

THE PROJECTS «GLOBAL ARCHIVE» AND «HERITAGE» FOR THE SAVING OF UAP-ARCHIVES

Kalytyuk I.M.¹, Gershtein M.B.², Petrov S.O.³

¹*expert information-technology department SRCAA "Zond", Ukraine,
mailto:kontaktkoordinator@gmail.com*

²*expert of system-analytical department SRCAA "Zond", Russia, mailto:ufo_miger@mail.ru,*

³*expert of system-analytical department SRCAA "Zond", Ukraine, mailto:petrov@zond.kiev.ua*

Abstract: Preservation and heredity of knowledge transfer are the key to the stability of any area of research. In ufology, on the one hand, a significant amount of material accumulates incessantly, on the other hand, there is a continuous loss of qualitative and quantitative components of materials. Numerous examples of the loss of valuable materials for various reasons – show the importance and urgency of this issue. The article describes in detail the essence of the problem of storing ufological archives, and also shows in a real example how to solve it. The connection between the Global Archive and Heritage projects is shown, as well as the scheme of documentation circulation, developed by the SRCAA "Zond" through joint efforts. The main result of preservation and digitization of archival materials is the convenience of further processing, a significant reduction in the risk of loss. The stages of archival data processing, nuances of the software used for this purpose are described in detail. Examples of the effectiveness of the use of archival data are demonstrated. In fact, Ukraine currently has the largest electronic archive of UFO and AAP registration and study materials in the world. The developed scheme of processing and systematization of documents has proved its effectiveness, and can be applied by any other organizations, institutions that collect materials or explore the unknown. Materials of the ufological subculture, and a set of scientific identifications of UFOs and the study of AAP, the search for extraterrestrial life have scientific value, primarily historical.

Introduction. A researcher who decides to study UFOs is forced to rely mainly on his own experience, spending time getting acquainted with the literature, which is far from always available in free access, spending time searching for historical materials on UFOs in his region or country, compile catalogs or watch lists instead of adding individually investigated cases to a single database, etc. A UFO researcher spends a significant part of his time and finances on what has already been done many times before him.

The purpose and objectives of the research. In any science, the acquired knowledge is accumulated, systematized, and made available to the next generation. There is a unified system of classification, terminology, refereed journals with indexing of articles, reliable storage of the obtained material, and raising the rank of a scientist in proportion to his knowledge and achievements, etc. Ufology is only approaching these standards, and the number of scientific publications in this field is still relatively small. A low degree of formalization and standardization also leads to the fact that clear professional requirements and requirements for the product of activity are not put forward, and therefore a pseudo-expert environment is formed, with unorganized publications, low responsibility, and inconsistent terminology. The degree of use of strict scientific standards and ethical norms in research also needs to be improved.

Unlike research funded by either the state or private capital, ufology mainly requires other sources of funding. As a rule, the study of UFOs is secondary work, in the time free from the main work, which cannot but affect the quality and duration of research. However, it is also difficult to capitalize on such research. The most honest way is to create your own ufological organization with membership fees and a printed newsletter. However, but acting to obtain and implement grants, publishing in indexed publications, etc., researchers are forced to engage more in the popularization of research than the research itself, which is a general trend of modern globalized science. Other methods lead to the appearance of materials of a low scientific level, or even falsified ones, which distorts the general scientific picture since the collected materials are considered mainly as a potential means of profit, and not as something that has scientific and applied value. In other cases, the capitalization leads to restrictions in the dissemination of the acquired knowledge, or attempts to hide it. Ultimately, this leads to a loss of materials. This is how the priceless archives of Veynyk, the author of manuscripts on UFO movement systems, and Ryom Varlamov perished.

