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SOURCE AND INFORMATION POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL NETWORKS ABOUT THE RUSSIAN WAR AGAINST UKRAINE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION OF SOURCES

*Abstract. **The purpose of the article** is to determine the specifics of the information potential of social networks as a source complex in the history of the Russo-Ukrainian war and to outline the methodological principles of its analysis and classification. **The research methodology** is based on the principles of historicism, comprehensiveness, objectivity, and systemic and critical approaches. General scientific, historical, and source research methods have been used: analytical, synthetic, logical, typological, heuristic, historical and comparative. Content analysis, scientific sampling, retrospective and analytical monitoring of e-sources have been used to trace the content of various types of social networks about the Russian war against Ukraine. **Scientific Novelty.** The features and significance of the information potential of social networks as a system of specific digital sources for documenting and*

studying the history of the Russo-Ukrainian war have been clarified, and the methodology for their research and classification, source criticism, and determination of the information reliability have been substantiated. At the same time, the author points out the saturation of social networks with hostile and harmful disinformation, fakes, the Russian narratives, and Ukrainophobic posts. **Conclusions**. *In the context of Russia's war against Ukraine, along with the media, the role of social media in the media and information space has grown significantly, and their importance in documenting and interpreting events and facts has increased. They occupy a leading position in the electronic sector of the source base for both military and civilian history, which, in turn, presents new challenges for both traditional and digital source and archival studies. The analysis and ranking of social networks by their representativeness and place in the digital environment of Ukraine, the reliability of information, and their contribution to the formation of historical sources, as well as their classification, have shown the need for a critical attitude to the selection of information, examination of its authorship, motives for creation, completeness, reliability, objectivity, and scholarly value. Source studies of electronic evidence are intended to contribute to the understanding of the genocidal nature, cruelty, and destructive consequences of the Russian aggression and to expose and refute any attempts to justify it.*

Key words: electronic source, social networks, Russo-Ukrainian war, information, research methodology, classification of e-sources.

ДЖЕРЕЛЬНО-ІНФОРМАЦІЙНИЙ ПОТЕНЦІАЛ СОЦІАЛЬНИХ МЕРЕЖ ПРО ВІЙНУ РФ ПРОТИ УКРАЇНИ: МЕТОДОЛОГІЯ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ І КЛАСИФІКАЦІЯ ДЖЕРЕЛ

Анотація. Мета статті. *З'ясувати специфіку інформаційного потенціалу соціальних мереж як джерельного комплексу з історії російсько-української війни, викласти методологічні засади його аналізу і класифікації.* ***Методологія дослідження*** *базується на засадах історизму, всебічності, об'єктивності, системного та критичного підходів. Залучено загальнонаукові, історичні та джерелознавчі методи: аналітичний, синтетичний, логічний, типологічний, евристичний та історико-компаративний. Використовувалися методи контент-аналізу, наукової вибірки, ретроспективний та аналітичний моніторинг е-джерел для простеження контенту різновидів соціальних мереж про війну РФ проти України.* ***Наукова новизна.*** *З'ясовано особливості та значення інформаційного потенціалу соціальних мереж як системи специфічних джерел цифрового формату для документування і вивчення історії російсько-української війни, обґрунтована методологія їх дослідження і класифікації, джерелознавчої критики та встановлення достовірності відомостей. Водночас вказано на засмічення соціальних мереж ворожою і шкідливою дезінформацією, фейками, російськими наративами та українофобськими дописами.* ***Висновки.*** *В умовах війни РФ проти України поряд із ЗМІ набагато зросла роль соціальних мереж у медійно-інформаційному просторі, підвищилося їхнє значення у документуванні й інтерпретації подій і фактів. Вони посідають домінантне місце в електронному секторі джерельної бази з воєнної та цивільної історії, що, зі свого боку, актуалізує нові виклики перед традиційним і електронним джерелознавством та архівознавством. Аналіз і ранжування соціальних мереж за репрезентативністю і місцем у цифровому середовищі України, вірогідністю відомостей, внеском у формування історичних джерел, їхня класифікація засвідчили необхідність критичного ставлення до відбору інформації, проведення експертизи на предмет її авторства, мотивів створення, повноти, достовірності, об'єктивності та наукової цінності. Джерелознавчі студії електронних свідчень покликані сприяти осмисленню геноцидного характеру, жорстокості і руйнівних наслідків російської агресії, викриттю і спростуванню будь-яких спроб її виправдання.*

Ключові слова: електронне джерело, соціальні мережі, російсько-українська війна, інформація, методологія дослідження, класифікація е-джерел.

