

DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND TRAINING STUDENTS TO WORK WITH SOURCES: THE EXAMPLE OF STUDYING THEOSOPHICAL JOURNALISM OF THE RUSSIAN EMIGRATION OF 1920s-1930s

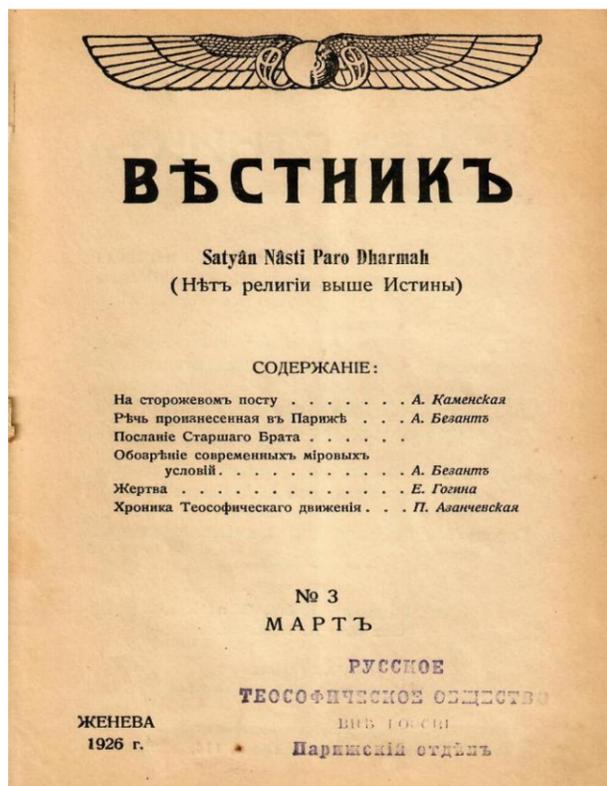


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Introduction

At present, it is difficult to imagine conducting historical research without the involvement of information and communication technologies. Accordingly, teachers discuss methods of teaching students new methods of working with historical sources in order to form their research competencies.



The Theosophical journal "Vestnik", published in Geneva from 1924 to 1940 in Russian

Conclusion

Modern liberal arts education presupposes the obligatory study of the possibilities of Digital Humanities.

Training in higher educational institutions for future historians currently contains of students involvement in project activities, which allows them to form the competencies of a researcher. In the course of preparing students for implementation of such projects, students should get acquainted with the possibilities of "Digital Humanities", learn the methodology of working on the Internet with historical resources. The most interesting is the holding of seminars on little-known historical problems.

Results

The author proposes an algorithm for considering the historian's new tools in the classroom solving the problem of finding various sources, including periodicals of the Theosophical societies of Russian emigrants, as well as the possibility of some software products for analyzing the found content.

At the first stage, students must learn to find sources in electronic databases.

A number of sources are kept in the State Archive of the Russian Federation, which catalogs can be found on the special portal "Archives of Russia" (<http://www.rusarchives.ru>).

However, a comprehensive reconstruction of the history of emigre organizations is impossible without an analysis of their periodicals.

At the second stage of training, the teacher must show students that searching the Internet for information about emigrant journals cannot be done by entering simple queries, since the information search algorithm is formally logical, without taking into account the requirements of historical science. That is, most often, in response to a request, information is dropped out that is in demand by the mass consumer, and not by the scientific community.

That is why the research scientist must study query languages. And also when searching for information to be guided by scientific registers, bibliographic reviews.

The most famous magazine of Russian emigrants-theosophists "Vestnik". Speaking about access to the list and issues of the "Vestnik", it is obvious that some issues of the journal have been digitized and are available in electronic libraries and specialized journals. Students can be shown an electronic database - the portal "Emigrantica" (<http://www.emigrantica.ru/>), containing a consolidated catalog of periodicals from the Russian diaspora.

At the third stage, working with students, one should draw their attention to the fact that the historian's job is also to interpret the found content. The identification and creation of the source base of any historical research should not replace one's own theoretical conclusions, reconstruction of the general historical picture. That is why active work is currently underway to create new tools for working with large amounts of data.

Among the important tools for the historian are programs for content analysis of texts. In Russia, popular programs are: "CONTENT-ANALYSIS Pro", the rights to which belongs to the research committee "Theory of Social Systems" of the Russian Society of Sociologists (<http://ecsocman.hse.ru/text/35480087>), the VAAL system (<http://www.vaal.ru/>).

The result of the lesson with students on the use of information and communication technologies for the search and analysis of periodicals of Russian emigrants-theosophists should be not only the continuation of the formation of the competence of searching for sources on the Internet, but the students' awareness that the modern level of Digital Humanities gives the researcher the opportunity to use the Internet as a reference book, library, archive, and ultimately, as a laboratory of a historian.