If a researcher dies without taking care of the fate of his archives, then one of the first to want to appropriate the accumulated materials will be those who see in them only a monetary component. In the absence of a will, all materials will most likely immediately disappear from view and become inaccessible to serious researchers. This happens not only with lone ufologists, but also with large organizations. For example, APRO, founded in 1952 by Jim and Coral Lorenzen, was once the third largest organization in the United States. It had more than 25 thousand members and representatives on all continents. An archive with a dossier of 15,000 UFO sightings and many other materials was kept by the founders of the organization. But in the late 1980s, Jim and Coral died. "Ufologists" Brian Myers and Tina Choate of Scottsdale, Arizona, persuaded Lara Lorenzo (the heir) to hand over the APRO archive. The documents were taken out on several trucks and, due to lack of space, were dumped in a damp garage. Since then, no one has seen them. But that's not the worst either. It happens that relatives throw all the papers of the deceased into the trash, considering them unnecessary junk. In the scientific world, such a loss of knowledge in peacetime is impossible. We can also cite a well-known example, when the Moscow archive of the Commission on Anomalous Phenomena under the Academy of Sciences was initially stored in the basement because there was no space, and then the hot water pipe burst. And everything turned into paper mush, which was raked out with shovels. Only what was left at home by Petukhov and Faminaska survived. And in the nearby suburbs of Moscow, Pushkin's active ufological group split in the 1990s. During the split, her archive was destroyed so that it would not reach the majority. Another example is the loss of artifacts and documentation related to the Kropotkin incident on November 17, 1987, including the metal that caused the "breakdown" of the equipment for structural and elemental analysis of samples of the Institute of Nuclear Research of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR. The wreckage of the aircraft, unknown to almost no one, was handed over by Inna Kuznetsova for SRCAA "Zond," was temporarily stored at the institute. Contrary to assurances about the integrity of the archive, the members of the center learned the terrible news: "the documents were stored as waste paper." The disappearance of many materials, boxes of photographic films, etc. was noticed. It was during this period that the artifact was stolen from the archive.

Cases of theft of materials by television broadcasters can be called frequent. Thus, the examinations of a series of UFO photographs taken by Korchagin in St. Petersburg in the summer of 1992 has disappeared. Representatives of the Ren-TV channel filmed the program at Michail Gershtein's home: "They took a photo of the folder with documents in good light, they said, we will definitely return it - and they returned it, but not all of them. We had to count all the pieces of paper one by one. I realized it too late." A similar example is the disappearance of materials related to the case of the nuclear bomber on May 16, 1970, when SRCAA "Zond" was forced to entrust the transportation of the archive from Kharkiv to Kyiv to the "Inter" TV channel.

The military and special services are usually suspected of excessive secrecy in relation to UFOs. But in the West, for some reasons, there are military documents about UFOs with minimal censorship, which is usually due to ethical considerations (names of witnesses and their addresses). The volume of documents opened by ufological organizations is several orders of magnitude smaller. To change this situation, first it is necessary to change the attitude toward the available materials about UFOs and to do everything so that they do not disappear and are as accessible as possible to other researchers. The easiest way is digitization, which allows you to quickly copy materials, transfer them to colleagues, or put them on the Internet. In the latter case, some censorship is necessary, as many eyewitnesses do not want to see their name, surname, or address publicly available.

Digitized materials should be stored in at least two locations to avoid loss in the event of a hard drive failure. The ideal option is to save a copy on an external drive in a separate location to avoid loss during a fire or other natural disasters. Digitization of non-unique materials - newspaper clippings, books, or thematic magazines - should be coordinated with colleagues to avoid duplication. Ideally, there should be a single server where you can discover if something is available digitally and where you can get it. There are several examples of the loss of electronic data due to the lack of backup copies: for example, Michail Gershtein lost a 500 Gigabytes hard drive video recording over Barnaul on the night of December 31 to January 1, 2008, and Igor Kalytyuk at the end of 2013, the hard drive fell out of hand. This led to the temporary loss of almost all available archives, including materials that were in a single copy, the self-removal from the post of the head of the EIBC Center, and a delay in the release of the Jubilee Bulletin, which had to be done again almost from scratch.



