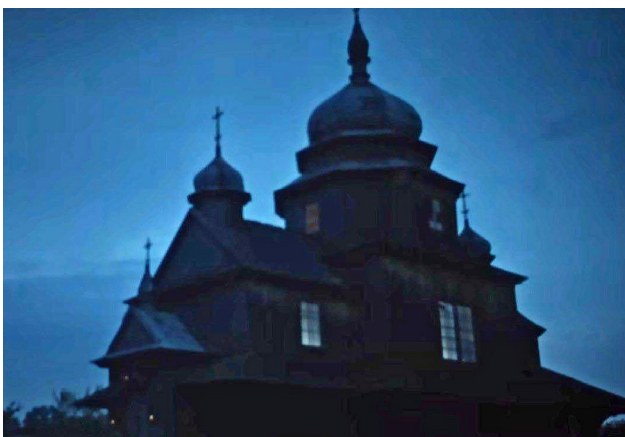


Figure 2. Frame of a wooden church from the film “*Viy*”
Source: *Viy* (1967)

Modern ethnographers of the late nineteenth – early twentieth centuries interpreted the recorded pre-Christian practices of peasants through evolutionary,

confessional, and ethnocentric frameworks, which led to systemic semantic shifts. The evolutionist paradigm inherited from Tylor and Morgan assumed a gradual transition from “natural faith” to “rational” monotheism, therefore the rituals were regarded as historical “survivals” doomed to extinction (Decter, 2020). In such a conceptual field, M.I. Kostomarov (1847), working with South Russian folklore – as evidenced by the analysis of the notes from the collections of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, access to which was obtained through its digital collections – arranged local plots into a hierarchically organised “Slavic religion of nature”, although field notes demonstrated the fragmentary and situational nature of beliefs. In different communities, the “master of the forest” or “mother of rye” performed different functions and did not form a stable dogmatic system. The research bias towards the “development of forms” contributed to selective data sampling – material that did not correspond to the scheme of sequential stages was classified as “distorted” by the influence of Christianity and set aside from the main publication corpus.

In Russian, Polish, and Ukrainian historiographies, pre-Christian elements were used as an argument for the antiquity of the “national spirit” (Warren, 2023). From the contradictory field corpus preserved in the archives of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv and the Polish Anthropological Society – whose publications and reports are actively being digitised – plots were selected that reinforced the concept of continuous continuity: the cult of the thunder deity was interpreted as the “state principle” of the Eastern Slavs, the Kupala element as a symbol of folk sensuality, and the ritual burning of *didukhs* as evidence of agrarian sacredness (Paliga, 2022). The variability of local practices was ignored or reduced to “insignificant deviations”, since it did not correspond to the unification programmes of cultural policy. As a result, archival corpora were filled with texts that confirmed pre-constructed schematics, while everyday, pragmatic, or ambivalent layers of beliefs remained insufficiently recorded. The cumulative effect of evolutionism, the confessional discourse of “superstition”, and ethnocentric selection contributed to the loss of contextual multilayeredness of unique field evidence (Midena & Yeo, 2022). The “archaic worldview” reconstructed in publications mostly reflected the researcher’s intellectual expectations, rather than the polyphonic and situationally variable nature of the religious practices of the bearers.

In the nineteenth century, the representation of primitive beliefs in ethnographic publications was largely determined by publishing practices, ideological contexts, and the expectations of the target audience – primarily the intelligentsia, consisting of scholars, clergy, and aristocracy. Field materials collected through observation, oral fixation, or questionnaires were rarely published without substantial editing. The style, composition, terminology, and length of texts were adapted to the scientific and cultural standards of the era. This

particularly concerned cultic and magical practices – especially those related to demonology – which were often subject to censorship, being softened, simplified, or entirely removed to meet the ethical and moral expectations of the educated reader. In the Russian Empire, ethnographic works were subject to review by censorship committees that ensured the texts did not promote “harmful” ideas or undermine the authority of power (Zavlunov, 2022).

In Western Europe, particularly in Austria-Hungary, censorship was less strict, but authors often practised self-censorship to conform to Enlightenment ideals of rationality and progress. University libraries in Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Lviv played a key role in systematising ethnographic materials. These libraries used classification systems such as Dewey Decimal Classification, developed in 1876, or locally designed systems, especially in libraries operating under the influence of the Russian Empire. By the late nineteenth – early twentieth century, some libraries began to apply the Universal Decimal Classification, developed by Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine, but its introduction in Ukraine before 1917 was limited due to political and economic conditions. Censorship played a significant role in shaping the content of ethnographic publications. Publishers and authors adapted materials to the tastes of the educated audience, which included scholars, clergy, and aristocracy. Descriptions of primitive beliefs – especially those concerning magic, demonology, or pagan rituals – were often edited or removed so as not to violate religious and social norms. In the Russian Empire, censorship committees reviewed texts to prevent the propagation of “uncivilised” or “immoral” beliefs (Dobko, 2018).

The cross-border exchange of ethnographic materials in the late nineteenth – early twentieth century fostered collaboration between Ukrainian and European academic institutions. In particular, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, founded in 1873 in Lviv, played a key role in such exchanges (Kuzhel, 2024). The research used data from the archive of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, as well as digitised versions of its periodical publications (Notes of the Shevchenko Scientific Society), which indicate that in the 1890s-1900s the Society cooperated with European institutions, exchanging ethnographic materials such as records of Ukrainian ritual texts and folklore. International ethnographic societies, such as the Polish Anthropological Society, founded in 1895 in Lviv, were oriented towards comparative ethnology, which facilitated the inclusion of Slavic materials in pan-European reviews. For instance, the works of Oskar Kolberg, who systematised Polish and partly Ukrainian folklore, were used for comparisons with Czech and other Slavic collections (Jasiewicz, 2022). However, the unification of formulations necessary for international standards sometimes led to the loss of local specificities. Each institution determined its own priority genres, regions, and thematic groups, which influenced the

primary scholarly selection of the corpus of pre-Christian beliefs, reflecting the ideological and cultural priorities of the era – aimed at adapting materials to the needs of the educated audience consisting of scholars, clergy, and aristocracy (Smolińska, 2023).

The digital age has introduced qualitative changes in the ways of preserving, interpreting, and popularising ethnographic heritage. Previously, manuscript corpora remained accessible only in archives and libraries, and the use was limited to researchers’ physical access to the collections. As of the early 2020s, digital technologies have made it possible to digitise, systematise, and publish ethnographic sources in open access. The transfer of materials from catalogues, reporting editions, or periodicals into digital format is carried out using tools of digital humanities such as optical character recognition, integration into multimedia platforms with hyper-text links, and historical-cartographic visualisation. OCR technologies ensure the conversion of scanned texts into machine-readable formats, opening possibilities for linguistic, semantic, and toponymic analysis of large data arrays (Dobko, 2018).

Hyperlinks, tagging, and mapping contribute to creating new reading routes, allowing materials to be integrated into educational and museum programmes, popularising such resources beyond the academic environment. Digitisation facilitates the reintegration of previously marginalised topics, such as local reports on pagan rituals or records of folk beliefs. Digital libraries not only ensure accessibility but also provoke new demands for critical rethinking – particularly concerning the origins of classifications, ideological processing, or linguistic editing. Thus, digital humanities not only provide technical conservation of ethnographic heritage but also form new epistemological approaches to its study (Hall, 2020).

The formation of the ethnographic archive of primitive beliefs in Eastern Europe throughout the eighteenth-twentieth centuries was a process determined not so much by objective documentation as by the ideological, cultural, and political factors of the epoch. From the very beginning, this process was marked by the subjectivity of romantic researchers seeking the “authentic” previous times and the imperfection of field methods. The collected material underwent further transformations through editorial systematisation, which unified local peculiarities, strict state censorship that removed “undesirable” elements, and academic interpretations that framed fragmentary data. Moreover, sacred beliefs were reduced to folkloric artefacts and commercialised by mass culture – which finally detached these beliefs from the original context. Thus, the archive is not a direct mirror of the previous times but a complex palimpsestic structure, whose critical reading has become possible only through modern digital approaches that allow analysis not only of the beliefs but also of the history of the representation.

Discussion

The results of the study reveal the complex process of forming the ethnographic archive of primitive beliefs in Eastern Europe from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, emphasising the influence of ideological, methodological, and publishing factors on the representation of pre-Christian traditions. The analysis of the works of G. Uspensky (1818), M.I. Kostomarov (1847), P. Chubinsky (1872), and R.F. Kindl (2000) demonstrates how ethnographic documentation reflected not only empirical data but also the cultural and national projects shaped within the context of romantic historicism, Slavophilism, and imperial unification. It was found that the selective choice of materials, driven by biases regarding "archaism" or "authenticity", led to the distortion of the original context of beliefs, reducing these beliefs to folkloric or decorative elements, as seen in lubok prints and cinematographic adaptations such as Viy (1967). The significance of these results lies in revealing the mechanisms of constructing ethnographic knowledge, where ideological frameworks, censorship restrictions, and commercial interests shaped the perception of primitive beliefs as a cultural rather than a religious phenomenon. This opens new perspectives for reinterpreting archival data in digital humanities, contributing to the restoration of lost contexts and the multi-layered nature of traditions.

P. Blasen (2023) showed that in Habsburg Bukovina from the late eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century, confessional competition between Greek Catholic and Orthodox clergy contributed to the formation of "religious indifference", within which peasants chose church jurisdiction based on administrative or economic motives, reducing the need for dogmatic control over extra-ecclesiastical rituals. The conducted research established that precisely the weakness of dogmatic supervision allowed ethnographers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to record a significant array of pre-Christian practices, which the archives interpreted as "cultural survivals" rather than elements of living religiosity. The author of the study interpreted the flexible confessional identification of the population as a factor of secularisation, whereas in the present research such flexibility was viewed as a precondition for the ethnographic selection of "archaic" material suitable for national-cultural legitimisation. The author worked mainly with governmental circulars and diocesan reports and concluded that church policy diminished peasants' interest in non-confessional rituals, whereas in the conducted research the analysis of archival diaries and questionnaires showed that precisely the exclusion of these rituals from official cults reinforced the local sacred significance.

R. Hoppadietz & K. Reichenbach (2025) showed that mass exhibitions, historical festivals, and musical-theatrical performances of Central Europe from the late nineteenth to the first third of the twentieth century systematically "staged" pre-Christian motifs, transferring

these motifs from the museum or archival format into the spectacular space of popular culture. The conducted study proved that already at the stage of primary cataloguing of field records, archival and censorship filters built the canon of "archaic" plots, which later became the source for such spectacular representation. The authors of the study interpreted ethnic "performances of the previous times" as a mechanism for constructing collective memory through the emotional immersion of the viewer, whereas in the present research the emphasis was placed on the textual-documentary consolidation of mythologemes within folkloric-ethnographic collections. R. Hoppadietz & K. Reichenbach applied methods of cultural performativity and media studies, identifying the significance of directorial decisions and stage iconography, while the critical archival approach used in the conducted study highlighted structural constraints that shaped the repertoire of "pagan survivals".

T. Kosiek (2023) focused on linguistic interactions between the researcher and respondents during modern fieldwork and proved that the coexistence of Ukrainian and Polish linguistic codes determined the degree of informants' trust and the volume of collected narratives. The conducted research found that in the nineteenth century, linguistic mediation by local clerks and teachers caused material selection even before its archiving, and dialectisms and "incorrect" forms were often removed by editors, transforming the original ritual lexicon. The author interpreted linguistic contact as a dynamic "practice of position alignment", whereas in the present study, linguistic correction was considered an instrument of normalisation and unification of the text for censorship and publishing purposes. T. Kosiek used ethnolinguistic observation and reflexive notes, emphasising the importance of situational translation, while the critical archival approach employed in the conducted research allowed tracing how linguistic standardisation shaped the long-term archival canon. The author's study showed that multilingualism increased the level of empathy and detail of narration, whereas the results of the present study demonstrated that the historical reduction of multilingualism decreased the cultural variability of sources.

M. Rohde & H. Justnik (2024) demonstrated that imperial photographic documentation of the Carpathians in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries constructed a visual "space of belonging", in which peasant rituals became part of the panoramic landscape and confirmed the Habsburg narrative of cultural diversity. The conducted research established those textual diaries and questionnaires of the same period represented these rituals mainly as "archaic survivals" suitable for systematisation in folkloric-ethnographic rubrics rather than for the imperial ideologue of "local landscapes". The authors of the study, through visual analysis, traced how the photographers' compositional decisions aligned with the policy of integrating local groups into the symbolic map of the monarchy, whereas in the

present research the archival-critical approach highlighted how editorial cuts and genre catalogues removed spatial context from handwritten descriptions. In the authors' study it was concluded that photography integrated ritual into the imperial discourse of multiculturalism, while the results of the present study showed that the absence of a visual layer in textual archives contributed to the interpretation of the same rituals as isolated ethnographic phenomena. The difference in approaches lay in the fact that M. Rohde & H. Justnik's work emphasised the visual politics of inclusion, whereas in the conducted research the decisive factor was the process of textual normalisation, which narrowed the potential of the ritual to proof of "pre-civilisational" authenticity.

J.H. Ward & S.C. Clark (2021) analysed the library-archival complex of the American Hungarian Foundation and proved that diaspora collections formed from émigré contributions contained a large proportion of "invisible" field records that became accessible only after complete digitisation and retro-conversion of cards. The conducted research showed that in the state archives of Eastern Europe, the pre-digital stage already at the stage of acquisition limited public access through censorship and genre rubrics, so metadata were formed under the angle of "pagan survivals" rather than ethnic diaspora. The authors of the study discovered that the main problem was the fragmentariness of descriptive fields, which hindered the search for contextual information about the ritual, whereas in the present research the decisive factor was the lack of context itself in the primary manuscripts due to editorial cuts; thus, the difference lay between the technical incompleteness of metadata and the substantive reduction of text. J.H. Ward & S.C. Clark emphasised the potential of crowdsourced annotation for restoring semantic links, whereas the conducted research proposed a critical re-evaluation of historical classifications before the transfer into the digital environment.

P.H. Zou & B.E. Priscilla (2023) proved that folklore narratives were formed around collectively experienced trauma and represented "shared grief" as the main mechanism of group identification. The conducted research testified that ethnographic documentation of pre-Christian beliefs in eighteenth- to twentieth-century archives-built identity primarily through the criterion of "archaic continuity" rather than through the affective experience of loss. The authors applied a discursive-psychoanalytic approach to oral narrative, whereas the present study employed critical archival science and textual criticism, which highlighted the role of censorship and editorial selection in constructing the corpus of beliefs. P.H. Zou & B.E. Priscilla interpreted demonological plots as carriers of the community's traumatic memory, whereas in the conducted analysis these same plots were considered the result of institutional selection of "exotic" elements suitable for national-romantic legitimisation. The authors' results emphasised the therapeutic function of folklore, whereas the present research revealed

that archival representation deprived texts of the original emotional multidimensionality through language normalisation and the removal of "indecent" fragments.

The results of the study reveal the complex process of forming the ethnographic archive of primitive beliefs in Eastern Europe from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, emphasising the influence of ideological, methodological, and publishing factors on the representation of pre-Christian traditions. Ethnographic documentation reflected cultural and national projects determined by romantic historicism, Slavophilism, and imperial unification, leading to the selective choice of "archaic" materials and the reduction of the sacred to folkloric elements, as seen in lubok prints and cinematographic adaptations. Comparison with other studies shows that weak dogmatic control, linguistic standardisation, visual and textual normalisation, as well as archival constraints, shaped a distorted image of primitive beliefs as a cultural rather than a religious phenomenon. The significance of these results lies in highlighting the mechanisms of constructing ethnographic knowledge, which opens perspectives for digital humanities in restoring lost contexts and the multi-layered nature of traditions.

■ Conclusions

The formation and further transformation of the ethnographic archive of pre-Christian beliefs in Eastern Europe in the nineteenth century are considered through multi-layered analysis. The work simultaneously encompasses three interrelated blocks: institutional-organisational (the development of historical-archaeographic and folkloric-ethnographic societies), methodological (the evolution of field and questionnaire practices), and representative (methods of publication, commercial "packaging", and censorship filtering of material). The comparison of a wide range of sources – from handwritten diaries and questionnaires to mass lubok editions and the Soviet cinematographic interpretation of *Viy* – made it possible to trace how the sacred meanings of the pre-Christian layer were gradually displaced by decorative-marketing strategies, and how scientific-institutional procedures shaped the "archival" image of tradition. As a result, a systematic description was proposed of how political, ideological, and commercial factors influenced the selection, description, and popularisation of pre-Christian beliefs.

The main result of the study was the identification of systemic asymmetry between primary records and the printed versions. A comparative analysis of original manuscripts and digitised copies from the collections of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, the M.T. Rylsky Institute of Art History, Folklore Studies and Ethnology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and the Archive of the University of Graz proved that researchers consciously or unconsciously cut off material that did not fit the dominant evolutionary or national schemes.

Because of this, ethnographic archives consolidated an idealised, often constructed image of "archaic religion".

The second important result concerns the institutional circulation of sources and the cross-border movement. Based on materials from the archives of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Polish Anthropological Society, it was proved that from the late nineteenth century these and related centres formed a network for the exchange of printed series, through which records of Ukrainian, Polish, and other Slavic beliefs entered the pan-European scientific field. At the same time, this process had a reverse side: the need for the unification of terminology for international catalogues led to the loss of dialect names and the levelling of local variations.

The third result is related to the decisive influence of publishing and censorship practices on the final form of the texts. The analysis of manuscripts, printed volumes, and graphics from the above-mentioned archives and libraries, as well as the study of legislative acts, testified to the systematic deletion or editing of "indecent" and ideologically "harmful" elements that did not correspond to the moral and confessional norms of the imperial era. As a result, primitive beliefs were represented

as a cultural "survival" rather than a living religious system. Such interference formed an orderly and rationalised image of "Slavic mythology", which significantly differed from the chaotic and multifaceted field reality recorded in primary sources.

The limitations of the work are connected with the partial loss of manuscript collections due to wars, editorial-censorship deletions, and uneven digitisation of archives, which complicated the reconstruction of the full context of certain plots and required recourse to secondary reconstructions. Further research should be directed towards the critical re-publication of handwritten diaries and questionnaires with minimal editing; this would make it possible to restore the excluded fragments and verify the representativeness of printed corpora.

■ Acknowledgements

None.

■ Funding

None.

■ Conflict of Interest

None.