Problem Statement. In the context of the occupation and genocidal war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, its full-scale phase, social networks have become a powerful tool for national unity and mobilisation of the Ukrainian people to defend the country, support the

army, and help each other. Compared to the armed conflicts of the past, this war has shown a different colouring, as, along with trained people and high-precision weapons, the latest digital technologies and social media play an active role in the hostilities, as well as in their information support and documentation. Social networks produce new types of historical sources in digital format, which require updating the scientific tools for their study, especially an interdisciplinary approach: for a source specialist – attribution, verification, classification of sources, and obtaining reliable information; for a historian – reconstruction of events and facts in the historical context based on them; for an archivist – archiving and preservation of materials. As the dominant carrier of information about the course of the war in real time, electronic sources generated in social media dictate the need for high professionalism and critical thinking of researchers due to the risks of disinformation, manipulation, and bias.

The scientific study of information about the Russo-Ukrainian war recorded in the digital environment of social networks, including Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, etc., is an urgent task for historical, source, and archival studies. The sources they accumulate create new opportunities for researchers but, at the same time, give rise to objective difficulties related to the peculiarities of the methodology of their attribution, verification, classification, selection of information, and its scientific and critical understanding.

Review of Recent Research and Publications. The source complex of the article is formed from the information resources of Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), YouTube, etc., 2022 – 2025, as well as taking into account the source, archival and historiographical results of previous studies. The sources and literature were selected and analysed using both general and specific, primarily interdisciplinary approaches and appropriate methodological tools, considering their predominantly electronic format and such features as wide availability, efficiency, mass, and openness.

Among the first Ukrainian researchers to focus on the digital turn in historical science and the source value of social media as a new type of source were Valentyna Bezdrabko, Volodymyr Kulikov, Maryna Palienko, Heorhii Papakin, Oksana Yurkova, as well as the authors of this article, who in their studies considered and analysed the experience of Ukrainian and foreign scholars in the study of digital history (Kulikov, 2013, p. 29); the communication status of Facebook as a medium (Yurkova, 2015, p. 32); the issues of methodology and techniques of digital historiography, historical source studies and archival studies, the essence of such concepts as electronic source, electronic archive, electronic resources of libraries and archives (Kalakura, Palienko, 2017, 2021, p. 55; Palienko, 2022); the social network Twitter in the United States and its impact on the functioning of digital archive systems (Bezdrabko, 2018, p. 87); the differences between digital sources and traditional ones and their categorisation depending on the ways of creation (Papakin, 2021, p. 161).

The experience of using digital technologies in the studies of the Ukrainian historians is highlighted in the articles by Oleksandr Bondarenko, Svitlana Orlyk, and Mark Pyzyk (Bondarenko, Orlyk, & Pyzyk, 2024), as well as by Vitalii Telvak and Viktor Werner in the context of researching historical figures on the World Wide Web (Telvak, & Werner, 2023, p. 236).

The study of technologies for searching for historical information in the Internet sources with the highlighting of the information potential of historical events and the development of algorithms for their detection is presented in the studies (Peleshchyshyn, Bilushchak, 2016, 2017; Shu, Bhattacharjee, Alatawi, Nazer, Ding, Karami, & Liu, 2020). Such research is important in determining the spread of a manipulative content, fake information, and disinformation and verification of electronic sources, as well as methodologies for establishing

their reliability, especially in the study of information sources generated by the Russian war against Ukraine, which are mainly concentrated in the media and social networks.

From the perspective of the context of the Russo-Ukrainian war and the content of our study, we have taken into account some related studies (Makarova, 2023, p. 28; Kot, Mozolevska, Polishchuk, & Stodolinska, 2024; Faichuk, Myroshnichenko, Vakulych, Fihol, & Stohnii, 2023; Mozolevska, 2024) that highlight the specifics of sources of operational information, visual narratives, illustrations, memes, and linguistic constructions.