Fig.1 Frame from the lost video recording in Barnaul on January 1, 2008 from the roof of a locomotive depot car. The anomalous object moved from the northeast, changing speed and direction of movement, then hovered and disappeared, watched by dozens of eyewitnesses (from the archive of M. Gershtein)

If the amount of materials is too large to digitize, you must take care of their fate in advance. It should be clearly stated who should inherit the archive and under what conditions. The best thing is to bequeath everything to an independent organization that can organize their high-quality storage and free access by interested ufologists. The largest organization of this kind can be called Archives for the unexplained (AFU) in Sweden (see <http://www.afu.info>). Fully equipped AFU warehouses contain more than two kilometers of shelves. This organization has more than 20,000 books at its disposal, not to mention thematic magazines and other documents. Therefore, since the main product of ufology is the expansion of knowledge about the surrounding world to obtain the latest technologies and increase national security, it should be financed and supported by the state as the main interested entity. Here, informational support is the main one, since most studies require data from global monitoring systems that provide high-quality, in particular, instrument evidence and are operated by state institutions, to assess the reliability of data.

Information support also includes the preservation and heritability of data transmission. Thus, the transfer of materials into electronic archives and their systematization is one of the urgent tasks in ufology.

Main part. The "Heritage" project was started at SRCAA (Ukrainian Research Center for the Study of Anomalies) in 2005, after the transfer by the former secretary of the Commission for the Study of Anomalous Phenomena, and later - SRCAA participant, Inna Kuznetsova - preserved materials of the archive of the commission in SRCAA "Zond." Simultaneously, Artem Bilyk created a system of marking and classifying documents, which is currently used in SRCAA "Zond" and which is constantly being improved. Catalog records were kept in Excel format.

The purpose of the "Heritage" project is to systematize and record archival paper materials on UFOs and anomalous phenomena. The expected result of the Project is to obtain a material and electronic archive of the SRCAA, for cataloging, exchange of materials, and their protection from destruction by diversification of storage. The project is carried out under the supervision of Ph.D. Artem Bilyk, the main executors of the project, are Igor Kalytyuk and Sergey Petrov.