■ References

- [1] Álvarez-Pedrosa, J.A. (2021). *Sources of Slavic pre-Christian religion*. Leiden: Brill. doi: 10.1163/97890004441385.
- [2] Alymov, S.S. (2019). Ukrainian roots of the theory of ethnos. In D.G. Anderson, D.V. Arzytov & S.S. Alymov (Eds.), *Life histories of ethnos theory in Russia and beyond* (pp. 77-144). Cambridge: Open Book Publishers. doi: 10.11647/OBP.0150.03.
- [3] Ashwin, D.J. (2024). *A history of Malayalam horror cinema and the use of Christian iconography*. (Doctoral thesis, University of East London, London, England). doi: 10.15123/ucl.8y0v3.
- [4] Blasen, P. (2023). Greek Catholic Ruthenians and Orthodox Romanians? Religious indifference and Church Policies in Habsburg Bukovina (1774-1849). *Südost-Forschungen*, 82(1), 140-172. doi: 10.1515/sofo-2023-820109.
- [5] Borbély, S. (2023). Theory and practice. Ethnographic approaches to cultural heritage and an empirical example from Western Ukraine. *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica*, 68(2), 525-567. doi: 10.1556/022.2024.00004.
- [6] Censorship Act. (1826). Retrieved from <http://irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/dlib/item/0000373>.
- [7] Chernukhin, Y. (2020). Archives of the Sheptytskyi family in Prylbychi: Reconstruction, review of documents. *Proceedings of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv*, 12(28), 108-136. doi: 10.37222/2524-0315-2020-12(28)-4.
- [8] Chikalo, O. (2019). Pavlo Chubynsky – an outstanding figure in Ukrainian ethnology (up to one hundred and eighty years of his birth). *The Ethnology Notebooks*, 148(4), 928-933. doi: 10.15407/nz2019.04.928.
- [9] Chubinsky, P. (1872). *Volume 7. Jews. Poles. Tribes of non-Little Russian origin. Little Russians (statistics, rural life, language)*. Retrieved from <https://archive.org/details/chub7/chub7/>.
- [10] Czarnocki, A., & Surowiecki, W. (1834). *Z.D. Chodakowski, on slavic culture before christianity, and W. Surowiecki, opinion on the aforementioned work, with the addition of brief information about Chodakowski and his correspondence*. Cracow: Ossoliński National Institute.
- [11] Decter, J. (2020). Survivals, debris, and relics: E.B. Tylor, the orientalist inheritance, and medieval polemic. *History of Humanities*, 5(1), 251-271. doi: 10.1086/707701.
- [12] Deinega, E. (2024). Orthodox dominant of preservation of national memory in the material and spiritual culture of the Ukrainian people. *Skhid*, 6(4), 47-52. doi: 10.21847/2411-3093.2024.649.
- [13] Diakiv, V. (2018) *Christian religiousness in the Ukrainians' traditional calendar rites: Investigational aspects*. *Folk Art and Ethnology*, 5(375), 66-73.
- [14] Dobko, T. (2018). *The introduction of UDC and LBC by libraries of Ukraine: Historical parallels and modern realities*. *Library Bulletin*, 2(244), 10-24.
- [15] Ems Decree. (1876). Retrieved from <https://surl.lu/ahaguz>.
- [16] Ethnographic Review, vol. LXIII. (1904). Retrieved from <https://surl.li/ygpkjt>.

- [17] Gülüm, E. (2023). Folkloric memory: (Re)connecting the dots for broader perspectives. *Memory Studies*, 16(6), 1466-1483. doi: [10.1177/17506980231204175](https://doi.org/10.1177/17506980231204175).
- [18] Hall, G. (2020). Ethnographic diaries and journals: Principles, practices, and dilemmas. In P. Hackett & C. Hayre (Eds.), *Handbook of ethnography in healthcare research* (pp. 277-289). London: Routledge. doi: [10.4324/9780429320927](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429320927).
- [19] Halperin, C. (2022). *The rise and demise of the myth of the Rus' land*. Leeds: ARC Humanities.
- [20] Harasym, Y. (2023). Mykhailo Hrushevsky as a historian of Ukrainian folklore. *Bulletin of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Literary Studies. Linguistics. Folklore Studies*, 2(34), 33-36. doi: [10.17721/1728-2659.2023.34.06](https://doi.org/10.17721/1728-2659.2023.34.06).
- [21] Hoppadietz, R., & Reichenbach, K. (2025). *Staging the pagan past. Ethnicist history conceptions and popular culture in Central Europe*. Dresden: Sandstein Verlag. doi: [10.25621/SV-GWZO/VG-24](https://doi.org/10.25621/SV-GWZO/VG-24).
- [22] Horák, P. (2022). Discovering Slavic mythology between east and west: Folklore research and the pagan past in the service of nation-building. *Folklore*, 133(4), 463-486. doi: [10.1080/0015587X.2022.2077562](https://doi.org/10.1080/0015587X.2022.2077562).
- [23] Ignatusha, O.M. (2020). Archives and politics in Ukraine of the XX-XXI centuries. *Sumy Historical and Archival Journal*, XXXIV, 5-20. doi: [10.21272/shaj.2020.i34.p.5](https://doi.org/10.21272/shaj.2020.i34.p.5).
- [24] Jasiewicz, Z. (2022). Oskar Kolberg and his work in Polish ethnography/ethnology and other national ethnographies. *People. Organ of the Polish Ethnographic Society*, 106, 137-172. doi: [10.12775/lud106.2022.06](https://doi.org/10.12775/lud106.2022.06).
- [25] Jezernik, B. (2019). The Moscow ethnographic exhibition of 1867. *Zbiór Wiadomości do Antropologii Muzealnej*, 6(1), 7-28. doi: [10.12775/ZWAM.2019.6.01](https://doi.org/10.12775/ZWAM.2019.6.01).
- [26] Kindl, R.F. (2000). *Hutsuls, their life and folk tales*. Chernivtsi: Molodyi Bukovynets.
- [27] Koshel, O. (2021). The role of right-bank Ukraine's orthodox clergy in the local lore movement (second half of the 19th – beginning of the 20th centuries). *Codrul Cosminului*, 27(1), 47-66. doi: [10.4316/CC.2021.01.003](https://doi.org/10.4316/CC.2021.01.003).
- [28] Kosiek, T. (2023). "You speak Ukrainian very well". Language encounters during ethnographic fieldwork. *Etnografia Polska*, 67(1-2), 197-212. doi: [10.23858/EP67.2023.3417](https://doi.org/10.23858/EP67.2023.3417).
- [29] Kostomarov, M.I. (1847). *Slavic mythology*. Kyiv: I. Valner Printing House.
- [30] Kuzhel, L. (2024). "Ethnographic collection" of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (1895-1928): European resonance. *Proceedings of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv* (pp. 29-56). Lviv: Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library. doi: [10.37222/2524-0315-2024-16\(32\)-2](https://doi.org/10.37222/2524-0315-2024-16(32)-2).
- [31] Lebid, A., & Shevchenko, N. (2021). Some aspects of the religious life of the Ukrainian provinces of the Russian Empire in the first half of the 19th century. *Bylye Gody*, 16(2), 629-640. doi: [10.13187/bg.2021.2.629](https://doi.org/10.13187/bg.2021.2.629).
- [32] Leśniewska, A. (2023). Unwilling travels – wandering as an inspirer of the myth-making activity of Zorian Dołęga Chodakowski. *People. Organ of the Polish Ethnographic Society*, 107, 287-306. doi: [10.12775/lud107.2023.11](https://doi.org/10.12775/lud107.2023.11).
- [33] Midena, D., & Yeo, R. (2022). Towards a history of the questionnaire. *Intellectual History Review*, 32(3), 503-529. doi: [10.1080/17496977.2022.2097576](https://doi.org/10.1080/17496977.2022.2097576).
- [34] Paliga, S. (2022). Sources of Slavic pre-Christian religion. *Hiperboreea*, 9(1), 133-136. doi: [10.5325/hiperboreea.9.1.0133](https://doi.org/10.5325/hiperboreea.9.1.0133).
- [35] Reports and Records of Ethnographic Department of Emperor's Society of Friends of Natural History, Anthropology and Ethnography. (1888). Retrieved from <https://surl.li/pldhoq>.
- [36] Rohde, M. (2019). Local knowledge and amateur participation. Shevchenko Scientific Society, 1892-1914. *Studia Historiae Scientiarum*, 18, 165-218. doi: [10.4467/2543702XSHS.19.007.11013](https://doi.org/10.4467/2543702XSHS.19.007.11013).
- [37] Rohde, M., & Justnik, H. (2024). Habsburg imperial image-space: Negotiating belonging through photography. *Euxeinos*, 14(36), 44-75. doi: [10.55337/36/IIYH2750](https://doi.org/10.55337/36/IIYH2750).
- [38] Rotem, N. (2024). Historical ethnography: Key characteristics and the journey before, during, and after the archival field. *Forum Qualitative Social Research*, 25(2), article number 1. doi: [10.17169/fqs-25.2.4106](https://doi.org/10.17169/fqs-25.2.4106).
- [39] Skrypnyk, H. (2009). *The ethnographic legacy of P. Chubynsky from the perspective of contemporary ethnology. Folk Art and Ethnography*, 2, 4-23.
- [40] Smolińska, T. (2023). Popularization of Slovak folk tales in Poland. *Literatura Ludowa, Journal of Folklore and Popular Culture*, 67(1-2), 35-52. doi: [10.12775/LL.1.2023.003](https://doi.org/10.12775/LL.1.2023.003).
- [41] Tale about how a craftsman tricked the devil. (1867). Retrieved from <https://surl.li/jubinz>.
- [42] Uspensky, G. (1818). *An attempt at a narrative of Russian antiquities*. Kharkiv: University Printing House.
- [43] Valuyev Circular. (1863). Retrieved from [https://hai-nyzhnyk.in.ua/doc2/1863\(06\)30.Valuev.cirkulyar.php](https://hai-nyzhnyk.in.ua/doc2/1863(06)30.Valuev.cirkulyar.php).
- [44] Viy. (1967). Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YmQn6q36HQ>.
- [45] Ward, J.H., & Clark, S.C. (2021). Folklore research resources in East European studies: The library and archives of the American Hungarian foundation. *Folklorica: Journal of the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Folklore Association*, 14, 155-168. doi: [10.17161/folklorica.v14i0.3821](https://doi.org/10.17161/folklorica.v14i0.3821).
- [46] Warren, J.N. (2023). In the shadows of the commonwealth: Catholicism, religious tolerance, and nineteenth-century Polish independence. *East European Politics and Societies*, 38(2), 553-575. doi: [10.1177/08883254231203332](https://doi.org/10.1177/08883254231203332).
- [47] Yesypenko, D. (2020). Printed and digital wor(l)ds: Retrospectives and perspectives of scholarly editing in Slavic countries. *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, 62(1), 45-66. doi: [10.1080/00085006.2019.1708530](https://doi.org/10.1080/00085006.2019.1708530).

- [48] Zavlunov, D. (2022). Censoring the muses: Opera and creative control in Nicholas's Russia (1825-1855). *Cambridge Opera Journal*, 34(1), 37-66. doi: [10.1017/S0954586721000112](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954586721000112).
- [49] Zou, P.H., & Priscilla, B.E. (2023). Folklore: An identity born of shared grief. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 10(1), article number 2249279. doi: [10.1080/23311983.2023.2249279](https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2023.2249279).

Етнографічна документація первісних вірувань слов'ян у архівах XVIII-XX ст.: методологія, репрезентація, проблеми інтерпретації

Олександр Лакно

Кандидат історичних наук, доцент

Полтавський національний педагогічний університет імені В.Г. Короленка

36003, вул. Остроградського, 2, м. Полтава, Україна

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0312-0799>

Анотація. Актуальність дослідження зумовлювалася необхідністю аналізу того, як упродовж XVIII-XX століть змінювались підходи до фіксації, класифікації та інтерпретації дохристиянських вірувань слов'ян під впливом політичних, конфесійних і наукових трансформацій. Метою роботи було простежити повну послідовність трансформацій – від польового фіксування до архівного класифікування й публічної репрезентації – та визначити, які методологічні й ідеологічні чинники детермінували кінцеву структуру джерел. Методологія ґрунтувалася на порівняльному аналізі рукописних корпусів, цензурних приписів та масових видань із застосуванням концептів історії знання, критичної архівістики, текстологічної критики й соціолінгвістичної герменевтики. Було встановлено, що у XVIII-XIX ст. польові записи створювалися переважно описовими інтуїтивними методами, а критерій автентичності визначався естетичними й етнополітичними очікуваннями збирачів, що зумовлювало систематичне усунення синкретичних і буденних форм обрядової практики. Аналіз архівних класифікацій показав, що адміністративно-територіальні та жанрові рубрикації відокремлювали ритуальні дані від функціонального контексту, тоді як стандартизовані анкети, редакторські скорочення й автоцензура перетворювали багаточасові описи на уніфіковані статистичні одиниці. Співставлення рукописних джерел із лубковими виданнями, та ранніми кінематографічними сюжетами засвідчило, що на межі XIX-XX ст. релігійні мотиви демонології та аграрної магії репрезентувалися переважно як декоративні етнографічні маркери, узгоджені з просвітницькими канонами епохи. Узагальнення результатів підтвердило, що багаторівнева селекція, класифікація й редакторська обробка стабілізували певні інтерпретаційні моделі, одночасно маргіналізуючи контекстуальні варіації та ситуативні практики носіїв традиції. Практична цінність дослідження полягала у створенні набору критеріїв для реконструкції первинного ритуального контексту з фрагментарних і концептуально змінених джерел, які сприяють поглибленому розумінню етнографічних матеріалів у межах архівних і наукових практик

Ключові слова: польові матеріали; архайчність; синкретизм; ритуал; систематизація; культура



Latinisation influences on church iconography and vestments in the Union Church of the 18th century: Based on archival materials of general visitations

Andriy Maiovets*

Postgraduate Student
Ukrainian Catholic University
79011, 17 Svetsitsky Str., Lviv, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3311-9350>

Abstract. The aim of the study was to trace how the normative guidelines of the Catholic Church were embodied in the practices of visual and material decoration of Union churches during the period of gradual ritual unification in the 18th century. The paper analysed the transformations of church space under the influence of Latin models, based on sources originating from the parishes of the Kyiv Metropolis, which encompassed the regions of modern Central and Western Ukraine. The study utilised a corpus of archival acts from general visitations conducted between 1730 and 1785, including documents from the visitations of the city of Lviv, the Pochaiv Monastery, the Fastiv, Pohrebyshchensky and Bila Tserkva deaneries, as well as the parish of the village of Hopchytisia. As a result of the study, it was established that the acts of visitations functioned not only as records of the condition of sacred spaces, but also as regulatory instruments for implementing Latin models in church practice. A combination of Latin and Byzantine ritual elements in textile design, liturgical utensils, and temple iconography was revealed. The process of replacing or reducing traditional iconostases, the appearance of figurative Latin statues, Latin-language instructions for altar arrangement, and the systematic introduction of Latin terminology in descriptions of vestments and utensils were identified. Analysis of the language of the visitations demonstrated the persistent presence of Latin-rite vocabulary combined with local elements, creating a mixed ritual-linguistic reality. The practical significance of the study lies in the possibility of using its results to reconstruct the visual image of the Union Church, to create a typology of Latinised objects in museum and church collections, and to develop criteria for attributing the sacred heritage of the second half of the 18th century

Keywords: sacred space; inventory description; ritual unification; protocol; liturgy; ritual practice

Introduction

The study of Latinisation processes in the Union Church holds particular importance within the framework of modern research on religious unification, interdenominational interaction, and the dynamics of local resistance to supranational influences. Following the institutional consolidation of the union project as a form of combining the Eastern rite with recognition of the Roman throne, a religious environment emerged that constantly balanced

between preserving its own identity and the gradual assimilation of Latin norms. Of particular value in this context are the descriptions recorded in the acts of general visitations, which not only document the condition of churches and their practices, but also reflect the mechanisms of transformation occurring at the level of parish life.

The issue of visitations as a mechanism for regulating the church environment has already attracted

Suggested Citation:

Maiovets, A. (2025). Latinisation influences on church iconography and vestments in the Union Church of the 18th century: Based on archival materials of general visitations. *Society. Document. Communication*, 10(2), 46-58. doi: 10.69587/sdc/2.2025.46.



scholarly attention. Examining the functions of visitations within the Transylvanian union context of the 17th century, L. Molnár (2024) identified a significant discrepancy between the declared canons and the practical implementation of control. The author demonstrated that visitations often remained a rhetorical instrument rather than an effective mechanism of change. This highlights the need for research assessing the effectiveness of visitations in contexts where Latinisation had a clearly articulated programme, as in the case of the union parishes of the 18th-century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Another important field of inquiry concerns the study of iconographic practices within the union community. The combination of Eastern Christian elements with the Latin spatial logic of cult architecture in union environments of Rome was documented in the research of A. Upart (2021). He found that Roman union churches, although formally adhering to the Eastern tradition, were deeply embedded in Western-type iconographic systems.

At the intersection of religious practice and national self-determination lies the work of Y. Aoshima (2021), who examined how religious transformations in Eastern Europe influenced the formation of collective identity. He demonstrated that Latinisation was often used as a tool for incorporation into supra-regional political projects, whereas resistance to it functioned as a form of local opposition. In the context of the Uniate Church, this perspective allows visual unification to be reinterpreted not only as an aesthetic but also as an identificational strategy. In the field of liturgical transformation, the study by S. Alexopoulos & M.E. Johnson (2021) is particularly valuable, as it emphasised that the Byzantine rite itself was not static but continually evolved under the influence of both local and external factors. Their observations demonstrated that the hybridisation of forms – particularly investments and ritual – was intrinsic to the Eastern Christian environment. Research into union practice in the 18th century corroborates this approach, as evidenced by visitation records describing the coexistence of mixed elements in cult practice.

The work of L.D. Huculak (1990) proved particularly relevant, as he traced how, within the Ukrainian Union tradition, the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom adapted under the influence of canonical and liturgical reforms. The author demonstrated that the changes were not merely permitted but were often directly initiated by the hierarchy to bring the Byzantine rite closer to Latin norms. In this context, the alterations in the formulae of liturgical practice described in the archival protocols confirm the tendency towards normative integration. The political context of Latinisation was examined by L. Wolff (2020), who emphasised that the Union, which was intended to unite, simultaneously deepened internal divisions – particularly in the context of the partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The author showed that the Union Church frequently became the object of external political pressure that dictated religious change.

Archival documents from the visitations confirm that Latinisation also possessed a symbolic dimension, associated with the desire to conform to the ideals of the European cultural norm.