It is worth noting the important contribution to the supplementation and development of conceptual and theoretical approaches to the subject of research, a number of studies, in particular, research on the influence of social networks and social motives of individuals used collectively to exert social influence in the community is presented in the study (Contractor, & DeChurch, 2014) in the form of a structured system of influence as a synthesis of research on networks of social influence structures and research on social influence processes in psychology. In parallel with this research, it is important to analyse the influence of social networks on everyday life, as well as the way people interact with each other and their reception of information, as discussed in the article (Hochwald, 2013), which describes in great detail the transition from "one-to-many" communication to "many-to-many" communication, which can sometimes lead to unpredictable events, in particular the presentation of conflicts that need to be assessed from both sides. Regarding the importance of researching the potential of source criticism for platform logic, scientific research has been conducted in the study (Koch, & Kinder-Kurlanda, 2020), which focuses on the analysis of big data obtained from the Internet, and, based on this research, approaches to processing large data sets can be seen. The article (Hansen, 2009) focuses on the study of social network theory and analysis for combating social injustice, analysing their applicability through three strategies: mapping social structures; creating, developing, and managing social networks; and developing social capital. The reasons and motives behind people creating social networks, as well as a description of social media platforms, their tools, usefulness, and main characteristics, are presented in the study (Szymański, 2017) using examples of the military use of social media.

Despite a considerable amount of research on the information potential of social media, the methodological issues of its research and involvement in the study of the Russo-Ukrainian war remain insufficiently understood and relevant, especially with regard to the methodology of criticism of e-sources, their attribution, type-specific classification, and authentication.

The purpose of the research is to explore the peculiarities of the information potential of social media as a system of specific digital sources for documenting and studying the history of the Russo-Ukrainian war, to substantiate the methodology of their classification, the methodology of source criticism and authentication, and to propose ways to prevent the information pollution of social media with hostile and harmful disinformation, fakes, the Russian narratives, and Ukrainophobic posts.

Research Results. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, social media has become not only a means of communication for the Ukrainians but also a multifaceted source of information about the course of hostilities and their perception both at home and abroad. According to the civil society organisation OPORA, in 2023, social media were the leading source of news for almost 88% of the Ukrainians. Therefore, they are also becoming an important communication channel for the media: for example, the Ukrainian Public Broadcasting Company has 524,000 followers on Facebook and 313,000 on Telegram. By organically combining in the information and digital dimension the enemy's

armed aggression, genocide, and occupation of part of Ukraine's territory on the one hand and the heroism of the Ukrainians in defending their homeland on the other, the media and social networks promptly and extensively document military events in real time and space, creating important digital source and archive tools for researchers (Bilushchak, 2021, p. 37).

Modern source studies consider an "electronic source" as a specific version or type of a traditional source presented in an electronic (digital) format (Kalakura, 2017, p. 68). Given the digital nature and functional specificity of online platforms, social media information can be interpreted as an electronic source containing textual, audiovisual, and multimedia materials available for analysis and storage in information systems. The presence of a large number, volume, and variety of types and types of sources generated in social media encourages researchers to group and classify them in order to choose the best methods for studying the characteristics of each group. Historical source studies have several classification schemes that can be used to group e-sources. In our opinion, the most productive schemes can be a typological scheme based on the concept of "phenomenon", i.e., the form, external properties, and characteristic features of the source type, as well as classification by species. The external ("material") form of the source allows us to determine the way it reflects reality and the nature of the information received (Kalakura, 2015, p. 190).

In view of this, within the digital information resources about the causes, nature, and course of the Russo-Ukrainian war formed in social networks, in particular Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, and YouTube, electronic sources can be divided into the following types: verbal (written), audio, visual, material, behavioural, and conventional (symbolic). (Fig. 1, left).
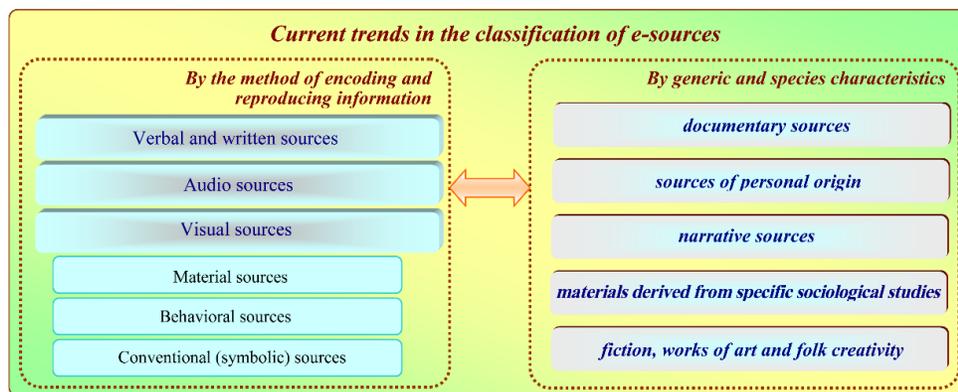
Fig. 1. Current Trends in the Classification of E-sources