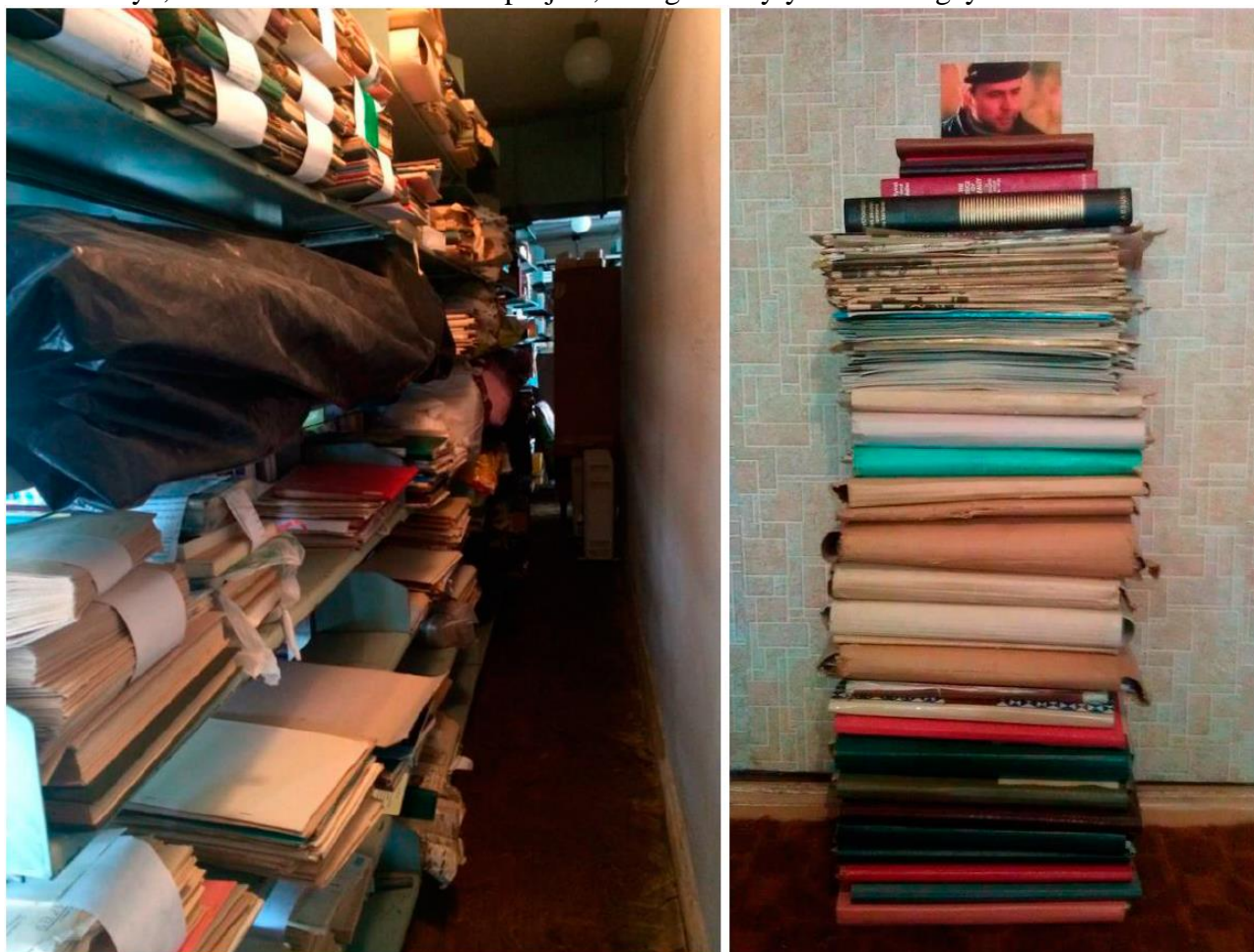


Fig.2 Photo of the archive of the "Heritage" project from the central state repository. Part of the archive of V.V. Rubtsov was temporarily stored in S.O. Petrov (right)

The first electronic developments within the framework of the future "Global Archive" were carried out in 2011 within the framework of the then existing International Scientific Research Center "EIBC," and on June 14, 2014 according to Resolution 2014-item 2 of the "EIBC" it was implemented by Igor Kalytyuk co-authored with Mikhail Gershtein in the form of version 2.0, although the Center itself was absorbed on July 12, 2014 by another rather powerful one - the SRCAA "Zond," which actually became a monopoly in Ukraine in 2015, and is a monopoly to this day.

Independent work on the "Global Archive" was continued by the same authors as part of additions. The goal of the project is to preserve the history of the subcultural environment within the framework of the following topics: ufology, UFO identification, exposure and skeptical materials, AAP research, "contacteeism," the search for extraterrestrial life, including everything related to SETI. This is a completely scientific project within the framework of the history of subcultures.