A source-based perspective was introduced by E. Grin-Piszczek (2023), who studied the parish chronicles of Przemyśl, demonstrating how the routine practice of documentation enables the tracing of changes in the cultural life of communities. She established that Latinisation shifts can be observed not only in higher discursive layers but also in everyday details, such as records concerning the material provision of the church. This highlights the potential of visitation documents as a source for studying everyday, and not merely theological, transformations. The interaction between church and state in the Polish context was analysed by J. Kul-ska (2022), who focused on the institutional use of religion to consolidate political identities. The author emphasised that the Catholic Church in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth functioned not only as a spiritual but also as a political force. This allows Latinisation practices to be considered as part of a broader integration project with both secular and ecclesiastical dimensions.

The historical and canonical aspects of changes within the Union structure were the subject of research by O. Khortyk (2021), who analysed the synodal activity of the Union episcopate. He demonstrated that, since the 17th century, synods had served as a channel for the introduction of Latin norms. In the 18th century, these guidelines were further specified in visitation documentation, illustrating the institutional continuity of change. The transformations driven by Enlightenment influences were examined in detail by V. Los (2022). He found that, in the second half of the 18th century, the Union Church came under the pressure of rationalist ideology, which demanded the ordering, unification, and standardisation of religious practice. It is within this context that many visitation requirements concerning the removal of “disordered” icons or objects, as well as the introduction of “proper” forms of worship and vestments, should be interpreted.

Despite the multifaceted nature of previous research, the issue of the specific material embodiment of Latinisation processes at the parish level remains insufficiently developed. The inventory and descriptive protocols of visitations have been especially underexplored as a source not only of ecclesiastical norms but also of reflections of real conditions in individual communities. The aim of this study was to determine how Latin models influenced the formation of the iconographic, textile, and material components of the sacred space of the 18th-century Union Church, as were recorded in the sources of general visitations. The objectives of the study were: first, to identify formal signs of Latinisation in inventories and descriptions of parish space; second, to trace the transformation of sacred semiotics in iconographic terms; and third, to analyse hybridisation practices in ritual objects and vestments.

Materials and Methods

The study of Latinisation influences on church iconography and vestments in the 18th-century Union Church was conducted between February and April 2025 within the framework of a source-based and interpretative approach, with an emphasis on the analysis of primary archival materials of the Kyiv Metropolis within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Geographically, the research covered Union parishes located in the modern territories of Ukraine, including the Lviv, Ternopil, Kyiv, and Vinnytsia regions. The primary source base consisted of acts of general visitations preserved in archival collections and partially digitised repositories of academic projects.

At the first stage of the study, a systematic search for visitation acts dated between 1730 and 1785 was undertaken. Six visitation cases were processed, including: the visitation of the city of Lviv (1740-1743) (The visitation of..., n.d.); the Pochaiv Monastery (1739) (Vassilians are the..., 2022); the General visitations to the deaneries of Fastiv and Pavliv (1746); the village of Hopchytisia (1740) (The Hopchytisia Museum..., 2023); Dekanat Bialocerkowski (1750); and Acta Visitationis Gnrilis Decanatus Pohrebiscen (1784). The materials were analysed in digital copies, which required verification against accompanying archival documentation due to the absence of a unified digitisation standard. Copies of the visitation acts were obtained from the archives of the V.I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, the State Archives of Ternopil Region, and the Museum of the History of the Village of Hopchytisia in Vinnytsia. At this stage, a source-inventory methodology was applied, which included: identification of attributive details (date, visitor, place, and volume of the document); verification of the completeness and physical condition of the source; and mapping of the geographical coverage of the acts.

The second stage involved a structural and functional analysis of the visitation acts. The composition of the texts was examined, including: the introduction; architectural description of the church; inventory of church property; descriptions of iconography and vestments; notes concerning the clergy; and the final conclusions. Particular attention was paid to stable formulations and internal genre transitions between descriptive, prescriptive, and legal elements. To identify the normative dimension of the documents, the method of hermeneutic interpretation of clerical constructions was applied: phrases were interpreted as carriers of regulatory meaning and analysed within the context of the prescriptive policies of the Zamoyski Synod (1720) (Łapa, 2024). In addition, a genre-functional typology was used to classify the acts not only as inventories but also as instruments of normative governance and cult transformation.

The third stage included a content analysis of descriptions of liturgical utensils, iconography, and vestments aimed at identifying Latin influences. A thematic coding system was developed, wherein each fragment

describing sacred objects or images was coded according to the following parameters: terminological markers, manufacturing technique, material type, and stylistic combination. The fourth stage comprised linguistic and semiotic analysis of the visitation protocols. The lexical-semantic mapping method was employed to systematise terms by type of ritual affiliation (Eastern or Latin) and to record combinations of stylistic features within a single description. Within the semiotic framework, the visual functions of the described objects were examined in relation to the spatial structure of the temple, particularly the shift of emphasis from the iconostasis to figurative imagery.

The fifth stage consisted of spatio-temporal comparative systematisation according to three criteria: (1) parish geography (central or peripheral); (2) institutional status (cathedral, monastery, or village church); and (3) the period of document creation. A diachronic comparative analysis was used for this purpose. At the final stage, the results of the archival analysis were correlated with the degree of accessibility and preservation of the sources. This required critical attribution and cross-archival comparison of visitation acts and their copies.

Results

Typology, structure, and function of visitation documents on the example of the Kyiv Metropolis

The Union Church, or Greek Catholic Church, was formed as a result of the Union of Brest in 1596, as an attempt to preserve the Byzantine rite amid confessional competition and political pressure within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Wooden, 2021). Having united with the Apostolic See of Rome, part of the Orthodox clergy recognised papal jurisdiction while retaining the right to celebrate the liturgy according to the Eastern rite, to use the Church Slavonic language, to follow the Julian calendar, and to maintain internal autonomy. Structurally, the Church acquired the status of a metropolis with subordinate dioceses, and its activities were regulated both by canon law and by the decrees of local councils, such as the Zamoyski Synod of 1720 (Łapa, 2024). In the 18th century, the process of Latinisation within the Union Church became systematic. The reasons for this were multifactorial. First, the Roman Curia consistently insisted on the introduction of elements of Latin discipline, which were regarded as universal within the Catholic world. Second, the Polish gentry, as a patronage group, supported the visual and ritual unification of church space in accordance with the Latin tradition. Third, the internal reforms of the Kyiv Metropolis explicitly prescribed the gradual incorporation of Latin elements into liturgy, theology, and church administration (Sysyn, 2023). This applied both to ritual forms (for instance, the appearance of Western vestments such as chasubles, albs, and amices) and to changes in the spatial structure of the church (installation of side figured altars, replacement of iconostases, and similar alterations).

In the second half of the 18th century, the acts of general visitations of Union parishes within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth appear as complex, multifunctional documents that simultaneously performed administrative, legal, and informational functions within the Kyiv Union Metropolis (Kosar, 2006). These documents were compiled during regular inspections of parishes conducted by representatives of the eparchial authorities, whose purpose was to assess the compliance of churches, their material support, and ritual practices with the provisions of Union law, particularly the norms established at the Zamoyski Synod of 1720 (Skochylias, 2020). From a genre perspective, the acts of visitation were not limited to inspection protocols; rather, their content exhibits characteristics of at least three functional types of documents: a management report, a legal act, and an inventory. On the one hand, they contained regulatory and supervisory conclusions certifying the conformity – or non-conformity – of parish conditions with current canonical legislation. On the other hand, their content provided a highly detailed reflection of the church's material state: vestments, liturgical utensils, iconostases, church images, and even church lands and buildings were described (Zielecka-Mikołajczyk, 2022). The legal function of these acts lay in their role as official records of parish life, authenticated by the signatures of witnesses, notaries, and visitors, thereby recognising them as valid or imposing sanctions where necessary. In this respect, the documents could serve to confirm ownership rights to church property or to initiate disciplinary proceedings against members of the clergy.

The structure of the visitation acts, despite the existence of general standards, was not entirely unified. In most cases, the documents began with a formal introduction – *mandatum visitatoris* – which stated the grounds for the visitation, the name of the visitor, and the date. This section typically had a fixed Latin formula, for example: "*Ego visitator ecclesiarum unitarum, mandata reverendissimi episcopi...*" (Mayovets, 2025). The introduction was followed by a section describing the church and its architectural characteristics – the material of the walls, roof, condition of the altar, presence of a bell tower, and state of the flooring, among other details. The next section generally comprised an inventory of church property, listing vestments (*planetae, dalmaticae, albae*), liturgical books (*missale, lectionarium*), utensils (*calix, thuribulum*), as well as items belonging to the throne or altar. In some acts, the inventory was subdivided according to the origin of the property – parish, charitable, or fraternal. A separate part of the document was devoted to the clergy, recording the name of the priest, his education, year of appointment, and compliance with regulations regarding obligatory confession, catechisation, and the keeping of birth records (Szczepaniak, 2024). In cases of disciplinary violations – for instance, residence outside the parish or cohabitation with a woman – corresponding remarks and sanctions were

recorded. In the final section of the document, the visitor formulated conclusions concerning the general state of the parish and could provide recommendations or requirements for rectifying identified shortcomings. When necessary, the signatures of witnesses, clerks, the notary, and the visitor himself were appended.

The variability of structure and wording depended on several factors. Firstly, geographical location: visitations within the Lviv Diocese, particularly those concerning parishes in the city of Lviv, contained far more detailed descriptions of interiors and vestments than those from peripheral deaneries, where entries were shorter and often reduced to simple lists without elaboration (Fig. 1). Secondly, the period of compilation influenced content: in the second half of the 18th century, there was a notable increase in the use of formalised phrases and fixed constructions, such as "*altare principale ornatur tabula picta in medio BMV cum sanctorum imagines lateribus*" (Skochylias, 1999), which indicates a degree of clerical standardisation. Thirdly, the status of the parish played a role: Basilian monasteries or cathedral churches were documented in greater detail than small rural parishes, where the records were often limited to essential information only.

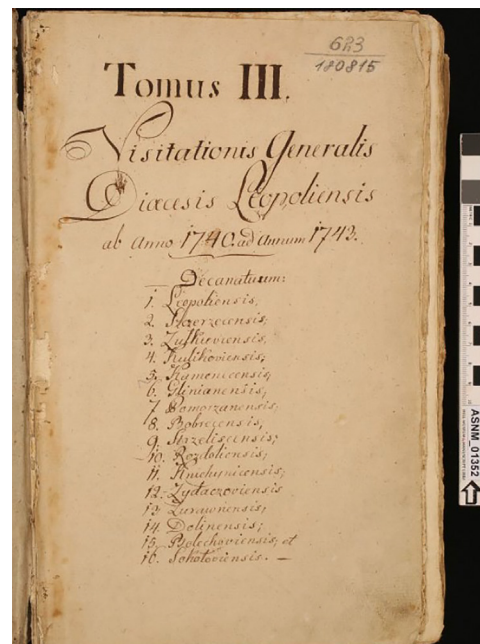


Figure 1. First page of the General Visitation of the Churches of Lviv, Volume III, 1740-1743
Source: The visitation of the General T (n.d.)

Functionally, the acts of general visitations served as an effective instrument for monitoring compliance with the Union's regulations, particularly the decisions of the Zamoyski Synod. Since the Synod of 1720 envisaged the unification of ritual practice while preserving the "Eastern rite", the visitation acts became the principal medium for both recording and disseminating Latinised norms

(Radny, 2023). This was manifested in instructions concerning the installation of confessionals and organs, the inclusion of Latin images such as the Immaculata, the introduction of Latin vestments, and the rejection of the multi-tiered iconostasis. The presence of such elements in the protocols determined the degree of conformity of each parish with the reformed Union-Latin rite. Some protocols contained explicit directives, such as the need to "remove unnecessary images", "restore the temple to its proper form", or "establish order in accordance with the norms of Union discipline" (Skochyliś, 1999). Such formulations testify to the normative character of these documents: they did not merely record the existing state of affairs but prescribed what it ought to be according to church policy. For example, the visitation of the parish in the village of Hopchytisia recorded that the altar was equipped with only one rosary and lacked a sacristy, which was deemed insufficient (The Hopchytisia Museum..., 2023). The entry concludes with an instruction to complete the church in accordance with established requirements (Fig. 2). A copy of this act is preserved in the Museum of the History of the Village of Hopchytisia, Vinnytsia Region.

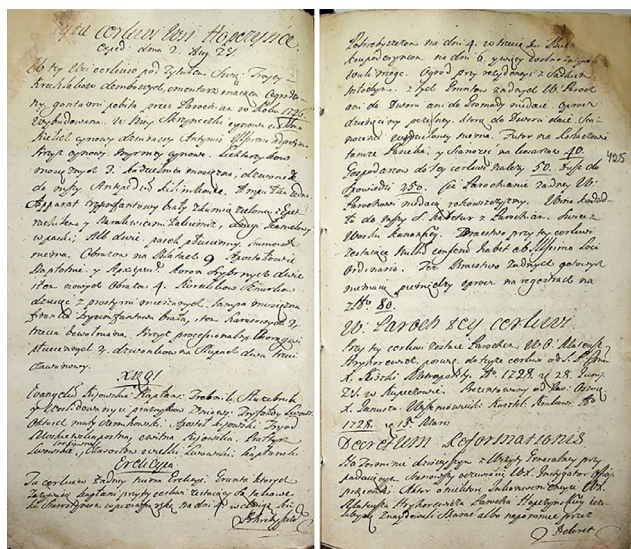


Figure 2. Act of visitation of the Church

of the Holy Trinity in the village of Hopchytisia, 1740

Source: The Hopchytisia Museum received a copy of the oldest document about the village (2023)

The administrative function of the visitation acts is also quite evident. As the documents were submitted to the consistory, where they were registered and preserved, they provided the diocesan authorities with a consistent administrative instrument for overseeing and monitoring the condition of the parishes (Avvakumov, 2025). The surviving protocols from the Acta Visitationis Gnrlis Decanatus Pohrebiscen (1784), held in the archives of the V.I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, demonstrate that in many parishes recurring deficiencies – such as

the absence of catechetical instruction – were recorded repeatedly over several years. This indicates that earlier visitations were used as a reference point for comparative assessment and administrative analysis (Fig. 3).

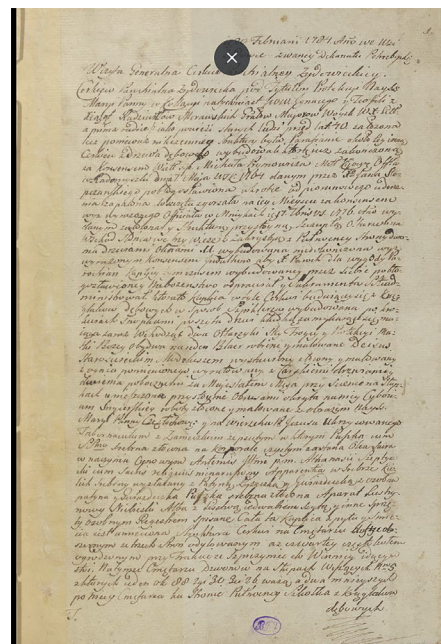


Figure 3. Fragment of the act of visitation of the Pogrebyshchensky Deanery, 1784

Source: Acta Visitationis Gnrlis Decanatus Pohrebiscen (1784)

From the perspective of source typology, the acts of general visitations belong to the category of "regulatory-descriptive" documents, combining both inventory and normative-binding functions. Their content represents not only a record of the actual state of church material culture but also a definition of the expected standards that each parish was required to maintain in accordance with the norms of the Union and the prescriptions of the Zamoyski Synod. Such documents served as a formalised channel of communication between the higher ecclesiastical administration and local communities, mediating the implementation of centralised policies in the areas of liturgical arrangement, clerical discipline, and religious practice. The regulatory character of the visitations was manifested particularly in the inclusion of prescriptions regarding the arrangement of the altar area, the presence of specific liturgical attributes, the introduction of designated images, and the forms of architectural decoration within the church (Palinchak et al., 2022). The texts of these documents frequently contained direct and imperative formulations, leaving no doubt as to their prescriptive nature. In this sense, visitation acts functioned not as passive inventories but as instruments for the mandatory standardisation of sacred space.

For example, the visitation act of Dekanat Bialocerkowski (1750), preserved in the archives of the

V.I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, recorded a directive to install figurative Latin statues at the entrance to the church, clearly reflecting the normative intent of the document (Fig. 4). The corresponding fragment states: "*collocandae sunt statuae Sancti Iosephi et Virginis Immaculatae ad ingressum ecclesiae*" – that is, the requirement to introduce images characteristic of the Latin iconographic canon. Such prescriptions often corresponded to a broader programme aimed at introducing aesthetic and ritual models aligned with the Latin tradition, in particular the cult of the Immaculate Conception and the veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

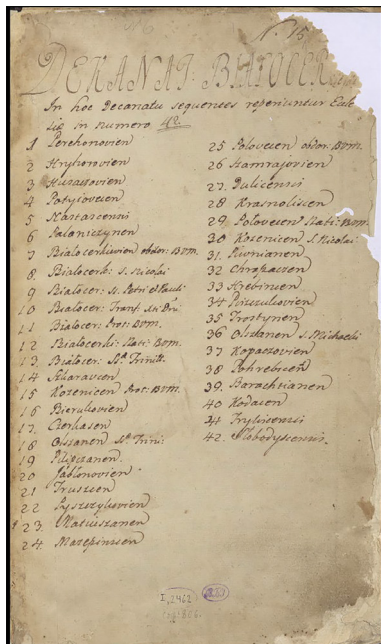


Figure 4. Fragment of the act of visitation of the Dekanat Bialocerkowski, 1750

Source: Dekanat Bialocerkowski (1750)

Thus, the acts of general visitations in the Kyiv Metropolis of the 18th century represent a distinct type of multifunctional document that combines the inventory of material culture, the recording of ritual practice, the regulation of spiritual life, and the implementation of a Latinised model of Union ecclesiality. Their typical structure makes it possible to trace both the formalisation of administrative language and the evolution of methods used to describe sacred space. The significance of these sources extends far beyond the confines of ecclesiastical history, providing a foundation for reconstructing religious policy, ritual standardisation, and the transformation of the sacred environment within the broader context of Union reforms in the second half of the 18th century.