Source: developed by the authors

Despite some common features, each of these groups occupies a certain share of the information potential of a particular platform and has its own peculiarities of information coding, which should be taken into account when choosing research methods.

Verbal and written sources – occupy a priority place in the information space of social networks, from 55 to 65%. Formed through word formation, this type of electronic source is characterised by the broadest range of digital information: documentary and textual evidence, messages from official institutions and individuals, scientific and journalistic

materials, comments from eyewitnesses, the military, journalists, and ordinary social media users. Verbal information is often supplemented with illustrations, clarified by other digital sources – sound, visual, etc. At the same time, it is often politically biased and used for manipulative purposes, and the so-called information "dumps" are particularly harmful.

Among the verbal sources, diary entries on social media are of great value, as they are a specific form of digital documentation (most of these materials are concentrated on Facebook). Here, Facebook diaries of eyewitnesses to the occupation and direct participants in the hostilities are a crucial source of recording war experience, and a typical example is the diary of a military medic, which created a thematic archive using the hashtag #zapiskydoktorazholoba (Zholob, 2022 – 2024).

The share of audio sources in different networks is not equal. The largest share is on Facebook and Instagram, accounting for 10 – 15% of sources. This type of e-sources is presented in the form of digital files of audio recordings of official events, radio intercepts, podcasts of the military, experts, journalists, historians, and interviews with refugees and prisoners of war. They vary in genre, purpose, motivation, format, volume and completeness, and reliability of information. An example is the video of the attack on the city of Sumy on 26 January 2025, which was captured on Closed-Circuit Television and published by the media resource Suspilne. Sumy's Instagram account, where the sound of the explosion is clearly distinguishable, enhances the emotional impact of the event, informs us that the explosion took place, and takes us to the military reality (Public Sumy, 2025).

Visual sources are among the dominant electronic sources in the structure of social media, which are digital files of various formats and sizes and are perceived by the visual senses: photographs, paintings, infographics, maps, and diagrams that visually record the course of military events. In some networks, this array reaches 15 – 25%. It also includes combined sources on electronic media: sound films (documentaries and fiction), video materials, etc. Photographs documenting the work of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine during the aftermath of the Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure and civilians are of a unique informational value. Such pictures visually document the tragedies caused by the shelling and, at the same time, testify to the heroism of the rescuers. An example is an Instagram post about the devastating consequences of a missile attack on Kyiv on 24 April 2024 (Kyiv Main Dept. of SESU, SES of Ukraine, 2025).

In the context of the Russo-Ukrainian war, there has been an increase in visual forms representing historical events, which are manifested in numerous illustrations and memes that are transformed into a diverse range of image sources that actualise collective memory and emotional understanding of the war experience. Illustrations tend to draw attention to specific events and form a symbolism of resistance through images of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, volunteers, and medics, as well as perpetuate the memory of war victims. At the same time, memes respond quickly to current information events in the form of ironic, satirical, exaggerated, or parodic representation, and at the same time serve as a psychological relief.

Material sources overlap with or merge into visual sources, making up 10 – 15% of social media content. They are presented mostly in the format of digitised images of war artefacts, including photographs or videos of weapons, their fragments, military equipment, dugouts, destroyed buildings, as well as monuments and graves of heroes, etc. An example of this type of e-source is the information resource "War Up Close" (War Up Close, 2022 – 2024), presented in two sections, "War in 360⁰" and "War 3D", which provide an idea of the affected buildings, cities, infrastructure, historical and cultural monuments. At the same time,

it should be noted that the digitised exhibits of these projects are not fully available on social media for obvious reasons.