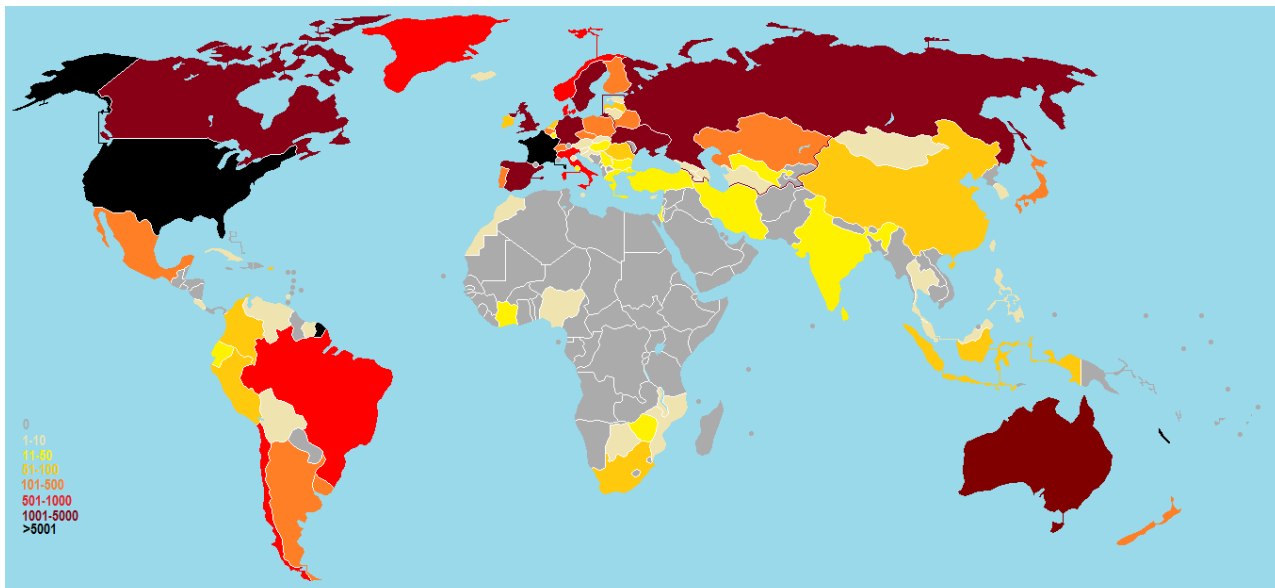


Fig.3 General statistics of the archive by country, data for May 2023, colors correspond to the number of material units, gray indicates countries without information on UFO. The entire archive now occupies 496 gigabytes, that is 60,953 files, for 2,342 organizations or publishing houses or structures. In total, 88 countries are represented in it (including those that no longer exist).



Fig.4 S.O. Petrov next to the packed archive of V.V. Rubtsov; transportation of the archive by A.S. Bilyk and S.O. Petrov

An example of the work of the project, described in the protocol of SRCAA "Zond" dated November 16, 2016: "Thanks to the work carried out under the leadership of the employees of the system and analytical department Igor Kalytyuk (coordination) and Sergey Petrov (authorized executor), an agreement was reached on the transfer of Vladimir Rubtsov's archive by his wife. Responsible storage will be carried out by SRCAA "Zond" (Kyiv), part of the English-language archive based on the results of the analysis will be transferred to Sweden to the well-known AFU organization, and a corresponding guarantee letter has been received about the readiness of storage.

In total, about a dozen operational actions of Sergey Petrov were carried out, for which we thank him very much. It should be noted that, unfortunately, on November 2, 2016, Nataliya Kamyantseva passed away to the best of both worlds, and further acts on moving the archive were already carried out with Evgeniya Rubtsova, who fulfilled her mother's will. Sergey Petrov also copied the electronic archive from Vladimir Rubtsov's personal computer. November 4-6, 2016 by the head of SRCAA "Zond" Artem Bilyk and the employee of Department Petrov moved the archive to Kyiv from Kharkiv. RESOLVED: to conduct an initial analysis of the materials and report at the next meeting. To remember Rubtsov as a dedicated researcher and expert in his field, a difficult direction of studying the unknown, who can be a model of domestic anomalistics. His work will live on in our scientific research! To the employees of the system and analytical department, Kalytyuk and Petrov express gratitude with an entry in the biography and protocol. Sincere condolences are expressed to the relatives and friends of Natalia Kamyatseva."