Iconography, vestments, and utensils as objects of documentary description

The visitation acts of Union parishes served not only as an important tool for recording the state of the Church's

material culture but also as a means of regulating ritual practice through the detailed description of iconographic elements, vestments, and liturgical utensils. Their content makes it possible to trace the degree of Latinisation of church space and the transformation of visual and textile decoration that accompanied the transition to unified norms of worship introduced following the decisions of the Zamoyski Synod in 1720. The descriptions of vestments and liturgical textiles in the visitation protocols were primarily of an inventory nature, though the level of detail varied considerably depending on geography, authorship, and the significance of the parish (Szady, 2019). In several acts – particularly in the visitation of the Pochaiv Monastery in 1739, preserved in the State Archives of the Ternopil Region – general formulations appear, such as "*paramenta sacra sunt ordinate*" or "*habentur vestes pro duobus sacerdotibus*" (Fig. 5). At the same time, in some documents from the second half of the 18th century, greater precision can be observed: the number of vestments (*planetae*), sticharia (*dalmaticae*), and albs (*albae*) is recorded, along with the material (*pannus aureus, sericum cruentum*), the decorative technique (*brocatus cum filis aureis*), and the colour scheme.

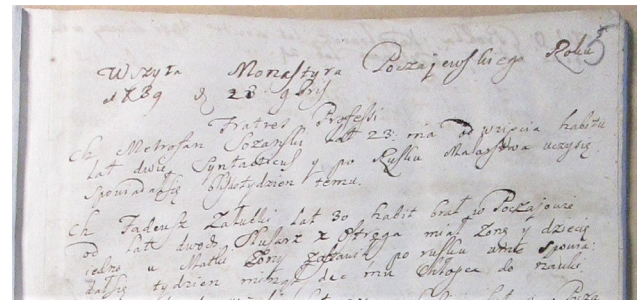


Figure 5. Fragment of the description of the visitation of the Pochaiv Monastery, 1739

Source: Vassilians are the Leading Monastic Order of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (2022)

Based on the acts of the General visitations to the deaneries of Fastiv and Pavliv (1746), preserved in the archives of the V.I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, direct references were found to the introduction of Latin types of liturgical vestments that were atypical for the Byzantine-Slavic tradition, which had historically been based on the structures of the *sakkos*, *phelonion*, *epitrachelion*, *orarion*, and *parakh* (Fig. 6). The protocols contain Latin designations indicating the use of Roman chasubles (*planetae Romanae*), maniples (*manipuli*), and stoles (*stolae*), as well as other elements of the Latin textile complex, particularly the *amictus*, which has no functional analogue in the Eastern rite. One of the descriptions includes the wording "*planetae duae Romanae cum manipulis et stolis eiusdem coloris*", confirming the introduction of a Latin set with a complete range of accessories in colour coordination typical of the Roman liturgical code (Mayovets, 2025). The term "*Romanae*" in

this context clearly indicates the geographical and ritual affiliation of this type of vestment, distinguishing it from the established practice of the Union Church in the Ukrainian lands. In certain cases, a combination of Latin elements with local components is observed. For instance, one of the acts from the Fastiv Deanery for 1746 records: "*albae tres, una ex panno ruthenico cum ornatu romano*", which attests to the mixed origin or manufacture of the item. The alb made from local material (*pannus ruthenicus*) with Latin ornamentation illustrates the process of hybridisation in ritual textiles, during which Latin stylistic and ritual norms were integrated into the pre-existing structure of the Byzantine liturgical set.

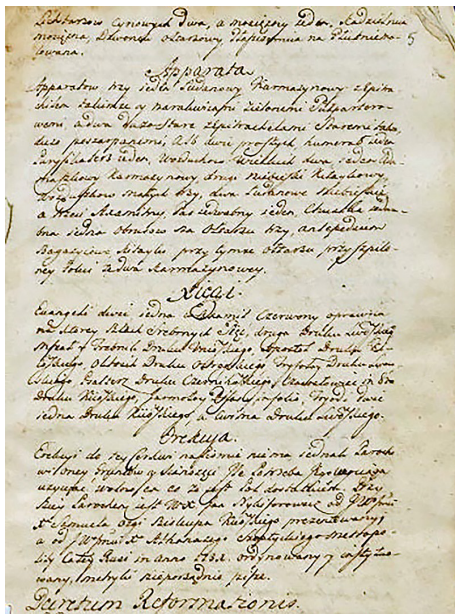


Figure 6. Fragment of the act of visitation of the Fastiv deanery, 1746

Source: General visitations to the deaneries of Fastiv and Pavliv (1746)

Such cases were not isolated exceptions but rather evidence of a broader phenomenon of adaptive Latinisation, implemented gradually and often within the framework of a compromise practice that allowed the simultaneous functioning of Eastern and Latin ritual elements. This phenomenon appears regularly in the visitation protocols. In several parishes, the presence of two sets of liturgical vestments was recorded – one for celebrations conducted in the Eastern rite tradition and another with Latin features, probably intended for services before Latin hierarchs or on feast days common to both traditions (Ivaniv, 2021). In this context, Latinisation did not represent a process of uniform replacement but rather reflected the pragmatic coexistence of two stylistically distinct models of vestment.

In addition to clerical attire, the protocols also frequently documented elements of the textile decoration of the church, particularly *vela* (velars), *antependia*, and

the so-called paramental handkerchiefs or towels used for ritual purposes – such as wiping the chalice or censer, or for use during consecration. Their presence was mandatory according to regulations; however, the level of descriptive detail and information on their physical condition varied considerably. Many protocols included evaluative terms concerning the state of objects, such as "*vetusta*" (obsolete), "*in usu continuo attrite*" (worn out from continuous use), and "*ornata sed ex parte rupta*" (decorated but partially damaged) (Ruvelas, 2023). The use of such terminology indicates not only the recording of inventory quantities but also the administration's effort to assess the practical suitability of these items for further use. This allows for the reconstruction of both the quantitative and qualitative composition of textile artefacts, as well as the intensity and conditions of their ritual circulation. Some protocols specifically noted cases where *antependia* or *vela* did not correspond to the prescribed liturgical colours for a particular period of the church calendar, which was regarded as a violation of established norms. At the same time, several descriptions indicate that, although present, certain objects were made from non-sacred fabrics or adorned with secular ornamentation deemed inappropriate for liturgical use.

Regarding liturgical utensils, the visitation acts display a consistent descriptive structure encompassing the main categories of objects used in worship. Eucharistic vessels (*calix*, *patena*, *ampullae*), processional and altar crosses (*cruces processionales*, *crux altaris*), reliquary boxes (*capsulae reliquiarum*), tabernacles (*tabernacula*), *flabella*, and other auxiliary objects, including spoons (*cochlearia*), patens (*discos*), altar cloths (*pallae*), and boxes for *prospora* (*capsula pro prosphoris*), were systematically recorded. Typical entries note the material of manufacture (*argenteus* – silver, *cupreus* – copper, *ligneus* – wooden), the state of preservation (*integer* – intact, *fractus* – damaged), and decorative features (*cum imagine Crucifixi* – with the image of the Crucifixion, *cum titulis* – with inscriptions or coats of arms) (Bilyk, 2013). This level of documentation enables the classification of visitation acts as records that not only performed an inventory function but also conveyed the visual characteristics of sacred objects. Such descriptions are particularly valuable for reconstructing the material wealth of parishes and the specific features of altar ornamentation. In cases involving composite materials, references appear to designs such as "*calix ligneus interius cupreus*" or "*crux ligneo-argentea cum tabula picta*", confirming mixed origins or inlay techniques.

The appearance of Latin forms in liturgical utensils can be traced through references indicating a change not only in terminology but also in the typology and aesthetic parameters of cult objects. Some acts describe altars as figured architectural forms that have clear parallels with the Latin cult tradition. This suggests the adoption of Gothic stylistics, which were atypical for the Byzantine-Slavic tradition, where altars were usually

constructed as cube-shaped chests or built directly into the sanctuary. The visitation acts also record instances of liturgical utensils bearing signs of individualised donation, as evidenced by references to dedicatory inscriptions or heraldic elements on sacred objects. For example, several protocols mention "*calix cum inscriptione fundatoris*" or "*crux cum signis donatoris*", indicating the practice of inscribing donor names on sacred artefacts (Zielecka-Mikołajczyk, 2022). These references confirm that the Union Church culture of the late 18th century adopted and adapted forms of symbolic commemoration of patrons' characteristic of Western European ecclesiastical traditions, particularly in contexts where there was close interaction with Latin clergy or noble benefactors. However, this practice was not widespread and was generally confined to parishes where local noble sponsorship played a prominent role. A number of acts also record objects typical of Latin practice but rarely found in the Byzantine rite – particularly the monstrance, or *ostensorium*, used for displaying the Holy Gifts (Szczepaniak, 2024). Although their presence in the visitation acts of the Union Church is limited, mentions such as "*ostensorium cum lunula argentea*" indicate the selective introduction of such objects into the sacred space, primarily in monasteries or cathedrals that maintained close ties with Latin institutions.

Temple iconography in the visitations is most frequently presented within descriptions of iconostases, main altars, and side images. A comparative analysis of the 18th-century acts reveals a gradual decrease in references to full five-tiered iconostases, replaced by expressions such as "*iconostasis simplex cum tribus imaginibus*" – denoting simplified structures. This may reflect both the influence of Latinisation and local financial constraints. Several visitations include the imperative formula "*removendae sunt imagines inordinate dispositae*" (Buržinskas, 2021), suggesting direct centralised intervention in the design of the church interior. The appearance of figurative representations of the Virgin Mary following the Latin canon – previously uncharacteristic of the Byzantine tradition – is also significant. Interior descriptions reveal Baroque and Rococo stylistic elements, particularly in pulpits, wall paintings, and vault decorations. In some acts, the phrase "*muralia ornamenta in modum floreum*" is used, indicating the application of Baroque floral decorative motifs. Combined with Latin imagery and new compositional schemes, these details signal a shift in the visual code of sacred space.

The linguistic dimension of the descriptions also reflects a blend of classical Latin with local Slavic-ecclesiastical elements. For example, the phrase "*icona sancti Mykolae picta super altare parochiali*" combines a Latin syntactic structure with a transcribed Slavic name. Likewise, words such as "*antimensium*", "*prozfora*", and "*krylos*", which lack Latin equivalents, were retained in their original form (Avvakumov, 2025). This demonstrates the hybrid character of the terminological apparatus and

underscores the importance of accurately recording the local ritual lexicon. The description of utensils is accompanied by specific vocabulary such as "*calix argenteus*", "*planeta cum stolone aureo*", and "*icones pictae in tabulis ligne*" (Almes, 2023). These constructions were standardised, reflecting the consistency of clerical language. At the same time, terms denoting technique ("*brocatus*", "*damascenus*"), materials ("*sericum*", "*lino crudo*"), and condition ("*partim combustus*", "*praeteritus in usu*") were commonly employed. Thus, analysis of the visitation protocols demonstrates that iconography, vestments, and utensils were not merely subject to detailed description but also functioned as indicators of ritual transformation. By recording new object types borrowed from the Latin tradition, the visitations served as instruments of documentary Latinisation of the church space while simultaneously preserving evidence of local material culture. This makes them a crucial source for reconstructing the visual image of the Union within the framework of the policy of ritual unification in the second half of the 18th century.

Archival context: Preservation, access, and classification of sources

The preservation and accessibility of the acts of general visitations of the 18th century, compiled within the Union Metropolis, constitute an essential component of the source base for studying transformations in the material and ritual culture of Union parishes. These documents are preserved across several state and ecclesiastical archives in Ukraine and are partially digitised and presented through open electronic resources, providing limited access to individual data sets. The most comprehensive collection of 18th-century visitation acts is held in the holdings of the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lviv. Within its collections are preserved both complete and fragmentary protocols of general and particular visitations, property inventories, church descriptions, and correspondence between diocesan institutions concerning the organisation of visitations. Individual protocols are also kept in the State Archive of Ternopil Region, while a significant body of materials is available at the Institute of Manuscripts of the V.I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. Particularly valuable are the episcopal archives and consistory copies, which include duplicates or extracts from the acts of visitations.

Regarding the physical state of preservation of these sources, a considerable portion of the visitation acts survives only in fragmentary form. This is particularly true of documents from the first half of the 18th-century, some of which have lost their opening or concluding pages or were partially destroyed during archival reorganisations in the 19th and 20th centuries. A notable example is the acts of the General visitations to the deaneries of Fastiv and Pavliv (1746), of which only sections describing the church inventory remain, while the introductory portion has been lost, complicating the attribution of the date and the identity of the visitor. Physical deterioration

includes both mechanical damage (torn pages, missing signatures or seals) and biological decay (mould, traces of old adhesive repairs). In some cases – such as within the holdings of the State Archive of Ternopil Oblast – the pages are not bound in chronological order, requiring reconstruction of the textual sequence during processing.

The digitisation of the acts has often been conducted selectively and without a coordinated metadata policy, hindering the tracking, use, and accessibility of archival records – a problem also noted by J. Coburn (2020) in the context of historical research. Some digital copies have been made available through individual academic projects; however, the inconsistency of these approaches to preservation and documentation reflects the broader issue of underdeveloped digital preservation strategies within cultural institutions. The problem of incomplete digitisation arises even when acts themselves are available – often without appendices, inventories, or related correspondence. A similar situation is observed in manuscript collections in libraries, where inadequate metadata limits both indexing and search capabilities (Ignatowicz *et al.*, 2025). Many online repositories contain only analytical descriptions or bibliographic references, without providing access to the full text of the sources, further compounding barriers to scholarly research.

Thus, although the source base is concentrated within several key archival institutions and partially available online, its accessibility remains constrained by both the physical condition of the documents and the irregularity of their digital representation. These limitations hinder comprehensive scholarly engagement, as researchers often face incomplete datasets and inconsistent metadata. Consequently, there is an urgent need for the systematic description, re-cataloguing, and publication of complete corpora of visitation acts, accompanied by careful attention to archival provenance, structural analysis, and detailed commentary on the degree of textual preservation and authenticity.

Discussion

The results of the study demonstrated that the acts of general visitations of Union parishes in the second half of the 18th century constituted a complex institutional form that extended beyond purely descriptive documentation and became an effective instrument of church policy. Their structure, language, and functions indicate that these documents served as mediators between local practices and centralised Union norms. Through them, not only was the actual state of parishes examined, but also the directive formation of ritual, visual, and material unification in the spirit of the Latin tradition was carried out. In this context, visitation acts assumed a normative character: they did not merely record what existed but also prescribed what was desired – the architectural structure of churches, the types of images, and the forms of liturgical utensils and vestments. Such an interpretation of the function of pastoral visitations corresponds

to the analysis of J.P. Paiva (2020), who, in the context of Spanish and Portuguese colonial policies, demonstrated that visitations were a key mechanism for controlling and standardising local ecclesiastical realities. In both cases, they operated as channels for implementing centralised models “from above”, albeit with differing emphases: in the Iberian context, the focus lay on the moral behaviour of the clergy, whereas in the Union parishes the emphasis shifted towards the visual, ritual, and material dimensions of unity with Rome. This suggests that visitations functioned not only as administrative tools but also as means of formalising sacred identity through mechanisms of supervision, description, and order.

Particularly significant in the context of regulatory mechanisms is the imperative language of the documents, which reflected the formation of a normative canon that parishes were expected to approximate. A comparable transformation in the linguistic code of ecclesiastical documentation was studied by T. Wiślicz (2020) in his research on the piety of the peasantry in Lesser Poland. T. Wiślicz showed that the church bureaucracy gradually standardised the language of religious description, transforming spiritual experience into an object of formalised record. This parallel demonstrates that the visitation language of the 18th century functioned not only as an instrument of control but also as a means of constructing a new religious lexicon capable of shaping the structure of sacred reality. However, in the visitations of the Union Church – unlike in T. Wiślicz example – linguistic formalisation did not entirely eliminate local vocabulary: Slavic and ritual terms persisted, confirming the hybrid nature of the document.

The material configuration of church interiors, as recorded in the visitation acts, reveals a gradual transformation of the visual code towards Latin aesthetics. This included the simplification of iconostases, the introduction of figurative imagery (reliefs, sculptures, statues), and the appearance of Latin iconographic motifs and decorative elements in the Baroque and Rococo styles, particularly in sacred painting. A similar reorientation of spatial and aesthetic parameters in ecclesiastical interiors was examined by M. Jakubowski (2024), who focused on architectural patronage in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. He found that patronal authorities often dictated the aesthetic parameters of sacred spaces, even contrary to internal ecclesiastical norms. The findings of the present study confirm that patronage initiatives – particularly those of the nobility – could actively promote the Latinisation of space by financing the decoration, statuary, or vestments appropriate to Western stylistic models. At the same time, unlike M. Jakubowski analysis, which emphasised tensions between patrons and the clergy, the archival protocols examined here indicate concordance between the instructions of visitors and the aesthetic transformations taking place, pointing to the consolidation of Latinisation tendencies within the ecclesiastical system itself.

Another important aspect of the study concerns the inventory of liturgical objects, including vestments, chalices, antependia, and other ritual textiles. The identified references to Latin types of clothing signify a shift towards Western textile standards. This process partly corresponds to the model described by J.A. Frykowski (2016), who analysed the visitation protocols of the parish of Ciotusz (Lublin Voivodeship). J.A. Frykowski observed that documentary references to Western forms of vestment often did not reflect actual practice but rather expressed a "desired norm". The results obtained in this study, however, reveal that such references were accompanied by specific formulae relating to quantity, colour, and correspondence of sets; therefore, these were not merely declarative ideals but evidence of an implemented material practice. This suggests a differentiation in the degree of Latinisation among parishes: in some cases, a "project model" of Latinisation (as defined by J.A. Frykowski) was observed, whereas in others it had been materially realised.

One of the key dimensions of the study was the aspect of hybridisation – the phenomenon of the coexistence of Latin and Byzantine components within the same sacred space. Archival protocols revealed a systematic combination of elements from both traditions: the texts contain references to fabrics of local origin adorned with Latin ornamentation, the simultaneous presence of Eastern and Western sets of liturgical vestments, and the parallel use of terms borrowed from both the Latin and Slavic ritual lexicons. The use of mixed constructions – both linguistic and material – indicates that hybridisation was not an isolated exception but rather an established practice of adaptation under conditions of ritual competition and administrative pressure. D. Solera (2025), in his study of the historical preconditions of the Union of Brest, emphasised that from the moment of the union's conclusion a model of cultural compromise had been established, envisaging unity with Rome without the complete dissolution of the Byzantine tradition. In light of this, the examples of hybridisation identified in the archival material can be interpreted as the practical continuation of that concept, adapted to the circumstances of the 18th century. However, unlike the political-theological compromise analysed by D. Solera, the manifestations recorded in the visitation acts concern primarily the administrative and material implementation of this compromise – visible in objects, vestments, and spatial arrangements. This ritual hybridity, rooted in everyday ecclesiastical practice, indicates that the Union existed not merely as a dogmatic construct but as a living system of interaction between traditions, wherein sacred matter became a field of negotiation between East and West.