Behavioural sources are a special type of electronic evidence that usually functions as a segment of other types, recording that part of the general information that reflects the behaviour, actions, and deeds of people. They record the psychology and behaviour of war participants at the front and in the rear, in captivity and evacuation. It also includes the reaction of the authorities and the public to the Russian aggression, acts of resistance, rallies, demonstrations, diplomatic negotiations, etc. The behaviour of the residents of Kherson on 5 March 2022, when they met the occupiers with the Ukrainian flags and slogans confirming their resistance to the occupiers and that their city is and will remain Ukrainian can serve as an example of indomitable spirit, including the following: "A criminal investigation officer with the Ukrainian flag jumps onto an enemy armored personnel carrier on the move" (Police of Kherson region, 2022).

Conventional (symbolic) sources reflect facts, phenomena, and events in electronic parameters, mostly in a conditional or graphic form. In the context of military operations, these include symbols on military clothing, equipment, unit emblems, flags, coloured markings for friend-or-foe recognition, military chevrons, slogans, graphic symbols that convey encrypted or open information about enemy losses and weapons, as well as design and technical documentation, cardiograms, and musical notes. Charts, graphs, and infographics created during the full-scale war provide valuable information. For example, the European Pravda's X (Twitter) account published a chart created by the British intelligence, which states that in 2024, the Russian Federation suffered record losses in killed and wounded in the war against Ukraine, with December being the month of the highest losses (European Pravda, 2025).

Our proposed classification of electronic sources by type and method of recording information, like any other scheme, is conditional. Take drones, for example. On the one hand, this is a tangible source, but in the digital dimension, it is perceived as a visual one with a verbal description, and when a sound video or TikTok is viewed, the sound it contains can be heard, resembling the operation of a chainsaw.

For research work with social media sources, it is important to classify them by authorship. In this case, priority is given to those testimonies that belong to direct participants in the war – politicians and military leaders, commanders, soldiers, military doctors, chaplains, volunteers, journalists, and, of course, professional historians. This classification applies to all types of sources – written, visual, sound, etc. – as it is important for establishing the reliability and completeness of information. In addition, depending on the topic and purpose of the study, each type of source can be classified by its type and purpose at the stage of creation.

In our opinion, in studies directly related to the Russo-Ukrainian war, it is advisable to use a classification scheme based on the genus-species principle (Fig. 1, right). Within this scheme, the following types of written, audio, and visual evidence generated in social media can be distinguished:

– *documentary sources* (legislative acts, official documents of state and military authorities, civil society institutions: political parties, professional, women's, youth, and volunteer organisations);

– *narrative sources* – scientific, educational, publicistic, journalistic works, information materials;

– *personal sources* (autobiographies, diaries, memoirs, letters);

– *materials derived from specific sociological studies* (online surveys conducted by sociological services; monitoring of the level of trust in the government, the Armed Forces of

Ukraine, the media, opinion leaders, volunteers, attitudes towards mobilisation, evacuation, etc. All networks present the results of surveys conducted by such services as the Razumkov Centre, Rate1, Socis, the Rating sociological group, and others in one form or another.

– *fiction, works of art, and folk creativity*. The originality of the sources in this group lies in the fact that they reflect the course of the war in a very subtle and imaginative way through artistic and emotional comprehension of its existential nature. The war gave rise to a special style and content of poetry and songwriting. Among them, artistic documentaries based on real facts and specific personalities are particularly valuable.

