

Address from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Reader!

Before you is the last issue of the "Ukrainian Information Space". Such a confession from the Editor-in-Chief, as an initiator of the foundation and an unchanging creator of this journal, will certainly be unexpected for many readers, authors and sympathisers of this journal from among the specialists. For the author of these lines, a long-time journalist-practitioner and lecturer-professor of journalism, it is filled with a taste of bitterness and regret, as if caused by a loss of something special that was so close to the soul and heart.

History has measured this scientific journal a little more than 8 years of existence. For the period of the Ukrainian state formation in development, which was full of social and political upheavals at the turn of the millennium, this is not so little.

It is well known that Ukrainian science in general and the humanities in particular, which is currently in a state of protracted crisis. But there is no doubt that it will someday emerge into the expanses of renewal and purification.

From what, if to ask?

First of all, from the cancerous tumors of plagiarism and scientific dishonesty, compilativity and superficiality, opportunism and business-likeness. This is what is threatening and uncharacteristic of classical science, like mistletoe on a tree, corrodes, weakens and discredits a body of the Ukrainian science, demotivates decent, honest, obsessed researchers, in love with the subjects of their studies.

There is a conviction that only after processes of degradation of the Ukrainian science and education are stopped, which has been discussed for many years in a number of sharp publications in the open press, will values that the editorial board of the "UIS" professed be reclaimed, and our attempts and achievements will be properly studied and evaluated.

It is for future researchers of the history of Ukrainian humanities that I offer to present in theses a few characteristics that distinguish and emphasise the trace of

the "UIS" both in the sphere of journalism and bibliography of this science, and in the history of the Ukrainian journalism.

But before that, here are some valuable digital data for analysis.

Over the years of its existence, 17 issues of the "UIS" have been published, the volume of each of which fluctuated within 300 pages. In total, there are 3430 of them. The entire scope of scientific production contained on these pages is 326 accounting and publishing sheets. The total number of articles is 312. Their authors are more than 360 scientists.

A few words about the geographical section in the context of Ukraine and the world in total. The editorial board has established close creative contacts and has engaged journalism researchers from different parts of the world, including the USA, Great Britain, Poland, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Germany.

Over the years of its existence, 17 issues of the "UIS" have been published. The volume of each of which has fluctuated within 300 pages. In total, there have been 3430 of them. The entire scope of scientific production has contained on these pages is 326 accounting and publishing sheets. The total number of articles has been 312. Their authors have been more than 360 researchers.

Something about the geographical section in the context of Ukraine and the entire world. The editorial staff has established close creative contacts and involved in cooperation researchers-journalists who are from different parts of the world, in particular the USA, Great Britain, Poland, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Germany.

As for the Ukrainian geographical places, in addition to Kyiv, our authors work at the universities of Lviv, Zaporizhia, Chernivtsi, Cherkasy, Rivne, Ternopil, Vinnytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Sumy and other regional scientific centres.

Among the notable authors are the following ones: an academician Ivan Dzyuba, professors of Ukrainian studies Yaroslav Kalakura, Vasyl Yaremenko, Maryna Palienko, Lyudmila Filipovych, ministers and heads of the industry.

The language status of the journal was Ukrainian-English. The editorial staff included an English-speaking editor. Therefore, we never relied on translations carried out by some authors through automated programmes from Google.

Strict adherence to the editorial policy and the editorial programme announced in the first issue, as well as high-quality articles by authoritative authors, as well as made it possible to display the journal on 14 network scientific platforms, indexed in international and national scientific-metric databases and catalogues. The journal has a Certificate of the authoritative database Index Copernicus in the Western world. And from the seventh, in accordance with the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of

Ukraine dated by April 15, 2021 No. 420 (Appendix 3), the "UIS" has been included in the list of scientific professional publications of Ukraine in 2 specialties: 061 – "Journalism" and 029 "Information, Library, Archive Studies".

And now, here are short answers to the questions:

- How exactly did the "UIS" stand out from other scientific journals?
- What was special about the editorial policy and what content dominants determine its content and express the problem-thematic palette?

Here are a few fundamental messages.

1. The "UIS" is perhaps the only publication in Ukraine with the status of a scientific and practical one, in which the history, present and future of the Ukrainian national journalism and books pulsate like a living nerve. Definitely in tune with the world. Each issue professed the goals declared from the beginning: to become a defender and promoter of the science of journalism, publishing and book studies with a human and national look, but in the European context. It was formed in compliance with the standards, developed for this important state-building profession by more than one generation of predecessors at home and in the civilised world.

2. Authors who are not indifferent to the fate of this profession have repeatedly made desperate attempts to free national journalism from the shackles of social communications, in which it found itself in the early 2000s after the transfer by non-professionals, heads of the educational programmes – from philological to an artificially created direction of social communications.