*Fig.5 Works on scanning and systematization of archives
SRCAA expert "Zond" I. Kalityuk 2014, 2016*

During the existence of the "EIBC" Center, within the framework of the cooperation agreement, scanning was carried out in accordance with clause 2.1 of the cooperation agreement, and all related issues were also covered along the way. After the acquisition of the "EIBC" Center by the SRCAA "Zond" Center, the state of affairs became much better and scanning went into a "pendulum" version: the scanned is returned and the materials to be digitized are collected (Kalytyuk and Petrov). Then, after the digitization at leisure is completed, the performer meets the repository representative for a new batch of material. Part of the materials, which the performers managed to get, is transferred to the persons responsible for storage already after digitization, such as the remains of Oleksander Biletskyi's archives, and therefore there is no delay in obtaining permission to publish the materials. And the materials kept by Mikhail Gershtein are scanned by him. ScanKromsator (for converting and cropping) and RasterStitch (for gluing several pages into one) are used for the layout of scans, and all of this is saved as djvu and pdf-format documents. Part of the scans are collected into a pdf document using PDF24-software (if the document contains no more than 100 pages) and Adobe Acrobat (if more than 100). Materials obtained from the Internet are prepared using Microsoft Paint and Notepad, and then saved in pdf using MS Word. A significant part of the materials still must be processed manually, due to the peculiarities of submitting Internet content: copying paragraphs into Notepad and redrawing the drawings through Paint, and then changing: font and its size, intervals, location on the page, presentable transfer to another page, sometimes even changing to A3 letter format.

Another thing is that the documents are already ready. Documents are systematized by countries, organizations, or ministries, at the beginning of a book, for example, the following is indicated: the author's last name, initials, followed by the title, the year of publication, and all this is in English. For example, bulletins are named: at the beginning, the name of the bulletin, and then the number and year, respectively.

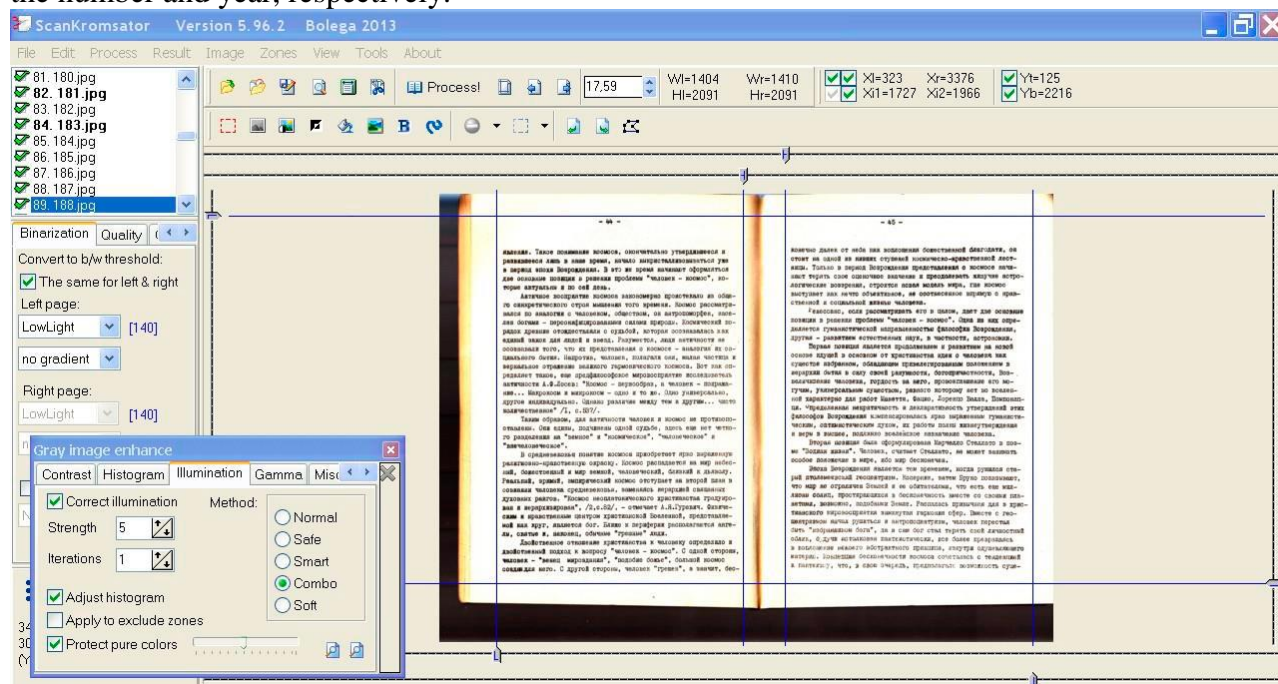


Fig.6 The principle view of an example of the layout of materials, which is most often performed by M. Gershtein, 2017