In research, it is important to take into account that with the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the introduction of martial law, a number of bans also affected social media, including content on military equipment, positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and checkpoints, which limited the documentation and display of information about events, phenomena, and figures in full.
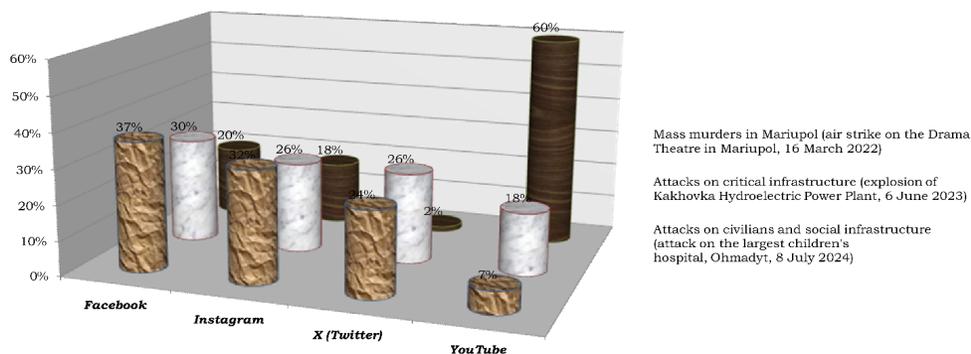
As it has been already noted, the study of e-sources about the nature, scale, and course of the war created and disseminated by social media requires updating the methodology of their attribution, critical analysis, structuring, and determining the reliability of information based on scientific principles and various methods of electronic source research. The process of researching social media source information is quite lengthy and can be divided into five conditional step-by-step stages, each of which involves a set of specific methods and ways to solve the relevant objectives to achieve the ultimate goal (Fig. 2).
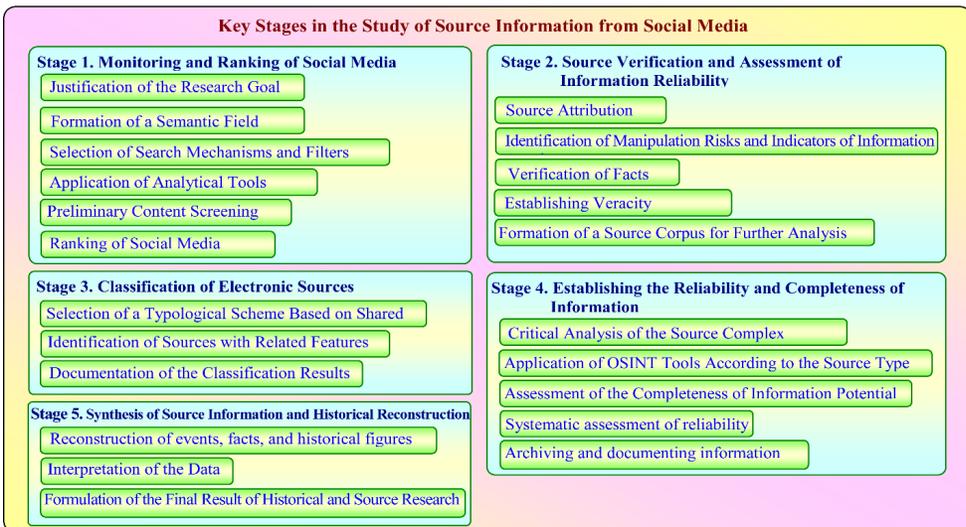
Fig. 2. Key Stages in the Study of Source Information from Social Media
Source: developed by the authors

The first of these stages is aimed at preliminary monitoring of social networks and their ranking by the volume and level of coverage of the issue under study (as an example, ranking by content or topic: see Figure 3).

Mass murders in Mariupol (air strike on the Drama Theatre in Mariupol, 16 March 2022)

Attacks on critical infrastructure (explosion of Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant, 6 June 2023)

Attacks on civilians and social infrastructure (attack on the largest children's hospital, Ohmadyt, 8 July 2024)

Fig. 3. Ranking of media platforms by content

Source: authors' own calculations

Having decided on the choice of social media, we proceed to the strategic modelling of the parameters of the selection of historical e-sources, taking into account the value of their source and information potential in the context of the research topic. The ***next step*** is to verify and determine the reliability of the source information. In this case, it is important to attribute each source, establish its authorship, and the risks of manipulative or biased influence on the content of the information provided.

The ***third stage*** involves classification, i.e., determining the type and type of electronic sources determining their belonging to the appropriate group: verbal (written), audio, visual, material, behavioural, and conventional (symbolic). In case of difficulties in grouping, it is necessary to focus on the priority feature of the source. The key objective of the ***fourth stage*** is to select, on the basis of the attribution and typology of sources, effective methods and techniques for their historical and source criticism and analysis (Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) methodology) to determine the reliability and completeness of the information potential. In the ***fifth stage***, on the basis of the information recorded in the formed source complex, we reconstruct events, facts, and personalities. As a result, we get the final result of historical and source research.