3. The journal's publications consistently asserted theses about an urgent need to return in scientific research and in the teaching of professional disciplines in the speciality of "Journalism" what had been erased from it: the text in its various literary forms or genres, international and national standards of the profession, self-sufficiency, individuality, interrupted tradition of missionary work in the creation, along with literature of a mature nation. The highlights of such a struggle was an acutely problematic analytical article "How to free journalism from the shackles of mass communication theories: on the problem of teaching professional disciplines at journalism faculties of Ukrainian universities" (Issue 7, 2021).

4. Fundamental elements of the journal's editorial policy were attempts to restore the classical approaches to scientific activity in the area of journalism and information that had been discredited in recent decades: the spirit of professionalism, research integrity, completeness and comprehensiveness in the processing of empirical material, persuasiveness, logic, Ukrainian-centricity of the presentation of opinions, independence of conclusions.

5. The journal declared war on pseudoscientific and scholastic theories that have no relation to media practice. They stood in defense of specifically

national professional terminology, in defense of it from the dominance of the currently fashionable foreign language.

6. Pages of this journal contain a number of articles that have caused scientific discussions among Ukrainian journalism researchers. This was, in particular, an article “Genres of Journalism as a Scientific and Practical Problem: to Provoke Professional Polemics of Media Theorists and Practitioners” (Issue 10, 2022). The discussion about the so-called hybridisation of genres, about the terminological and substantive confusion in the teaching of main professional disciplines was continued by the creators of the Journalistic Journal of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

7. The journal was also marked by sensational publications. Such was, for example, an article “The First Ukrainian Printer Stepan Dropan, not Ivan Fedorovych” (Issue 4, 2019). It was supplemented by the first edition in translation from the old Latin language of archival documents that had been stored in Lviv for hundreds of years. They were about the first local printing house, Stepna Dropana, from 1460 (112 years before the arrival of the first Russian printer Ivan Fedorovych there from Moscow). This publication finally destroyed another myth of the “Russian world” about the secondary status of Ukrainian printing, as well as its dependence and subordination to Moscow.

8. From the very beginning of the journal's founding, the history of journalism, including on the least known mainland of the Ukrainian diaspora, was identified as one of the priorities of editorial policy. The relevant sections did not always include what came to the editorial office “by chance”. In most cases, venerable authors were ordered to write little-studied themes, with a mandatory archival component and rare, poorly accessible to researchers, illustrations.

9. UIS became the first platform for publishing individual, most fundamental, sections of the author's new textbook “Fundamentals of Journalism”, built, for the first time in Ukraine, according to the best examples of educational lectures on the journalistic profession tolerated in the West.

These are capacious and convincing characteristics of the features of this journal's content and its main problem-thematic markers. At the same time, one cannot fail to notice those peculiarities that concern the organisational aspect of the scientific journal's reaction activities and its editorial policy. In such a view, the following should be highlighted.

1. This is almost the only publication in Ukraine, the entrance to which is not difficult. Moreover, without monetary “extortions”, which has become a shameful phenomenon of the modern Ukrainian scientific periodicals. Currently, virtually all scientific periodicals in Ukraine have switched to a business path of development: if you want to see your article published, you need to pay money. Order for good money from companies that have started working openly, they have websites with detailed price lists: how

much it costs to order not only a scientific article, but also... a monograph, a textbook, and even a thesis...

2. The journal, founded and published by KNUCA, gave "green" light for publications to everyone: from masters to professors; from their own (who are on the university staff) to strangers (from other universities). The criteria for everyone are unchanged and transparent: a) scientific integrity; b) originality; c) pro-Ukrainianness (in the specifics of the world) of the problem. The first two requirements are necessarily checked upon receipt of the article via the "cool" programme "Anti-plagiarism" (it digs deeply and dispassionately). The third requirement is in the sphere of competence of the editor-in-chief.

3. Throughout all these years, the "UIS" was published illustrated, and illustrations were submitted in colour. This is especially valuable for reproducing the original archival documents, which capture the spirit of the epoch and the trepidation of the souls of their creators.

The cessation of the "UIS" publication will mean that there will be fewer virtuous, professional, patriotic Ukrainian humanitarian science, which, in spite of the seemingly insurmountable challenges of the vile wartime brought to our lands by the eternal enemy of Ukrainians, lives and develops.

I think this issue requires thoughtful reflection as in memoirs.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank the authors of the journal, friends and like-minded people who all this time walked alongside.

It was they who, with their good articles, fed a nerve that is responsible for the constant desire of the obsessed, brave and talented for new knowledge, as well as for the search for truth, discovery, comprehension, generalisation and desire to make this world kinder, more interesting, more comfortable for all living things.

It is these who have held and continue to hold the line – in defense and affirmation of the Ukrainian National Journalism with my unchanging "Four Ps" (in Ukrainian): Decency, Professionalism, Patriotism, Uprightness.

Mykola Tymoshyk,
Editor-in-Chief of the journal
"Ukrainian Information Space"