The described work is time-consuming, but in the final stage, it will be implemented as another addition to the "Global Archive." Upon completion, the systematized materials are sent by Kalytyuk to the recipients in the form of an archive, as well as uploaded to the online storage, and copies are made to other media, and recorded to Blu-ray disks, in 2 copies. One copy is given to the AFU (Sweden). In 2017, a batch of physical materials was also transferred to AFU.

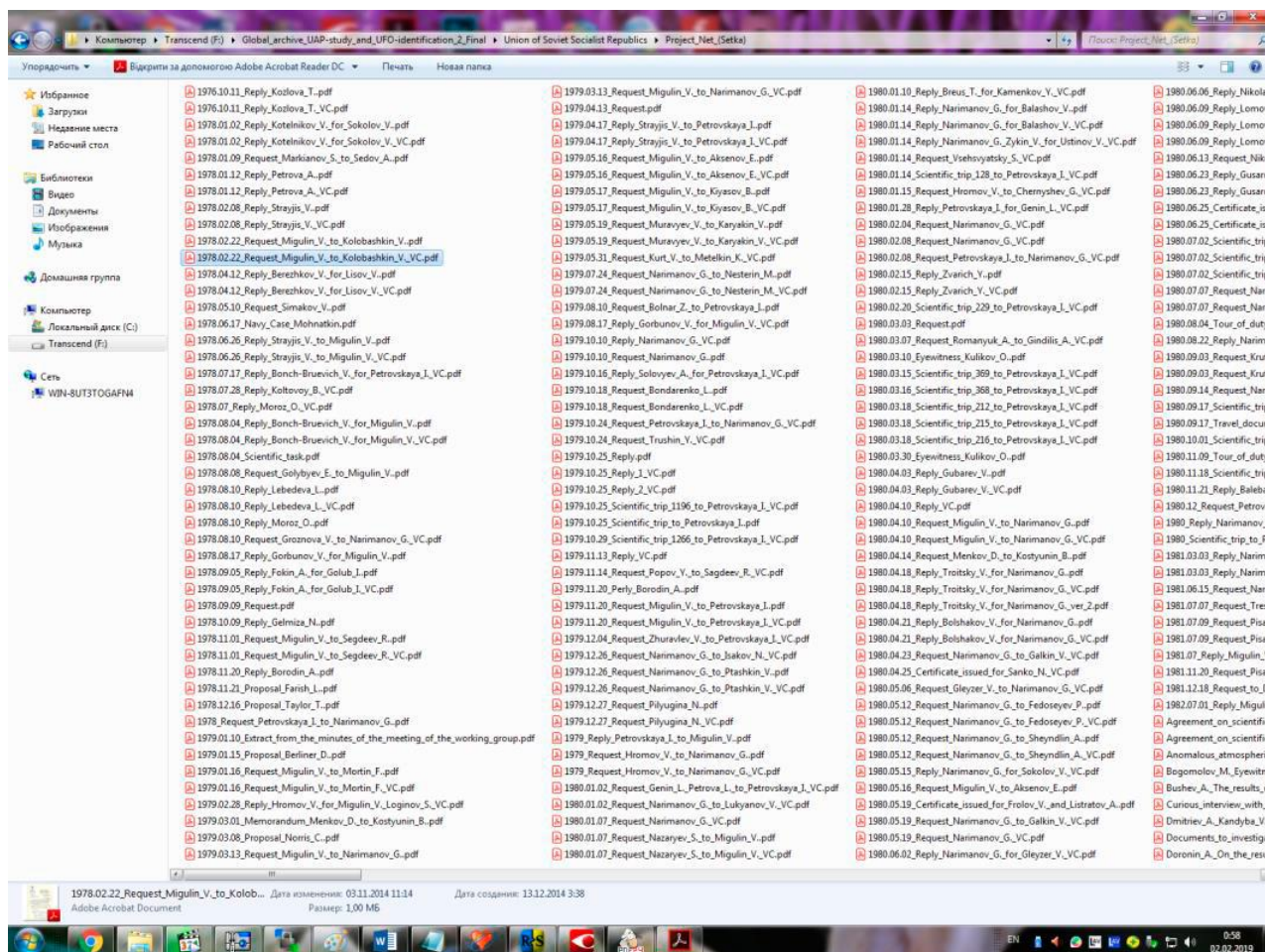


Fig. 7. A basic view of an example of an electronic library of systematized documents

Another effective result of the "Heritage" project is finding in the archive the newest materials for research that have not been processed before. The document processing and systematization scheme developed over the years has proven its effectiveness, and can be applied by any other organizations, institutions that collect materials or research the unknown.

Conclusions. In turn, SRCAA "Zond" invites researchers and organizations that have preserved electronic and non-electronic media of information that may be of scientific interest in the study of Anomalous Phenomena, and in particular AP, to cooperate. After digitization, all those who provide materials receive an electronic version, and upon request, the original is returned. The time of hiding and sacralizing knowledge has passed forever. Ufologists who really want to solve the secrets of UFOs and open the way to the universe for humankind, should already think about maximum openness, cooperation, and cooperation. Until it was too late.

As practice has shown, it is possible for a small group of people to translate large volumes of information into electronic form, the main thing is to have the desire and the necessary skills for that.