The phenomenon of dual sets of liturgical vestments identified in the documents attests to a situation of ritual dichotomy, in which a parish could adapt its liturgical service to various religious, social, or hierarchical circumstances – both internal (linked to routine practice) and

external (for instance, in the presence of Latin hierarchs or during feasts of general ecclesiastical significance). The protocols frequently recorded formulae such as "*paramenta duplicia: pro ritu rutheno et pro ritu romano*", which directly testify to the deliberate preservation and parallel use of two ritual systems. Such a model did not simply represent mechanical coexistence but reflected the Union community's capacity to integrate flexibility into its ritual practice. This interpretation corresponds with the conclusions of P. Babie (2023), who demonstrated that Union identity in Ukraine was historically multi-layered, representing a synthesis of canonical dependence on Rome and profound cultural continuity with the local Byzantine-Slavic tradition. Yet, whereas P. Babie considered this multi-layeredness primarily in canonical and legal terms, the results of the present study reveal its material embodiment – manifest in the fabrics, colour schemes, cuts, and decorative techniques of vestments. For example, the coexistence of *planetae Romanae* alongside *phelonias*, or albs made from local cloth yet adorned with Latin ornamentation, illustrates not a merely symbolic but a functional realisation of the ritual compromise. Thus, the dichotomy of rites was transformed into a mechanism of adaptability, enabling Union parishes to balance between normative Latin unification and local forms of religious practice.

In summary, the research confirmed that the acts of general visitations of the 18th-century Union Church functioned not as neutral descriptive records but as an active instrument of ritual standardisation. They not only documented the condition of church interiors but also shaped a normative framework within which Latin aesthetic, ritual, and linguistic elements gradually displaced or transformed the Byzantine tradition. A comparison of these findings with those of leading scholars revealed both inter-regional parallels (notably in Spain, Poland, and Portugal) and distinctive local characteristics of the Union model.

Conclusions

As a result of the research, it was established that the acts of general visitations of Union parishes in the second half of the 18th century not only recorded the actual state of church life but also functioned as instruments for implementing ecclesiastical policy aimed at the gradual Latinisation of visual, ritual, and material space. The analysis demonstrated that these documents represented a regulatory-descriptive form, combining an inventory of sacred objects, an assessment of canonical discipline, the legal certification of parish status, and prescriptive instructions intended to align church practice with Union and Latin norms. The typical structure of visitation acts – introduction, description of the church, inventory, account of the clergy, and conclusions – made it possible to trace the formalisation of clerical language, particularly through the widespread use of fixed Latin formulae such as *collocandae sunt statuae Sancti Iosephi et Virginis Immaculatae ad ingressum ecclesiae*.

The documents attest to the gradual replacement of traditional Byzantine vestments (*phelonia*, *saccos*) with Latin forms (*chasubles*, *copes*, *amices*), while retaining references to materials, decorative techniques, and colour coordination. An important qualitative finding was the identification of hybrid forms of vestment – particularly the combination of local fabrics with Latin ornamentation, or the parallel use of two sets for different ritual contexts. The results also confirmed that the protocols consistently recorded the nomenclature of Eucharistic, altar, and processional objects, providing detailed references to their materials, condition, and decorative features.

Archival analysis confirmed that the preservation of visitation acts is fragmentary, especially with regard to documents from the first half of the 18th century. Evidence of both mechanical and biological damage was found, including torn pages, loss of introductory leaves, and irregularities in the chronological order of binding, all of which complicate the interpretation of certain materials. Accordingly, the limitations of the study include the uneven preservation of archival sources, the

absence of some introductory and concluding sections, and the selective nature of digitisation, which prevented the inclusion of the full corpus of materials from peripheral deaneries. These factors may have affected the representativeness of the data, particularly in comparative analyses of urban and rural parishes. Future research should therefore be directed towards expanding the investigation to include other dioceses of the Union Church, comparing the archival corpora of the Kyiv, Lviv, Pinsk, and Przemyśl Metropolias, and undertaking a comparative analysis with Roman Catholic visitation records of the same period.

■ Acknowledgements

None.

■ Funding

None.

■ Conflict of Interest

None.

■ References

- [1] Acta Visitationis Gnrlis Decanatus Pohrebiscen. (1784). Retrieved from <https://surl.li/gchwtq>.
- [2] Alexopoulos, S., & Johnson, M.E. (2021). *Introduction to Eastern Christian Liturgies*. London: Liturgical Press.
- [3] Almes, I. (2023). Practices of monks in the Pochaiv monastery printing house of the 18th century. *History of Religions in Ukraine*, 1(33), 63-72. doi: 10.33294/2523-4234-2023-33-1-63-72.
- [4] Aoshima, Y. (2021). *Entangled interactions between religion and national consciousness in Central and Eastern Europe*. Newton: Academic Studies Press. doi: 10.2307/j.ctv1zjg2fs.
- [5] Avvakumov, Y.P. (2025). The "Uniate" identity and the construction of "Eastern Orthodoxy": Reflections on the confessionalization process in the Slavic East. *The Catholic Historical Review*, 111(2), 270-333. doi: 10.1353/cat.2025.a962065.
- [6] Babie, P. (2023). All roads lead to new Rome: The canonical origins and status of the orthodox and Greek Catholic churches of Ukraine. *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, 25(2), article number 211236. doi: 10.1017/S0956618X23000066.
- [7] Bilyk, V.A. (2013). *Unification of the unique monument of religious culture of Volyn of modern times (review of the book "General visits of churches and monasteries of the Vladimir Uniate diocese of the late XVII-early XVIII centuries: A book of protocols and separate descriptions")*. *Scientific Bulletin of Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National University. Historical Sciences*, 21, 189-192.
- [8] Buržinskas, Ž. (2021). Uniate sacral architecture in the grand duchy of Lithuania: A synthesis of confessional architecture. *Art History & Criticism*, 17(1), 43-58. doi: 10.2478/mik-2021-0004.
- [9] Coburn, J. (2020). Defending the digital: Awareness of digital selectivity in historical research practice. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 53(3), 398-410. doi: 10.1177/0961000620918647.
- [10] Dekanat Białocerkowski. (1750). Retrieved from <https://surl.li/mgisig>.
- [11] Frykowski, J.A. (2016). The history of Protection of the Most Holy Virgin Mary Uniate Parish in Ciotusza in the light of the 18th century church post-visitation protocols. *Historia i Świat*, 5, 191-204. doi: 10.34739/his.2016.05.11.
- [12] General visitations to the deaneries of Fastiv and Pavliv. (1746). Retrieved from <https://irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/dlib/item/0003637>.
- [13] Grin-Piszczek, E. (2023). Parish chronicles in the fonds of the State Archives in Przemyśl. *Rocznik Przemyski Historia*, 29(1), 129-140. doi: 10.4467/24497347RPH.23.008.18914.
- [14] Huculak, L.D. (1990). *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. In the Kievan metropolitan province during the period of union with Rome (1596-1839)*. Rome: PP. Basiliani.
- [15] Ignatowicz, J., Kutt, K., & Nalepa, G.J. (2025). Knowledge graphs for digitized manuscripts in Jagiellonian digital library application. *arXiv*. doi: 10.48550/arXiv.2506.03180.
- [16] Ivaniv, M. (2021). The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic bishops at the Second Vatican Council: The participation in the council and contribution to the discussions of conciliar documents. In V. Latinovic & A.K. Wooden (Eds.), *Stolen churches or bridges to orthodoxy? Volume 1: Historical and theological perspectives on the orthodox and eastern catholic dialogue* (pp. 161-184). Cham: Springer. doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-55442-2_9.

- [17] Jakubowski, M. (2024). [When patronage undermines construction. Negotiating the Uniate architecture in eighteenth-century Poland-Lithuania](#). In S. Holzer, S. Langenberg, C. Knobling & O. Kasap (Eds.), *Construction matters. Proceedings of the 8th international congress on construction history* (pp. 865-872). Zürich: vdf Hochschulverlag.
- [18] Khortyk, O. (2021). [Synodal activity of the Ukrainian Uniate episcopate from the XVII to the middle of the XX century](#). *UCU Scientific Notes, XV. Series "Theology"*, 8, 191-226.
- [19] Kosar, A. (2006). *General visitations of the Kyiv Uniate Metropolis as a source for studying liturgical piety, based on the analysis of M. Radwan's documents "Wizytacje generalne parafii unickich w województwie Kijowskim i Bracławskim po 1782 roku"*. Retrieved from <http://dds.edu.ua/articles/2/diploms/2006/356-kosar.html>.
- [20] Kulska, J. (2022). Bridging the nation and the state: Catholic church in Poland as political actor. *Politics and Religion Journal*, 14(2), 263-281. doi: 10.54561/prj1402263k.
- [21] Łapa, R. (2024). Statutes of the Synod of Zamość of 1720: Selected issues of legislative writing conventions. *Studia z Filologii Polskiej i Słowiańskiej*, 59, article number 3283. doi: 10.11649/sfps.3283.
- [22] Los, V. (2022). Enlightenment in the commonwealth and its effects on the Uniate church at the end of the 18th century: Problem statement. *Ukrainian Historical Review*, 1, 163-177. doi: 10.47632/2786-717X-2022-1-163-177.
- [23] Mayoverts, A.I. (2025). [Architectural arrangement of the eighteenth-century Uniate church: On the example of published acts of general visits of the Pryluky deanery in the 1790s](#). In *Proceedings of the XXVIII international scientific and practical conference "Scientific trends in the development of modern research and inventions"* (pp. 13-18). Krakow: European Conference.
- [24] Molnár, L. (2024). The term, development, purpose, and practice of church or canonical visitation: Unitarians in Háromszék in the seventeenth century between conventional rhetoric and reality. In K. Bem & B. Gordon (Eds.), *Antitrinitarianism and unitarianism in the early modern world* (pp. 209-236). Cham: Springer. doi: 10.1007/978-3-031-69658-9_9.
- [25] Paiva, J.P. (2020). Pastoral visitations in the First World Empires (Spain and Portugal in the 16th and 17th centuries): A comparative approach. *Journal of Early Modern History*, 24(3), 224-252. doi: 10.1163/15700658-12342670.
- [26] Palinchak, M.M., Vegesh, M.M., Kontsur-Karabinovych, N.M., & Marchuk, V. (2022). [Essays on the History of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church](#). Uzhhorod: Uzhhorod National University.
- [27] Radny, K. (2023). Between Roman authority and Greek ritual: The turbulent history of the Uniate Church at the end of the eighteenth century. *KULT_Online*, 67. doi: 10.22029/ko.2023.1382.
- [28] Ruvelas, N.C. (2023). [Theology and development of vestments and clerical vesture in the Orthodox and Byzantine Rite Church traditions](#). Harvard: Harvard Divinity School.
- [29] Skochylas, I. (1999). *Protocols of general visits to the churches of the Kyiv Union Metropolis of the eighteenth century on the example of the undated episcopal audit of the Shchyrets vicarage*. Retrieved from <https://surl.li/qqwdea>.
- [30] Skochylas, I. (2020). [An unknown description of the acts of the council of Zamość of the Uniate church \(1720\): "Diary" of the Basilian Protoarchimandrite Antonii \(Zavodsky\)](#). *Ukrainian Archaeographic Yearbook*, 23-24, 342-366.
- [31] Solera, D. (2025). Toward the Union of Brest: Gian Vincenzo Pinelli between the Roman Inquisition, the Ruthenian-Orthodox and the Venetian Greek-Orthodox. In C. Santus, J.-P. Gay & L. Tatarenko (Eds.), *The Inquisition and the Christian East, 1350-1850* (pp. 365-388). Durham: Boydell & Brewer. doi: 10.2307/jj.21341706.
- [32] Sysyn, F.E. (2023). Church union: The quandaries over acceptance of the Union of Brest (1595-96). *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, 65(3-4), 468-477. doi: 10.1080/00085006.2023.2270349.
- [33] Szady, B. (2019). [The geography of religious and confessional structures in the crown of the Polish Kingdom in the second half of the eighteenth century](#). Berlin: Peter Lang.
- [34] Szczepaniak, J. (2024). Catholic church of the Latin rite in the Kiev archdeaconry (Kiev governorate), 1798-1830: Administrative boundaries and management. *Textus et Studia*, 10(39), 25-74. doi: 10.15633/tes.10302.
- [35] The Hopchytzia Museum received a copy of the oldest document about the village. (2023). Retrieved from <https://hopchytzia.com.ua/naistarishyi-dokument-pro-selo/>.
- [36] The visitation of the General T. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://surl.li/opwjdt>.
- [37] Upart, A. (2021). [Ruthenians in early modern Rome: Art and architecture of a Uniate community, 1596-1750](#). Chicago: University of Chicago.
- [38] Vassilians are the Leading Monastic Order of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. (2022). Retrieved from <https://ukrgenealogy.com.ua/viewtopic.php?t=2012&start=10>.
- [39] Wiślicz, T. (2020). [Earning heavenly salvation: Peasant religion in lesser Poland. Mid-sixteenth to eighteenth centuries](#). Berlin: Peter Lang.
- [40] Wolff, L. (2020). [Disunion within the Union: The Uniate Church and the partitions of Poland](#). Harvard: Harvard University Press.

- [41] Wooden, A.K. (2021). A brief history of the Union of Brest and its interpretations. In V. Latinovic & A.K. Wooden (Eds.), *Stolen churches or bridges to Orthodoxy? Volume 1: Historical and theological perspectives on the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic dialogue* (pp. 41-62). Cham: Springer. doi: [10.1007/978-3-030-55442-2_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-55442-2_3).
- [42] Zielecka-Mikołajczyk, W. (2022). Archives of the Greek Catholic Bishopric in Przemyśl and the Reform of the Uniate Church in the 17th and 18th centuries. In *Urkunden, Archive, Kontexte* (pp. 25-37). Berlin: Brill. doi: [10.14220/9783737014724.25](https://doi.org/10.14220/9783737014724.25).

Латинізаційні впливи на церковну іконографію, утвар та облачення в Унійній церкві XVIII ст. за архівними матеріалами генеральних візитацій

Андрій Майовець

Аспірант

Український католицький університет
79011, вул. Свенцицького, 17, м. Львів, Україна
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3311-9350>

Анотація. Метою дослідження було простежити, як нормативні настанови католицької церкви втілювалися у практиках візуального та речового оформлення унійних храмів у період поступової обрядової уніфікації XVIII століття. У роботі проаналізовано трансформації храмового простору під впливом латинських зразків на основі джерел, що походять із парафій Київської митрополії, яка охоплювала регіони сучасної Центральної та Західної України. В процесі дослідження було використано корпус архівних актів генеральних візитацій 1730-1785 років, зокрема документи з візитацій міста Львова, Почаївського монастиря, Фастівського, Погребищенського та Білоцерківського деканатів, а також парафії села Гопчиця. У результаті дослідження було встановлено, що акти візитацій виступають не лише як джерело фіксації стану сакрального простору, а й як регулятивний інструмент імплементації латинських зразків у церковну практику. Було виявлено поєднання латинських і візантійських обрядових елементів у текстильному оформленні, літургійному начинні та храмовій іконографії. Простежено процес заміщення або редукції традиційних іконостасів, поява фігурних латинських статуй, латиномовних приписів щодо облаштування вівтарів, а також систематичне впровадження елементів латинської термінології в описах облачення та утварі. Аналіз мови візитацій засвідчив стійку присутність лексики латинського обряду у поєднанні з локальними елементами, що створювало змішану обрядово-мовну реальність. Практичне значення дослідження полягає в тому, що його результати можуть бути використані для реконструкції візуального образу Унійної церкви, створення типології латинізованих предметів у музейних і церковних зібраннях та розробки критеріїв атрибуції сакральної спадщини другої половини XVIII століття.

Ключові слова: сакральний простір; інвентарний опис; обрядова уніфікація; протокол; літургія; ритуальна практика



Documentation technologies in the electronic document management system of the public sector of Ukraine

Inna Kononenko

Doctor of Science in Public Administration, Associate Professor
Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
08401, 30 Sukhomlynskyi Str., Pereiaslav, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9553-5339>

Yurii Liashchenko

Lecturer
Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
08401, 30 Sukhomlynskyi Str., Pereiaslav, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-1302-6823>

Abstract. The purpose of the study was to comprehensively investigate documentation technologies in electronic document management systems of the public sector of Ukraine, with an emphasis on their legal, technical, and organisational interaction. Methodologically, the research was based on an integrated approach, including comparative legal analysis of legislation, content analysis of state information systems, structural, functional, and statistical methods, which were used to study the practical implementation of digital document management in Ukraine. As a result, it was established that the regulatory framework of Ukraine creates sufficient conditions for the functioning of electronic document management, but in practical terms there is a significant fragmentation in the application of metadata standards and exchange protocols. Analysis of the technological infrastructure has shown that the main document management systems differ in the level of security, integration and compatibility with state platforms, which leads to the emergence of information barriers between institutions. Structural and functional analysis revealed that the Trembita system became the central link of interagency interaction, but simultaneously increased the risks of cyber-attacks, as evidenced by the increase in incidents in 2024 by 69.8%. The use of content analysis showed that the Diia and Prozorro systems have provided an increase in digital trust of citizens, but remain vulnerable to problems of authenticity of electronic documents and stability of long-term storage. The data obtained also showed that the introduction of cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, and blockchain audit are factors for future improvement of transparency and efficiency of state document management. The conclusions indicate that documentation technologies are becoming the main tool not only for digitalising administrative processes, but also for building trust between the state and society. The practical significance of the study lies in the possibility of using the results obtained to develop public strategies for digital integration, optimise document flow, and create a single electronic document management platform in accordance with European standards

Keywords: digitalisation; metadata; digital governance; electronic signature; public services

Suggested Citation:

Kononenko, I., & Liashchenko, Yu. (2025). Documentation technologies in the electronic document management system of the public sector of Ukraine. *Society. Document. Communication*, 10(2), 59-73. doi: 10.69587/sdc/2.2025.59.