It is worth noting that in the process of searching for information and accumulating empirical data, it is important to make optimal use of search operators, keywords, and hash-tags adapted to each of the selected social networks. In our study, for the content analysis of war crimes committed by the Russian army, we identified the following thematic categories: mass killings and devastation of settlements, attacks on critical infrastructure, and ballistic missiles on civilian and socio-cultural objects. Each of these categories is based on key events reflected on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, and YouTube. These include: an air strike on the Drama Theatre in Mariupol (March 16, 2022); the explosion of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station (June 6, 2023); an attack on the largest children's hospital, Okhmatdyt in Kyiv (July 8, 2024); the bombing of the historic centre of Odesa (July 20, 2024), etc. An idea of the amount of information about these crimes in the above-mentioned networks is shown in Figure 3. Their analysis showed that, for example, the attack on the Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital was most fully covered on YouTube – 60%, while only 2% was covered on X (Twitter). The explosion of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station received the most coverage on Facebook (30%) and the least on YouTube (18%). These quantitative indicators

show not only the attention of different social media platforms to the events but also indicate gaps, the elimination of which will help to further determine the completeness and reliability of e-sources.

Taking into account the above methodological approaches to the study of information flows in social media is important for avoiding the facts of hostile disinformation, as well as for preventing and refuting them. One of the possible ways to prevent disinformation based on the theory of "inoculation" (McGuire, 1970, p. 37) is to warn social media users about the possibility of such inoculations by referring to alternative sources and interpretations (Lewandowsky, & van der Linden, 2021, p. 8) and developing a strong immunity to hostile disinformation. An effective means of countering disinformation is to increase media literacy (Novoselskyi, 2020, p. 91) and to develop critical thinking among different age groups. Fact-checking platforms, in particular, help to verify dubious information, identify false or biased messages, and develop critical skills in analysing media content: StopFake, VoxUkraine, MythDetector, EUvsDisinfo, expert refutations of false information, as well as prompt response from government, military and academic institutions. A multifaceted strategy to combat disinformation in the context of a full-scale war in Ukraine is being implemented by the Centre for Countering Disinformation at the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine and the Centre for Strategic Communications and Information Security at the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, which coordinate measures to identify information threats, including propaganda and public manipulation. The Ministry of Digital Transformation is actively using new, more advanced technologies to counter disinformation.

According to a study by the international analytical platform Statcounter (April 2024 – April 2025), the share of views by the Ukrainian audience on social platforms is as follows: Facebook – 33,38%, YouTube – 24,18%, Instagram – 18,96%, X (Twitter) – 7,31%. Given these statistics, we can conclude that Facebook, as the most popular social network, is quite vulnerable to disinformation campaigns, in particular from pro-Russian bot farms that spread fakes and so-called "information bubbles".

Conclusions. In the context of Russia's war against Ukraine, along with the media, the role of social media in the information space has grown significantly, and their importance in documenting and interpreting events and facts has increased. They account for the lion's share of the electronic sector of the source base for military and civilian history, which in turn poses new challenges to traditional and electronic source studies and archival studies.

The analysis and ranking of social networks by their representativeness, popularity, and place in the information space of Ukraine, reliability of the information, and contribution to the formation of historical sources allowed us to propose the following ranking: Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), and YouTube.

An important research method of cognitive work with sources created in the social and media space is their classification, i.e., grouping by dominant features for deeper research and obtaining more reliable information. The most productive scheme for grouping electronic sources is to divide them by the way they encode and reproduce information. Based on the common and related features of the sources generated in social networks, the following types are identified: verbal (written), audio, visual, material, behavioural, and conventional (symbolic) sources. Given the specifics of the functioning of social media under martial law, the genus-species classification is also fruitful, especially in relation to written, visual, and sound sources.

The analysis of the main groups of sources showed the need for a critical attitude to the selection and attribution of sources, determining their authorship, motives for creation,

conducting an examination of the completeness, reliability, objectivity, and scientific value of the information recorded in them, taking into account the risks of disinformation, manipulation, and bias.

The methodology for classifying social media sources devoted to the Russian-Ukrainian war opens up ***prospects for further research*** into their informational potential. In particular, it is relevant to analyse the impact of various types of e-sources on the formation of public opinion, track the dynamics of the dissemination of operational information, prevent hostile disinformation on digital platforms, and apply generic classification schemes to systematise sources and assess their impact on the perception of historical events.

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