References:

1. Герштейн М., Калытюк И. По следам утраченных архивов. Новости Уфологии - Сентябрь 2016
2. Burch T. Confessions of a Newsletter Groupie: A case study in UFO manipulation. Pursuit, Fall 1980 – pp184-186
3. Калытюк И. Рем Варламов в изучении мест посадок НЛО — тени забытого прошлого. Новости Уфологии - Апрель 2012
4. Kaeser S. The lost APRO files, 2011
5. Dickeson B. UFO archives - an underrated and vanishing resource
6. Шуринов Б. История создания и работы Комиссии по АЯ

7. *Калытюк И.* Утерянные документы: Как торговали советскими военными уфологическими архивами. Новости Уфологии - Май 2012
8. *Калытюк И.* Утерянные документы: «Кропоткинский инцидент 17 ноября 1987 года». Новости Уфологии - Декабрь 2011
9. *Калытюк И.* Утерянные документы: очень странный инцидент с дальним ядерным бомбардировщиком ТУ16 (Badger) 16.05.1970. Новости Уфологии - Декабрь 2011
10. Объяснительная записка 14.10.2013
11. Юбилейный бюллетень EIBC. Самиздат, Ровно - 2013, 60с
12. *Svahn C.* New donation from I.Kalytyuk and Global Archive. AFU - June 2020
13. Лист 16.05.2013 від С.Руслунда для Н.Камянцевої
14. *Svahn C.* Part of Vladimir Rubtsov's files donated to AFU. AFU - October 2017
15. *Калытюк И.* Волонтерский проект Феникс приглашает всех желающих. Новости Уфологии - Декабрь 2017
16. *Svahn C.* Igor Kalytyuk sends new files. AFU - July 2016
17. *Kalytyuk I.M., Gershtein M.B., Petrov S.O.* The projects «Global Archive» and «Heritage» for the saving of UAP-archives // Anomalous phenomena: methodology and practice of research: Issue of scientific articles / Bilyk A.S. (chief edit.) et al. – Kyiv: Knowledge, 2020. – 207 p.