Introduction

The relevance of the subject matter is conditioned by the rapid development of digital technologies, which radically change the structure and dynamics of public administration, in particular in the field of document management. In the context of martial law, cyber threats and the growing need for fast communication between government agencies, the problem of effective electronic document management has become of strategic importance. Ukraine, being at the stage of deep digital transformation, is faced with the need to simultaneously ensure technological integration, information security, and compliance with international standards of e-governance. Electronic document management in the public sector has become a tool not only for optimising administrative processes, but also for implementing the principles of transparency, openness, and accountability of the authorities. Thus, the study of documentation technologies in electronic document management systems acquires scientific and practical value, since it determines the areas of further development of the digital state and its ability to function effectively in the context of crisis challenges.

In previous studies, the issues of digitalisation of public administration were considered from various aspects, but the technological processes of documentation within electronic document management systems remained fragmentary studied. T.I. Skibina (2024) explored the role of innovation in Ukraine's public administration in the context of European integration and anti-corruption policy. The researcher identified the types of innovations – from e-governance to blockchain systems and e-voting and stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to their integration. In her study, documentation technologies were considered only indirectly, as a component of the overall digital management ecosystem. The study by A. Elsafty & A. Yehia (2023) on the Egyptian public sector showed that successful digital transformation depended on a combination of financial, infrastructure, and organisational factors. The researcher emphasised the importance of leadership and communication for implementing changes, but the aspect of technical solutions for managing electronic documents remained out of focus. The study by O. Karpenko *et al.* (2023) examined the digital transformation of public administration in transition economies, where a close relationship was found between the effectiveness of public administration and the level of development of e-governance. The researchers clustered countries according to the level of digitalisation, but did not reveal internal technological differences between electronic document management systems, which limited the possibility of generalising practical integration models. A. Kud (2023) focused on the potential of blockchain platforms in public administration. The researcher argued that decentralised systems could provide greater transparency and security than centralised digital platforms.

L. Storozhenko (2023) emphasised the growing role of e-democracy and the need to harmonise national legislation with international legal norms. The researcher analysed the main laws regulating the information environment of Ukraine, and came to the conclusion that, despite the quantitative growth of regulatory acts, there was still a need for deeper regulation of electronic document management and ensuring the interoperability of state systems. The concept by S. Hrytsai (2023) was based on the GovTech phenomenon as a vector for digitalisation of public services. Using the example of the project "Diia", the researcher demonstrated the practical advantages of digital services and focused on the legal difficulties of interstate regulation. The study by J. Matusiak & A. Narozniak (2025) revealed the legal aspects of implementing an electronic document Diia.pl for Ukrainian citizens in Poland. The researchers pointed out the problems of balancing technical solutions and human rights guarantees in the context of migration crises, which allowed expanding the understanding of the socio-legal aspects of digital documents. N. Blavatska & O. Berdar (2025) summarised the legislative framework of Ukraine on e-governance, systematising more than 300 regulatory acts regulating this area. The researchers emphasised the role of the Constitution of Ukraine as the basis for the development of the digital state, but focused mainly on legal aspects, leaving the technological processes of documentation without in-depth consideration.

Thus, in the existing studies, the digital transformation of the public sector in Ukraine was considered mainly in the context of legal regulation, innovative development and international comparisons, while the issues of documentation technologies in electronic document management systems, in particular, their technical integration, metadata, security standards, and inter-agency compatibility, remained insufficiently covered. This aspect required a comprehensive analysis, considering modern Ukrainian realities and trends in European digital policy. The purpose of this study was to analyse documentation technologies in the electronic document management system of the public sector of Ukraine. To achieve this goal, the following tasks were set: to carry out a comparative analysis of the regulatory and technological basis of electronic document management in Ukraine; to identify problems of interoperability, security and standardisation of metadata in state information systems; to outline areas for further development of documentation technologies, including the use of artificial intelligence, cloud technologies, and blockchain solutions in the public sector.

Materials and Methods

The methodological basis of research was a system-analytical approach to the study of documentation technologies in the public administration system of Ukraine, which provided for the consideration of regulatory,

technical, and organisational components of electronic document management as interrelated elements of a single information and administrative ecosystem. The study was of an applied nature and was aimed at determining the structure, principles of functioning and level of integration of electronic document management systems in the public sector. The study was based on the analysis of data for the period from 2004 to 2025, which covered both the retrospective dynamics of the introduction of electronic document management in Ukraine, and its current state and strategic development prospects. Several complementary methods were used to achieve this goal. The main tool was structural and functional analysis, which allowed identifying relationships between technological components of documentation – electronic signature, encryption, metadata, storage formats, and routing systems. This helped to reveal the logic behind the structure of technological processes within the framework of state document management.

Additionally, the method of regulatory reconstruction was used, which provided for a detailed study of laws, regulations, orders, and standards regulating the field of electronic document management. In particular, the analysis covered the following legislative acts: the Law of Ukraine No. 851-IV (2003), which defined the basic categories of electronic document and its authenticity; the Law of Ukraine No. 2155-VIII (2017), which harmonised Ukrainian legislation with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (2014) and introduced the concept of qualified electronic signature (QES). The Law of Ukraine No. 80/94-BP (1994) was also worked out, which forms the requirements for creating comprehensive information security systems. The analysis of these documents allowed outlining the legal framework for the introduction of documentation technologies in the public sector and determining the level of their compliance with international requirements. The study also considered national standards as elements of methodological support for document management. These include: ISO 15489-1:2018 (2018), which defines the life cycle of an electronic document; ISO 23081-1:2018 (2018), which regulates metadata management; and DSTU 4163:2020 (2020), which provides unification of document details and formats. In addition, the requirements of ISO/IEC 27001:2013 (2013) on information security were considered. These regulatory documents defined methodological guidelines for analysing the architecture of document management systems.

The paper used a comparative case method, which consisted in comparing the leading electronic document management systems of the public sector of Ukraine in a number of parameters: functionality, level of automation, types of technological components, data formats and the degree of integration with other information systems. For this purpose, six systems were selected that represent different levels of public administration and

areas of application: ASKOD (n.d.) – the leading system of public authorities that provides a full cycle of registration, routing and control of documents; SEDO (n.d.) – an interdepartmental system administered by the state special communications service, which provides internal and interdepartmental document flow; M.E.Doc (n.d.) – a corporate system for accounting and tax document management, which is partially integrated with government agencies. The following systems were also considered: Vchasno (n.d.) – a private platform with cloud storage and QES support, which is actively used by businesses and government organisations; Megapolis.DocNet (n.d.) – a system for local self-government bodies that allows local automation of document flow; DOC PROF (n.d.) – a solution for office management automation that interacts with the Trembita platform. The choice of these cases was determined by their representativeness for different levels of management (central, regional, municipal) and various formats of technical integration (local, cloud, interdepartmental). The selection criteria were the scale of application of the system, the openness of the architecture, and the availability of IISS certificates (Integrated information security system), integration with other government platforms, in particular with Trembita.gov.ua (2025), which provides interagency data exchange.

The research methodology provided for the use of an institutional and analytical approach, which allowed assessing the role of state structures in the development of digital document management infrastructure. In particular, the analytical reports of the Assessment of the state of development of the electronic trust services sector (2024) were reviewed. The study of the encryption technology infrastructure was based on analytical materials by M.V. Ivaschyshyn (2025), describing the application of RSA algorithms (cryptographic algorithm for encryption and electronic signature) and SHA-256 (hashing algorithm for ensuring data integrity) in government systems, and in accordance with the provisions of the international standard ISO/IEC 27001:2013 (2013). Attention was paid to the method of case analysis of regulatory documents and state strategies, in particular, the Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine No. z1421-14 (2014), the Standard instruction on office management in public authorities, local self-government, enterprises, institutions and organisations (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 55-2018-n, 2018), and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1351-2024-p (2024). These documents allowed defining the regulatory logic of digital transformation of document flow and the areas of its harmonisation with European standards (eIDAS 2.0). Additionally, the critical regulatory analysis method was applied to assess the adequacy of the existing regulatory framework to real technological challenges – in particular, in the field of cyber defence, long-term storage of electronic documents, and cryptographic stability. Empirical data from state reports and technical descriptions of the Trembita.

gov.ua (2025), Government Portal (2025) and Diia (n.d.) platforms were used to comprehensively investigate the practical aspects of the functioning of interdepartmental document management, which reflect the scale of transactions, the number of connected registers, and the level of process automation.

Results

Theoretical and methodological foundations of documentation technologies in electronic document management of the public sector

In public administration, documentation technologies play a role in ensuring effective information exchange, legal certainty of management actions, and the development of a digital administrative culture. The concept of "documentation technologies" covers a set of methods, tools and technical means that ensure the creation, registration, transfer, processing, storage, and use of documents in the process of management activities (Chernet-ska, 2022). Unlike conventional paper-based document management, documentation technologies integrate digital tools, metadata systems, electronic signatures, and authentication algorithms, which fundamentally transforms the principles of document management in the public sector.

The evolution of documentation technologies in Ukraine took place in stages. At the first stage (1990-2000), mechanisms for automating individual office management processes dominated – document registration, logging, and monitoring the execution of orders. Data from 2004 show that at that time only ~4% of institutions used office automation systems, and only ~1.2% of institutions used electronic document management systems (EDMS) (Decision of the Collegium of the State Committee of Archives of Ukraine No. nr005560-04, 2004). The second stage (approximately 2010-2020) was characterised by attempts to introduce EDMS more widely, with the adaptation of electronic digital signatures (EDS) and gradual integration between bodies. However, research shows that many local authorities still maintain a hybrid document management model, and full-fledged EDMS operate only in limited cases due to a lack of funding, infrastructure, and resistance to changes on the part of employees (Shevchenko, 2021). The current stage (starting in 2020) is characterised by a rapid increase in the use of electronic signatures in society: in 2023, the use of e-signatures and e-seals exceeded 20 billion times (Digital services instead..., 2024). This shows that digital tools are widely used by citizens and businesses, which creates prerequisites for in-depth integration of state EDMS with public services.

Regulatory support of electronic document management in Ukraine is a complex and multi-level system that integrates legislative, bylaws, departmental and standardisation acts aimed at creating a single legal space for the creation, circulation, storage, and use of electronic documents in the public sector. This system is the

foundation of digital transformation of management, because it determines the legal status of an electronic document, the conditions for its authenticity, legitimacy, long-term storage, and interaction between document management entities. The basic act that laid the foundations for the legal regulation of electronic document management was the Law of Ukraine No. 851-IV (2003), which first defined the concept of an electronic document, its details, structure, and signature requirements. The law established the principle of equivalence of an electronic document to a paper counterpart, provided that an EDS is applied. It was this law that introduced the legal category of authenticity, that is, guarantees that the content of the document remains unchanged from the moment it was signed, which became the foundation for creating trusted digital services in public administration.

The second regulation is the Law of Ukraine No. 2155-VIII (2017), which harmonised the national legislation with Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (2014) creating the basis for mutual recognition of electronic signatures and seals between Ukraine and the countries of the European Union. Based on this law, the concept of a QES has been introduced, which has an increased level of cryptographic protection, and a qualified electronic seal as an analogue of the legal identification of a body or institution. In practice, this allowed ensuring the legal reliability and security of electronic document management in the public sector. The Law of Ukraine No. 80/94-BP (1994) is also significant, as it defines the procedure for protecting official, confidential and personal information during its processing in electronic document management systems. It is this act that forms the requirements for the creation of IIS, which are mandatory for all state bodies.

National standards play a significant role in establishing uniform requirements for the structure and formatting of electronic documents, in particular DSTU 4163:2020 (2020), which adapted the Ukrainian office management system to the international requirements. This standard defines mandatory document details, metadata formats, electronic signature requirements, and time labelling. Its use eliminates duplication or loss of documents, as it provides a unified format for integration into any electronic document management system. Equally important is ISO 15489-1:2018 (2018), which introduced the concept of the life cycle of an electronic document – from creation to archiving and destruction. It has become a theoretical and methodological basis for designing automated archival systems of state institutions, which in the future allows moving to the concept of long-term electronic archiving. The bylaw level of regulatory regulation is provided by numerous instructions, orders, and methodological recommendations. In particular, the Standard instruction on office management in state authorities, local self-government bodies, enterprises, institutions, and organisations (approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of

Ukraine No. 55-2018-n (2018)) provides for the rules for forming electronic files, maintaining nomenclature, organising archival storage of electronic documents, and requirements for monitoring execution. In addition, Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine No. z1421-14 (2014) regulates the procedure for using electronic signatures, seals, and time stamps in the field of notarial and state registration. These documents create a procedural basis for the legal reliability of electronic document management in public administration.

Analytically assessing the current regulatory framework, it should be noted that, despite its general structure, it has an asymmetric nature of development. In 2021, a Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1351-2024-p (2024) was adopted, which provides for the creation of a unified regulatory and technological framework for electronic document management, harmonised with EU (European Union) directives on digital identity and trust services. Information technology components of documentation form the core of the functioning of electronic document management of the public sector, as they ensure the authenticity, integrity, long-term preservation and legal significance of management documents. In the structure of electronic records management, each of these components – electronic signature, encryption, metadata system and standardised storage formats – performs a separate but interrelated function, forming a complex technological ecosystem that guarantees the legitimacy and security of electronic data in public administration.

An electronic signature in state document management is the main tool for confirming the person who created or approved the document. Its application is regulated by the Law of Ukraine No. 2155-VIII (2017), which provides for three levels of signature – simple, advanced, and qualified (QES). A qualified electronic signature is based on certified cryptographic keys issued by trust centres accredited by the Ministry of Digital Transformation. As of 2024, there are more than 20 accredited providers of electronic trust services in Ukraine, including the Central certification body, IIT, key systems and Diia.Signature (Ministry of Digital Transformation of

Ukraine, 2024). According to statistics from the Assessment of the state of development of the electronic trust services sector (2024) on the CCA (Central Certification Authority) website, there are 25,103,409 qualified electronic signature certificates issued, of which 12,173,893 are active. Encryption technology ensures confidentiality and protection of information from unauthorised access during the transfer of documents between institutions. In the state document management systems of Ukraine, RSA asymmetric encryption algorithms are mainly used, including SHA-256 hashing algorithms for checking the integrity of files (Ivaschyshyn, 2025). The use of encryption is a mandatory requirement for inter-agency document exchange via Trembita.gov.ua (2025), which unites more than 120 state registers. The practical implementation of encryption in state EDMS not only ensures the protection of personal and official data, but also meets the international requirements of ISO/IEC 27001:2013 (2013), which confirms Ukraine's compliance with European information security standards.

Metadata acts as an intelligent framework for an electronic document – it describes its structure, origin, status, author, date of creation, document type, and relationships with other files or processes. In the state document flow, metadata is generated automatically when creating a document, and its structure meets the requirements of ISO 23081-1:2018 (2018), which defines the principles of metadata management for electronic documents. For example, in ASKOD (n.d.), metadata is used to build document routing: based on attributes (document type, importance level, sender department), the system automatically determines the approval sequence. Electronic document storage formats determine technological compatibility and the possibility of their long-term use. In Ukraine, the main standard is the PDF/A format, which meets the requirements of ISO 19005-1 (2017) also ensures that the document structure and appearance are preserved regardless of the software environment. State EDMS also use XML and DOCX formats for internal processing and transmission of cross-system data. The main electronic document management systems are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Comparative characteristics of the main electronic document management systems of the public sector of Ukraine

System name	Developer / Administrator	Main functions	Technological components	Integration with other systems
ASCOD	LLC Intellect-Service	Registration, execution control, recording of requests, document routing	QES, RSA encryption, XML metadata, PDF/A format	Integration with Trembita, SEI EA, Diia.Signature
SEDO	State special communications service	Internal and interdepartmental document management, control over the execution of orders, storage	QES, encryption, JSON metadata, PDF/A archive	Deep integration with government portals, CEA
M.E.Doc	LLC Intellect-Service	Exchange of accounting and tax documents, reporting	QES, AES encryption, XML, XLSX formats	Integration with the State Tax Service, Pension Fund, and banks
Vchasno	LLC Vchasno (Kyivstar platform)	Signing, transferring, and archiving contracts and service documents	QES, cloud storage, JSON metadata, PDF/A	Integration with CRM, ERP, and API for public services

Continued Table 1.

System name	Developer / Administrator	Main functions	Technological components	Integration with other systems
Megapolis. DocNet	LLC Softline Group	Internal document flow of local self-government bodies	QES, XML metadata, PDF/A	Local integration with archives and accounting systems
DOC PROF	LLC DOC-Pro	Office management automation, control, registration, archiving	QES, encryption, XML, PDF/A	Can interact with Trembita via the API

Note: LLC – limited liability company; SEI EA – system of electronic interaction between executive authorities; JSON – format of data exchange based on text; CEA – central executive authority; AES – advanced encryption standard; STS – State Tax Service; CRM – customer relationship management system; ERP – enterprise resource planning system; API – application programming interface

Source: compared by the authors based on V. Hryshyn (2024), Trembita.gov.ua (2025), ASKOD (n.d.), SEDO (n.d.), M.E.Doc (n.d.), Vchasno (n.d.), Megapolis.DocNet (n.d.), DOC PROF (n.d.)

Comparative analysis (Table 1) showed that electronic document management systems of the public sector of Ukraine differ significantly in the degree of automation, level of integration and technological architecture. The leading solutions in the field of state document management remain ASKOD (n.d.) and SEDO (n.d.), which provide the highest level of information security, support qualified electronic signatures, multi-level encryption and standardised storage formats. Their integration with the Trembita platform forms the basis of a single information space for interdepartmental exchange. On the other hand, the M.E.Doc (n.d.) and Vchasno (n.d.) systems, although highly effective in the field of business communications and tax reporting, remain auxiliary for management document flow due to their limited compliance with state archival requirements. Thus, the development and functioning of the electronic document management system in Ukraine is a complex, multidimensional process that combines the evolutionary development of documentation technologies, a comprehensive regulatory framework and practical integration of various technological solutions. Despite significant progress reaching all levels of public administration, the system continues to face challenges of fragmentation, security and full-scale interoperability, which identifies key areas for further improvement and harmonisation with European digital governance standards.

Practical aspects of introduction and development of documentation technologies in the electronic document management system of the public sector

The current state of implementation of electronic document management in state institutions of Ukraine should be considered as an intermediate phase of transformation – partially completed at the level of central bodies and infrastructure platforms and simultaneously fragmented at the level of regional and local government bodies. At the macro level, the functioning of interdepartmental interaction is provided by the platform Trembita.gov.ua (2025), which implements a data exchange architecture modelled on the Estonian X-Road and gradually forms a “gateway” between state registers, services, and EDMS. Since 2019, Trembita has

become a basic element of integration of Diia services and other government platforms; according to reports on the development of the system, the platform already connects a significant number of registers and processes billions of transactions, which makes it a tool for ensuring end-to-end electronic document management at the national level. Such a centralised infrastructure increases the technical suitability of state systems for interdepartmental exchange and creates prerequisites for the unification of protocols and document formats (Trembita.gov.ua, 2025). Moreover, the deployment of EDMS shows significant heterogeneity in the degree of maturity and functional saturation. Central executive authorities and large government agencies most often have the resources to implement standardised EDMS, certify information security, and continuously integrate with national registries; private research and reports indicate that central authorities show the highest rates of connectivity to interagency platforms, while local authorities and small institutions use local or commercial solutions that do not always meet the requirements of archival storage or compatibility. This creates technical and organisational “islands” of data: documents created and stored in regional EDMS or commercial cloud solutions may not always be automatically integrated into national workflows without prior format transformation or manual processing. The result is additional time and resources spent on unification during interagency cooperation.

The institutional and legal framework and centralised initiatives create technical and procedural prerequisites for the widespread introduction of electronic document management, but practical implementation has faced several systemic barriers. The first group of obstacles includes imperfect or insufficient unification of technical standards in terms of metadata exchange and storage formats, which makes it difficult to seamlessly route documents between different EDMS. The second set of problems is the lack of personnel skills and weak motivation for change among employees of institutions: the lack of standardised programmes to improve digital literacy makes it difficult to quickly and safely use electronic document management tools. The third aspect is

finance and the procurement model: different quality of tender procedures and lock-in risks increase the total cost of ownership and limit the scaling of decisions at the national level. Cybersecurity and infrastructure sustainability are a central concern for the public SED sector. A full-scale military invasion and increased cyber-attacks in recent years have significantly increased the security requirements of systems and at the same time demonstrated vulnerabilities. Official messages of the Computer Emergency Response Team in Ukraine (CERT-UA recorded 4,315 cyber..., 2025) record thousands of incidents annually: in 2024 alone, 4,315 cyber incidents were registered, which is 69.8% more than in the previous year (2,541 incidents), which indicates a critically high intensity of attacks. Most often, the targets of attackers include local authorities, government agencies, the security and defence sector, the energy sector, commercial organisations, and telecommunications providers, where incidents such as malware distribution, phishing, unauthorised connections, and account hacking predominate. The presence of centralised inter-registry gateways (such as Trembita) creates a strong benefit in the form of a single exchange channel, but simultaneously concentrates the risks: failures in an interoperable platform or a successful attack on it can have a large-scale impact on public services. The practical answer – combining the policies of “encrypted channels + local isolation + multi-level identification (PKI) + independent audit of IISS” – is already used in leading government projects, but requires systematic investment and coordination at the government level.

Analytical assessment of operational effects shows that the full use of documentation technologies has a measurable impact on the speed of response and the quality of management decisions. Automated routing, based on standardised metadata and business logic, reduces the time required for documents to pass between departments, reduces the number of manual errors, and increases transparency – changes that directly affect decision execution control and accountability. Using the example of individual projects, the integration of electronic routing and central registers made it possible to reduce the share of “lost” or “outdated” cases and increase the reproducibility of processes in archive inspections. In one of the projects – the Electronic Health Care System (EHCS) – it was recorded that due to the optimisation of processes, the speed of processing queries in the central database increased by approximately 20% at the end of 2024 compared to 2023. In addition, the average system reliability rate was 99.8%. This means a significant reduction in downtime, fewer errors and delays in the transmission and processing of medical documents (E-health, n.d.). Another example is the digitalisation of competitions for domestic bus routes through a Unified Information Systems Complex. Amendments to Resolution No. 1081 (Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers, n.d.) envisaged that the submission of

documents and competitions will take place electronically through the carrier's online account, which will speed up the procedure, save participants' resources and reduce corruption risks. In fact, documentation technologies can turn a document not only into a storage medium, but also into a “record” of regulated actions in the decision-making process, which allows conducting a retrospective audit, identifying procedural deviations, and preventing corruption risks. The effectiveness of such mechanisms directly correlates with the level of data availability (open data) and the quality of metadata: without unified descriptions and structured attributes of documents, full disclosure of information becomes technically and legally difficult.

In modern conditions, this interaction is characterised by a high level of technological dependence between systems, which makes it necessary for deep interoperability at the level of protocols, standards, and metadata. Trembita.gov.ua (2025), which was launched in 2019 with EU support, is a basic component of the integration of state information systems. As of 2025, the system has already processed more than 10 billion exchange transactions between registries (Government Portal, 2025). Based on its operation, ministries, departments, and local governments can transmit data without creating duplicate registers, which reduces the risk of discrepancies and errors. Interaction between EDMS and industry registries requires compliance with common technical and semantic standards. However, in practice, government information systems often use different identification schemes, incompatible exchange formats, and different access models. For example, executive EDMS are built on SOAP/XML protocols, while new Diia services are focused on REST API with JSON formats. This creates technical fragmentation that requires additional conversion gateways, which increases delays in data exchange and creates potential information security vulnerabilities. The problem also lies in the different levels of compliance of systems with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine No. 80/94-BP (1994).

Information interaction of the Diia (n.d.), Trembita.gov.ua (2025) and SEDO (n.d.) is an example of the practical implementation of an integrated model. For example, electronic services generated through Diia are automatically synchronised with basic registers via Trembita, and copies of documents are recorded in the corresponding document management systems of institutions. This ensures the continuity of the life cycle of an electronic document – from its creation by a citizen or official to archival storage. A significant challenge remains to ensure long-term cryptographic reliability: since electronic signatures have a limited validity period, the state has to implement mechanisms for “re-signing” archival documents or storing digital prints in trusted repositories (timestamp services). Ukraine is gradually introducing new encryption algorithms that are compatible with EU requirements (EIDAS 2.0), which is one of the

important steps towards integration with the European digital trust space.

The social and communication dimension of electronic document management is closely related to technical and legal aspects. Data openness, digital trust and citizens' access to electronic documents form a new paradigm of interaction between the state and society. According to the study (Opendatabot, 2024), the Open Data Quality Index in Ukraine as of March 2024 was only 42.37%, which indicates insufficient compliance with international standards. The most closed authorities, despite the requirements of the legislation, remain the State Tax Service, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Economy, which headed the anti-rating of data quality. Although there has been some recovery in data publishing since the start of the full-scale intrusion, the overall level of transparency has not yet reached the level of early 2022, when the index was 57.6%. The leaders in the quality of data publication are the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the State Judicial Administration, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. A positive example is the Diia (n.d.) and Prozorro (2025), which provide not only the convenience of using electronic documents, but also form a culture of transparency, reducing the risks of bureaucratic abuse. The Diia platform provides citizens with legally significant digital documents that completely replace their paper counterparts, allows document sharing and multi-sharing – the transfer of one or more documents to public or private institutions via a QR code or online link, and also provides audit transparency through a notification system about access to personal data, which creates trust in digital services. The

Prozorro platform ensures the openness of public procurement by publishing complete information about tenders, participants, contracts and complaints in the public domain, and uses BI analytics and risk indicators to monitor questionable procedures, which minimises corruption risks and increases government accountability. Both systems create a digital environment in which data openness, process automation, and standardised access policies form a new culture of interaction between citizens, businesses, and the state based on trust, accountability, and convenience.

Further development of electronic document management is impossible without switching to cloud technologies and using artificial intelligence (AI). Cloud services such as Microsoft Azure Government Cloud (Azure for US Government, n.d.), Amazon AWS GovCloud (2025) provide scalability, access continuity, and centralised data backup. The use of AI in government document management contributes to the analytical assessment of data flows, load forecasting, and identification of anomalies in the structure of management processes. Cloud-based solutions and automated document classification also create new risks associated with cyber defence and privacy. Therefore, the integration of artificial intelligence should be accompanied by the development of regulations governing the ethical use of data and responsibility for automated solutions. These technologies open up the prospect of transition to the concept defined in the digital transformation strategy of Ukraine. Below is Table 2, which reflects the problems, areas of improvement and technological solutions in the field of authenticity, openness, and development of electronic document management.

Table 2. Key problems, areas of improvement and technological solutions in the field of authenticity, openness, and development of electronic document management

Key aspect	Current state in the public sector of Ukraine	Main risks	Innovative solutions	Expected results
Authenticity of electronic documents	Use of QES, but not in all departments; some systems do not have centralised signature verification	Forgery or non-validity of signatures, technical incompatibility	Centralised verification via Diia.Signature, implementation of blockchain audit	Improvement of the reliability of documents, transparent control
Unification of formats	Use of various standards and formats (PDF, XML, DOCX)	Incompatibility of interagency systems, data duplication	Unified PDF/A archiving format, Dublin Core metadata implementation	Standardised document management, simplification of interdepartmental integration
Long-term preservation	Partial implementation of the electronic archive	Data loss due to outdated formats	Archive-2025 project, cloud repositories	Saving documents for more than 50 years in an accessible format
Openness and digital trust	Partial implementation of open data	Distrust of digital platforms, risk of data leakage	Public registries, educational campaigns, independent IT security audit	Increasing the level of trust, increasing public control
Development prospects	Implementation of AI modules, testing document classification	Cyber threats, lack of ethical regulation	Flow automation, AI solution support systems	Efficient document flow management, reduced bureaucracy

Source: compared by the authors based on O. Boiko (2024), L. Filipova & A. Shelestova (2024), K. Manyilova & Y. Norchuk (2025), V. Petrovich *et al.* (2025)

Analysis of the table data shows that the digital transformation of document flow in the public sector of Ukraine is developing unevenly: some components of the system demonstrate a high level of technological maturity, while others remain at the stage of partial integration. In particular, the authenticity of electronic documents is ensured through the use of a QES, but its use is still not universal, and the lack of centralised verification creates risks of technical incompatibility and abuse. Introduction of centralised verification mechanisms through Diia.Signature and the use of blockchain audit technologies can significantly increase the reliability and controllability of digital transactions. The problem of format unification manifests itself in the use of different standards (PDF, XML, DOCX), which complicates interagency exchange and leads to duplication of information. The introduction of a single PDF/A archiving format and the Dublin Core metadata system can eliminate technical barriers and simplify data integration between government agencies.

No less important is the area of long-term document storage, where electronic archives are only partially implemented. However, the level of openness and digital trust remains insufficient: incomplete implementation of the open data policy and low awareness of citizens about cyber defence mechanisms create conditions for distrust of digital services. That is why public registries, independent security audits, and digital culture education campaigns are critical. In the future, the integration of artificial intelligence to automate flows and support management decisions will play a key role, which will reduce bureaucratic loads and increase the efficiency of document flow. Thus, the development of electronic document management in Ukraine demonstrates a combination of technological progress and organisational challenges. A key aspect is the creation of a comprehensive digital trust ecosystem in which authenticity, unification, preservation, and openness become inter-related components of a single process. The introduction of innovative solutions – from blockchain audit to AI document classification modules – forms the basis for the transition to intelligent document flow management, which will meet the standards of European digital governance and ensure transparency, accountability, and long-term reliability of state information resources.

Discussion

The results of the study showed the complex multidimensional nature of the processes of digitalisation of documentation in the public sector, which allowed comparing the findings with the best practices of other researchers in the field of e-governance and information security. The study by L.L. Kayukov (2024) focused on cryptographic mechanisms for ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity of electronic documents, where the main emphasis was placed on the balance between the performance of systems and the level of

their cryptographic strength. The findings confirmed the empirical conclusions obtained in the framework of the study, according to which the use of symmetric algorithms (in particular AES) was appropriate for fast processing of large amounts of information in public document management systems, while asymmetric algorithms (RSA, ECC) more effectively provided authentication and electronic signature. However, in contrast to the approach of L.L. Kayukov, the study showed that in the Ukrainian public sector, cryptographic protection remained mostly regulated, rather than technically standardised, which created risks of fragmentation of security protocols between different platforms. Thus, the practical effectiveness of cryptographic policy in Ukraine was determined not only by the choice of algorithms, but also by the level of their integration into the architecture of document management systems.

Compared to the study by N. Morze *et al.* (2025), which analysed European experience in digital governance within the e-DEBUT project and developed educational modules for building the competencies of civil servants, the need to combine technological development with institutional education was confirmed. While N. Morze *et al.* emphasised the need to improve digital literacy and involve citizens in the processes of e-democracy, the results of the current study indicated that the direct introduction of high-tech systems, such as Trembita or Diia, did not guarantee efficiency without proper personnel and communication support. Thus, N. Morze *et al.* confirmed that technical infrastructure should be accompanied by the development of a culture of digital trust, public transparency, and accountability of state institutions. However, unlike European approaches, Ukrainian practice showed a certain asymmetry between the high level of technological readiness and the low level of civic digital culture, which limited the real effect of implementing innovative solutions.

Comparison with conclusions of V. Petrovich *et al.* (2024) revealed a common interpretation of electronic document management as a system that transforms administrative activities by simplifying the processes of processing, storing, and exchanging documents. The study of V. Petrovich *et al.* emphasised the increase in the efficiency of management processes due to the automation of document flow, which correlated with the results that noted a reduction in the time of approval of internal documents and an increase in labour productivity after the introduction of automatic metadata management. However, unlike V. Petrovich *et al.* who considered electronic document management mainly as an organisational innovation, the current study interpreted it as a complex socio-technical system that included regulatory, communication, and security dimensions. In particular, it was shown that the technological integration of systems was not always accompanied by the harmonisation of data formats and exchange protocols, which created obstacles to interagency interaction. In addition,

the results obtained expanded the analytical conclusions of these researchers in the context of the Ukrainian reality of wartime. If N. Morze *et al.* (2025) and V. Petrovich *et al.* (2024) emphasised digital modernisation as a factor of efficiency, the conducted research showed that during martial law (2022-2025), electronic document management also served to stabilise institutions by ensuring the continuity of administrative processes when physical access to institutions was restricted. It is this aspect – the preservation of managerial capacity through digital tools – that has become crucial for the Ukrainian experience, in contrast to the models developed in the peaceful conditions of the EU.

The study by L. Kachkovska *et al.* (2023) focused on the legal and conceptual foundations of building electronic document management as a component of e-governance. She interpreted the regulatory framework as a complete and functionally complete system that provided formal conditions for the digital transformation of public administration. In comparison with these conclusions, the study revealed significant fragmentation in the practical implementation of regulatory requirements: despite formal harmonisation with European eIDAS standards, problems of interoperability between departmental systems due to the use of different data exchange protocols (SOAP/XML, REST API) and metadata incompatibility remained at the level of technical integration. Thus, while L. Kachkovska *et al.* considered the legal framework to be sufficiently mature, the results obtained in the current study confirmed the existence of deep structural barriers that limited effective interaction between state information systems. In addition, L. Kachkovska *et al.* paid attention to digital governance as a factor of European integration and improving the quality of public services. The conclusions of the current research complemented this position, pointing out that the practical implementation of electronic platforms (Diia, Prozorro) really contributed to the transparency of management processes and the development of digital trust of citizens, but simultaneously created risks of concentration of large amounts of personal data, which required new protection mechanisms. Whereas in the study by L. Kachkovska *et al.*, digitalisation emerged as an unequivocally positive process, the results of the analysis showed the ambivalence of this phenomenon – increased efficiency was accompanied by increased vulnerability of systems to cyber threats, which was confirmed by CERT-UA statistics on the increase in the number of cyber incidents by almost 70% in 2024. Thus, the study not only specified but also deepened the conclusions of L. Kachkovska *et al.*, shifting the discussion from a normative to an empirical and risk-oriented level.

A comparison with the results of the study by N.S. Vasynova (2021) revealed both common and different analytical emphases. N.S. Vasynova stressed that the introduction of electronic document management in

Ukraine lagged behind the EU countries by an average of five years, focusing on the legal evolution from the 2003 law to the introduction of authorised electronic services. The study partially confirmed this conclusion, but showed that after 2020, the pace of digitalisation significantly accelerated under the influence of martial law and the reform of public services. While N.S. Vasynova assessed the legal framework as the main factor behind the backlog, the results of the current analysis showed that the constraints were not regulatory, but technological – fragmentation of systems – lack of unified metadata formats and discrepancies between local decisions (M.E.Doc, SEDO, Vchasno, ASCOD). This led to the establishment of “data Islands”, which limited interdepartmental integration, despite formal legal compatibility. Research by N.S. Vasynova also emphasised that electronic documents signed with a qualified electronic signature have acquired equal legal force with their paper counterparts, which has reduced bureaucratic barriers. The results confirmed this fact, but at the same time supplemented it with quantitative indicators – as of 2024, more than 20 accredited providers of electronic trust services ensured the functioning of the QES, and the volume of transactions in the Trembita system exceeded 10 billion. This indicated the real institutional maturity of the electronic signature ecosystem, whereas N.S. Vasynova considered it more promising than established. Thus, the results of the study recorded the transition of the Ukrainian model from regulatory consolidation to practical consolidation of electronic document management.

Comparison of the results obtained with the conclusions of O. Matveieva *et al.* (2024) allowed identifying general trends in the interpretation of digital transformation of public administration during the war. O. Matveieva *et al.* noted that the full-scale invasion, although destabilising state institutions, did not stop digitalisation – instead, it contributed to the mobilisation of civil society and the emergence of new forms of horizontal interaction between the population and local authorities through digital platforms. The results obtained confirmed this thesis, indicating that martial law not only did not slow down, but accelerated the development of electronic document management, namely towards increasing the autonomy of regional systems. The analysis showed that the technological cooperation of civil initiatives with state structures had not only a social, but also an administrative effect: it was public digital tools – need bases, analytical dashboards, feedback services – that temporarily compensated for the losses of centralised management. Thus, the results of the current study expanded on the conclusions of O. Matveieva *et al.*, proving that the integration of civil society into the digital document management system was not just a forced adaptation, but a stable feature of the new model of public administration based on networked, decentralised data structures.

The results also correlated with the findings of the study by M. Sira & A. Kuzior (2025), but revealed significant differences in the focus and scope of the analysis. In their paper, digital transformation was considered mainly through the prism of urban management and the development of “smart cities”, where the factor was the efficiency of public services, environmental sustainability, and inclusivity of digital solutions. However, the findings showed that the Ukrainian public sector was dominated not by the strategic, but by the reactive nature of digitalisation – due to the need for rapid response to crisis situations and military challenges. If M. Sira & A. Kuzior emphasised the need for long-term planning of digital strategies and the introduction of an ethical framework for data use, while empirical observations showed the predominance of short-term solutions aimed at maintaining the functionality of critical document management processes. Despite this, both studies coincided in the conclusion that digital integration directly affected transparency and accountability of authorities, and its effectiveness was determined by the level of digital trust. The current study, however, supplemented this aspect with specific empirical indicators – for example, an increase in the number of transactions in the Trembita system to more than 10 billion and an increase in the share of electronic documents signed by QES in the public sector, which indicated the systemic institutional maturity of the digital environment.

Comparison with the study by V. Ostapiak (2025) showed a conceptual kinship in the understanding of digital governance as not just a technological, but a social and communication phenomenon that changed the structure of managerial relations. V. Ostapiak interpreted e-governance as a transformation of the logic of state interaction – the transition from bureaucratic centralisation to a citizen-oriented network management model. This approach was consistent with the results of the study, which showed that the platforms Diia and Prozorro formed a new paradigm of communication between the state and society, where speed, openness, and convenience became the main criteria for effectiveness. The analysis revealed those aspects that were ignored in the V. Ostapiak study: in particular, technological challenges associated with incompatibility of departmental systems, fragmentation of metadata standards, and risks of centralisation of information flows. If V. Ostapiak emphasised the strategic feasibility of creating a “limitless government”, the results of the analysis showed that technical interoperability and cyber defence remained deterrents on the way to this goal. However, both studies coincided in the conclusion that digitalisation of public administration in Ukraine had not only an administrative, but also a socio-political effect – it increased transparency, the level of trust in the authorities and the sustainability of civil society.

Comparison of the conclusions of scientific sources allowed identifying the evolution of research priorities –

from legal justification and conceptual modelling to a systematic analysis of technological, security, and socio-communication aspects in the current study. While previous studies predominantly focused on regulatory, legal, and organisational approaches, the results of the analysis demonstrated a shift towards a comprehensive view of electronic document management as a dynamic cyber-social system, where management efficiency directly depended on technological compatibility, digital trust among citizens, and the readiness of state institutions to manage risks in the context of information threats. Thus, the conducted research not only summarised previous scientific developments, but also expanded their analytical horizon, introducing new empirical parameters for assessing the digital transformation of the public sector of Ukraine into scientific circulation.

Conclusions

The study of documentation technologies in the electronic document management system of the public sector of Ukraine allowed drawing a number of conclusions that indicate the complex and multidimensional nature of digital transformation of administrative processes. It was found that the regulatory framework of Ukraine has established a sufficient legal foundation for the functioning of electronic document management, but its practical implementation has demonstrated significant fragmentation and asymmetry of development. The harmonisation of national legislation with European standards, in particular with the eIDAS 2.0 regulation, created prerequisites for mutual recognition of electronic signatures and seals, but technical interoperability between different systems remained limited due to the use of different exchange protocols (SOAP/XML and REST API) and data formatting. Analysis of the main electronic document management systems (ASCOD, SEDO, M.E.Doc, Vchasno, Megalopolis.Doc, DOC PROF) found significant differences in their functionality, security levels, and integration with government platforms, which led to the formation of technological “islands” of data and complicated interagency interaction.

The standard-regulated metadata system provided structured document descriptions and automated routing, but the variety of identification schemes and exchange formats between different EDMS continued to create technical barriers to smooth document flow. The Trembita infrastructure platform, which processed more than 10 billion transactions, became an interagency integration tool, but the concentration of data flows in a single gateway simultaneously increased the risks of large-scale cyber-attacks, which was confirmed by CERT-UA statistics on an increase in the number of incidents by 69.8% in 2024. The Diia and Prozorro platforms have formed a new paradigm of interaction between the state and citizens, providing convenient access to electronic services and increasing the level of trust in digital tools. Martial law did not stop the processes of

digitalisation, but rather activated civil society, which through technological solutions helped local authorities in providing services, in particular, through the creation of databases for the needs of vulnerable groups and mutual assistance platforms. The prospects for the development of electronic document management systems are associated with the introduction of cloud technologies, artificial intelligence to automate document classification and data flow analytics, and blockchain audit to increase the reliability of documents, but these innovations require further improvement of the regulatory framework for the ethical use of data and cybersecurity. Prospects for further research include

analysing the impact of artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies on automating the life cycle of electronic documents and forming models of cyber resilience in the face of hybrid threats.

■ Acknowledgements

None.

■ Funding

None.

■ Conflict of Interest

None.

■ References

- [1] Amazon AWS GovCloud. (2025). Retrieved from <https://aws.amazon.com/govcloud-us/>.
- [2] ASKOD. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://askod.ua/home>.
- [3] Assessment of the state of development of the electronic trust services sector. (2024). Retrieved from <https://czo.gov.ua/development>.
- [4] Azure for US Government. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/explore/global-infrastructure/government>.
- [5] Blavatska, N., & Berdar, O. (2025). *Regulatory and legal aspects of the implementation and security of electronic document transfer in Ukraine*. In *Innovations in science: Current research and advanced technologies* (pp. 526-544). Riga: Publishing House "Baltija Publishing".
- [6] Boiko, O. (2024). Electronic document: Domestic and international experience of information storage. *Visnyk of Kharkiv State Academy of Culture*, 65, 25-36. doi: 10.31516/2410-5333.065.02.
- [7] CERT-UA recorded 4,315 cyber incidents in 2024. (2025). *State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine*. Retrieved from <https://cip.gov.ua/en/news/cert-ua-minulogo-roku-opracyuvala-4315-kiberincidentiv>.
- [8] Chernetska, O. (2022). *Digital technologies in accounting as a basis for the training of a competitive accountant specialist in higher educational institution*. In *Digital educational environment in institutions of higher education* (pp. 239-270). Dnipro: Monolit.
- [9] Decision of the Collegium of the State Committee of Archives of Ukraine No. nr005560-04 "On the State of Implementation of Electronic Records Management Technologies and Electronic Documents in Institutions – Sources of Acquisition for State Archives". (2004, November). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/rada/show/nr005560-04#Text>.
- [10] Digital services instead of "paper" ones: 20+ billion electronic signatures and seals by 2023. (2024). *Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine*. Retrieved from <https://surl.li/jlqddq>.
- [11] Diia. (n.d.). *State services online*. Retrieved from <https://diia.gov.ua/>.
- [12] DOC PROF. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.docprof.ua/uk/golovna_ua/.
- [13] Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Amendments to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of July 11, 2000 No. 1081". (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://surl.li/knalni>.
- [14] DSTU 4163:2020 "Unified System of Organizational and Administrative Documentation. Requirements for Document Execution". (2020, July). Retrieved from <https://www.kdu.edu.ua/Documents/DSTU41632020v1.pdf>.
- [15] E-health. (n.d.). *Electronic health care system in Ukraine*. Retrieved from <https://ehealth.gov.ua/>.
- [16] Elsafty, A., & Yehia, A. (2023). Digital transformation challenges for government sector. *Business and Management Studies*, 9(1), 11-29. doi: 10.11114/BMS.V9I1.6160.
- [17] Filipova, L., & Shelestova, A. (2024). The issue of electronic document preservation in the context of international information security standards. *Library Science. Record Studies. Informology*, 20(4), 43-55. doi: 10.63009/lrsi/4.2024.43.
- [18] Government Portal. (2025). *10 billion exchanges in the Trembita system: How data flows between registers*. Retrieved from <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/10-miliardiv-obminiv-u-systemi-trembita-iak-bihaiut-dani-mizh-reiestramy>.
- [19] Hryshyn, V. (2024). Features of modern development of electronic document management in digital governance system. *Library Science. Record Studies. Informology*, 20(4), 79-88. doi: 10.63009/lrsi/4.2024.79.
- [20] Hrytsai, S. (2023). *Digitization of government as a global trend of the future: Implementation of the "electronic state" policy (on the example of Ukraine)*. *Reality of Politics. Estimates-Comments-Forecasts*, 24(2), 45-81.

- [21] ISO 15489-1:2018 "Information and Documentation. Records Management. Part 1: Concepts and Principles (ISO 15489-1:2016, IDT)". (2018, December). Retrieved from <https://surli.li/xkagyy>.
- [22] ISO 19005-1 "Electronic Document File Format for Long-Term Preservation – Part 1: Use of PDF 1.4 (PDF/A-1)a". (2017, June). Retrieved from <https://pdfa.org/resource/iso-19005-1-pdf-a-1/>.
- [23] ISO 23081-1:2018 "Information and Documentation. Records Management Processes. Records Metadata. Part 1. Principles (ISO 23081-1:2017, IDT)". (2018, December). Retrieved from <https://surli.li/jbcezzq>.
- [24] ISO/IEC 27001:2013 "Information Technology. Security Techniques. Information Security Management Systems. Requirements". (2013, October). Retrieved from <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso-iec:27001:ed-2:v1:en>.
- [25] Ivaschyshyn, M.V. (2025). *Comparative analysis of digital signature algorithms*. (Bachelor's dissertation, Ivan Pulyuy Ternopil National Technical University, Ternopil, Ukraine).
- [26] Kachkovska, L., Maleonchuk, H., & Vozniuk, Y. (2023). Development of e-government in Ukraine: Current issues of implementation. *International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies*, 3(17), 50-63. doi: 10.29038/2524-2679-2023-03-50-63.
- [27] Karpenko, O., Zaporozhets, T., Tsedik, M., Vasiuk, N., & Osmak, A. (2023). Digital transformations of public administration in countries with transition economies. *European Review*, 31(6), 569-588. doi: 10.1017/S1062798723000522.
- [28] Kayukov, L.L. (2024). Research on cryptographic protection methods in electronic document management. In *Humanitarian and innovative aspects of professional mastery: Research of young scientists: 9th all-Ukrainian scientific and practical conference of students, postgraduates, and young researchers* (pp. 389-394). Odesa: Liha-Pres. doi: 10.36059/978-966-397-357-9-116.
- [29] Kud, A. (2023). Decentralized information platforms in public governance: Reconstruction of the modern democracy or comfort blinding? *International Journal of Public Administration*, 46(3), 195-221. doi: 10.1080/01900692.2021.1993905.
- [30] Law of Ukraine No. 2155-VIII "On Electronic Identification and Electronic Trust Services". (2017, October). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2155-19#Text>.
- [31] Law of Ukraine No. 80/94-BP "On the Protection of Information in Information and Telecommunications Systems". (1994, July). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/80/94-bp#Text>.
- [32] Law of Ukraine No. 851-IV "On Electronic Documents and Electronic Document Management". (2003, May). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/851-15#Text>.
- [33] M.E.Doc. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://medoc.ua/>.
- [34] Manyilova, K., & Norchuk, Y. (2025). *Legal principles of digitalization of public administration in Ukraine: Challenges and perspectives*. *Legal Horizons*, 24.
- [35] Matusiak, J., & Narożniak, A. (2025). *Diia. pl: Navigating legal, technological and human rights dimensions of an electronic document for Ukrainian citizens in Poland*. *Smart Cities and Regional Development (SCRD) Journal*, 9(2), 15-30.
- [36] Matveieva, O., Mamatova, T., Borodin, Y., Gustafsson, M., Wihlborg, E., & Kvitka, S. (2024). *Digital government in conditions of war: Governance challenges and revitalized collaboration between local authorities and civil society in provision of public services in Ukraine*. In *Hawaii International conference on system sciences 2024 (HICSS-57)* (pp. 2002-2011). Hawaii, Honolulu: AIS.
- [37] Megapolis.DocNet. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://surli.cc/tlenao>.
- [38] Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine. (2024). *Letter to the State Regulatory Service of Ukraine on approval of the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "Some issues of compliance with requirements in the areas of electronic identification and electronic trust services" (No. 1/04-1-16123)*. Retrieved from <https://www.drs.gov.ua/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2051.pdf>.
- [39] Morze, N., Makhachashvili, R., Zvonar, V., Ilich, L., & Boiko, M. (2025). *Digital competence for e-governance in Ukraine*. In *Proceedings of the 16th international multi-conference on complexity, informatics and cybernetics: IMCIC 2025* (pp. 1-6). International Institute of Informatics and Cybernetics.
- [40] Opendatabot. (2024). *The Tax Service, the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Health led the anti-rating of the quality of open data*. Retrieved from <https://opendatabot.ua/analytics/opendataday-2024>.
- [41] Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine No. z1421-14 "On Approval of the Procedure for Working with Electronic Documents in Office Records and Their Preparation for Transfer to Archival Storage". (2014, November). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1421-14#Text>.
- [42] Ostapiak, V. (2025). Digital transformation in the public administration system: Challenges and opportunities for Ukraine's national security. *Coordinates of Public Administration*, 1, 529-544. doi: 10.62664/cpa.2025.01.25.
- [43] Petrovich, V., Moskvych, L., Shcherbakova, N., Doroshenko, L., & Alosyn, O. (2025). Regulatory framework for e-documentation and cyber protection amidst society's digital shift. *Salud, Ciencia y Tecnología – Serie de Conferencias*, 4, article number 1336. doi: 10.56294/sctconf20251336.

- [44] Petrovich, V., Nadolska, V., & Charikova, I. (2024). Electronic document management system implementation in Ukraine: Features of legislative regulation. *Current Issues in the Humanities*, 3(72), 10-16. doi: [10.24919/2308-4863/72-3-2](https://doi.org/10.24919/2308-4863/72-3-2).
- [45] Prozorro. (2025). Retrieved from <https://tender.uub.com.ua/>.
- [46] Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council "On Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions in the Internal Market and Repealing Directive 1999/93/EC". (2014, July). Retrieved from https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/984_016-14#Text.
- [47] Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1351-2024-p "On Approval of the Strategy for the Digital Development of Innovative Activity of Ukraine for the Period until 2030 and Approval of the Operational Plan of Measures for its Implementation in 2025-2027". (2024, December). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1351-2024-p#Text>.
- [48] Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 55-2018-n "Certain Issues of Documenting Managerial Activities". (2018, January). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/55-2018-n#Text>.
- [49] SEDO. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://ucu.edu.ua/thedigital/projects/sedo/>.
- [50] Shevchenko, V.O. (2021). *Development of the electronic document management system in Ukraine*. Poltava: National University "Poltava Polytechnic named after Yuri Kondratyuk".
- [51] Sira, M., & Kuzior, A. (2025). Digitalization of government management processes in the context of sustainable development. *Management Systems in Production Engineering*, 33(2), 298-310. doi: [10.2478/mspe-2025-0029](https://doi.org/10.2478/mspe-2025-0029).
- [52] Skibina, T.I. (2024). The role of innovation in public management and administration of Ukraine. *Taurida Scientific Bulletin*, 3, 88-101. doi: [10.32782/tnv-pub.2024.3.11](https://doi.org/10.32782/tnv-pub.2024.3.11).
- [53] Storozhenko, L. (2023). *Digitalization of public governance in conditions of netocratization of society: The legislative framework of Ukraine*. *Copernicus Political and Legal Studies*, 2(1), 30-37.
- [54] Trembita.gov.ua – report for the 4th quarter of 2024. (2025). Retrieved from <https://eu4digitalua.eu/en/news/trembita-gov-ua-zvit-za-4-j-kvartal-2024-roku/>.
- [55] Vasyanova, N.S. (2021). Regulations for electronic documents flow in public governance of Ukraine. In *International scientific and practical conference "Public administration: European development strategies": Conference proceedings* (pp. 72-75). Venice: Izdevnieciba "Baltija Publishing". doi: [10.30525/978-9934-26-045-2-16](https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-045-2-16).
- [56] Vchasno. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://vchasno.ua/>.

Технології документування в системі електронного документообігу державного сектору України

Інна Кононенко

Доктор наук з державного управління, доцент
Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
08401, вул. Сухомлинського, 30, м. Переяслав, Україна
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9553-5339>

Юрій Лященко

Викладач
Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
08401, вул. Сухомлинського, 30, м. Переяслав, Україна
<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-1302-6823>

Анотація. Метою дослідження було всебічне вивчення технологій документування в системах електронного документообігу державного сектору України з акцентом на їхню правову, технічну та організаційну взаємодію. Методологічно робота спиралася на комплексний підхід, що включав порівняльно-правовий аналіз законодавства, контент-аналіз державних інформаційних систем, структурно-функціональний та статистичний методи, за допомогою яких було досліджено практичну реалізацію цифрового документообігу в Україні. У результаті встановлено, що нормативно-правова база України створює достатні умови для функціонування електронного документообігу, однак у практичній площині існує значна фрагментарність у застосуванні стандартів метаданих та протоколів обміну. Аналіз технологічної інфраструктури показав, що основні системи документообігу відрізняються за рівнем безпеки, інтегрованості та сумісності з державними платформами, що призводить до виникнення інформаційних бар'єрів між установами. За допомогою структурно-функціонального аналізу виявлено, що система «Трембіта» стала центральною ланкою міжвідомчої взаємодії, проте водночас підвищила ризики кібератак, про що свідчить зростання інцидентів у 2024 році на 69,8 %. Використання контент-аналізу показало, що системи «Дія» та «Prozorro» забезпечили підвищення цифрової довіри громадян, але залишаються вразливими до проблем автентичності електронних документів і стабільності довготривалого зберігання. Отримані дані також засвідчили, що впровадження хмарних технологій, штучного інтелекту та блокчейн-аудиту є чинниками майбутнього підвищення прозорості та ефективності державного документообігу. У висновках зазначено, що технології документування стають основним інструментом не лише цифровізації адміністративних процесів, а й побудови довіри між державою та суспільством. Практичне значення дослідження полягає у можливості використання отриманих результатів для розробки державних стратегій цифрової інтеграції, оптимізації документообігу та створення єдиної платформи управління електронними документами відповідно до європейських стандартів

Ключові слова: цифровізація; метадані; цифрове урядування; електронний підпис; публічні послуги

Journal
"Society. Document. Communication"

Volume 10, No. 2
2025

Managing Editor:
O. Pluzhnyk

Signed to the print of June 23, 2025
Conventional Printed Sheet 8.8
Circulation 100 copies

Publisher:
Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav
08401, 30 Sukhomlynskyi Str., Pereiaslav, Ukraine
Tel.: +38 (044) 293 11 22
E-mail: info@sdc-journal.com.ua
<https://sdc-journal.com.ua/en>

**Збірник наукових праць
«Соціум. Документ. Комунікація»**

**Том 10, № 2
2025**

Відповідальний редактор:
О. Плужник

Підписано до друку 23 червня, 2025 р.
Ум. друк. арк. 8,8
Тираж 100 прим.

Видавець:
Університет Григорія Сковороди в Переяславі
08401, вул. Сухомлинського, 30, м. Переяслав, Україна
Тел.: +38 (044) 293 11 22
E-mail: info@sdc-journal.com.ua
<https://sdc-journal.com.ua/uk>