

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

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ПРОЄКТИ «СПАДЩИНА» ТА «ГЛОБАЛЬНИЙ АРХІВ» ДЛЯ ЗБЕРЕЖЕННЯ НЛО-АРХІВІВ

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Abstract: Preservation and heredity of knowledge transfer are the key to the stability of any area of research. In ufological subculture, 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.

Анотація: Збереження та спадковість передачі знань є запорукою стабільності будь-якої галузі досліджень. В уфологічній субкультурі, з одного боку, невпинно накопичується значна кількість матеріалу, з іншого боку, відбувається безперервна втрата якісних та кількісних складових матеріалів. Численні приклади втрати цінних матеріалів з різних причин – показують важливість та актуальність цього питання. У статті детально описано суть проблеми зберігання уфологічних архівів, а також на реальному прикладі показано, як її вирішити. Показано зв'язок між проектами «Глобальний архів» та «Спадщина», а також схему обігу документації, розроблену УНДЦА «Зонд» спільними зусиллями. Основним результатом

збереження та оцифрування архівних матеріалів є зручність подальшої обробки, значне зниження ризику втрати. Детально описано етапи обробки архівних даних, нюанси програмного забезпечення, що використовується для цієї мети. Продемонстровано приклади ефективності використання архівних даних. Фактично, наразі в Україні знаходиться найбільший у світі електронний архів матеріалів реєстрації та вивчення НЛО та ААЯ. Розроблена схема обробки та систематизації документів довела свою ефективність і може бути застосована будь-якими іншими організаціями, установами, що збирають матеріали або досліджують невідоме. Матеріали уфологічної субкультури, а також сукупність наукових ідентифікацій НЛО та вивчення ААЯ, пошук позаземного життя мають наукову цінність, перш за все історичну.

Keywords:

ААР-research
Archive cataloging
Archive digitization
Archive scanning
СЕТИ
Contacteeism subculture
Declassification of Soviet archives
Global electronic online archive
Historical heritage preservation
SETI
Sociological research
UFO-belief
UFO-identification
UFO-skepticism
Ufological subculture

Ключові слова:

ААЯ-дослідження
Глобальний електронний онлайн архів
Каталогізація архівів
Контактерська субкультура
Збереження історичної спадщини
НЛО-вірування
НЛО-ідентифікація
НЛО-скептицизм
Оцифрування архівів
Розсекречення радянських архівів
Сканування архівів
Соціологічні дослідження
Уфологічна субкультура
СЕТИ
SETI

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 goal and objectives of the study. 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.

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, 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.

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.

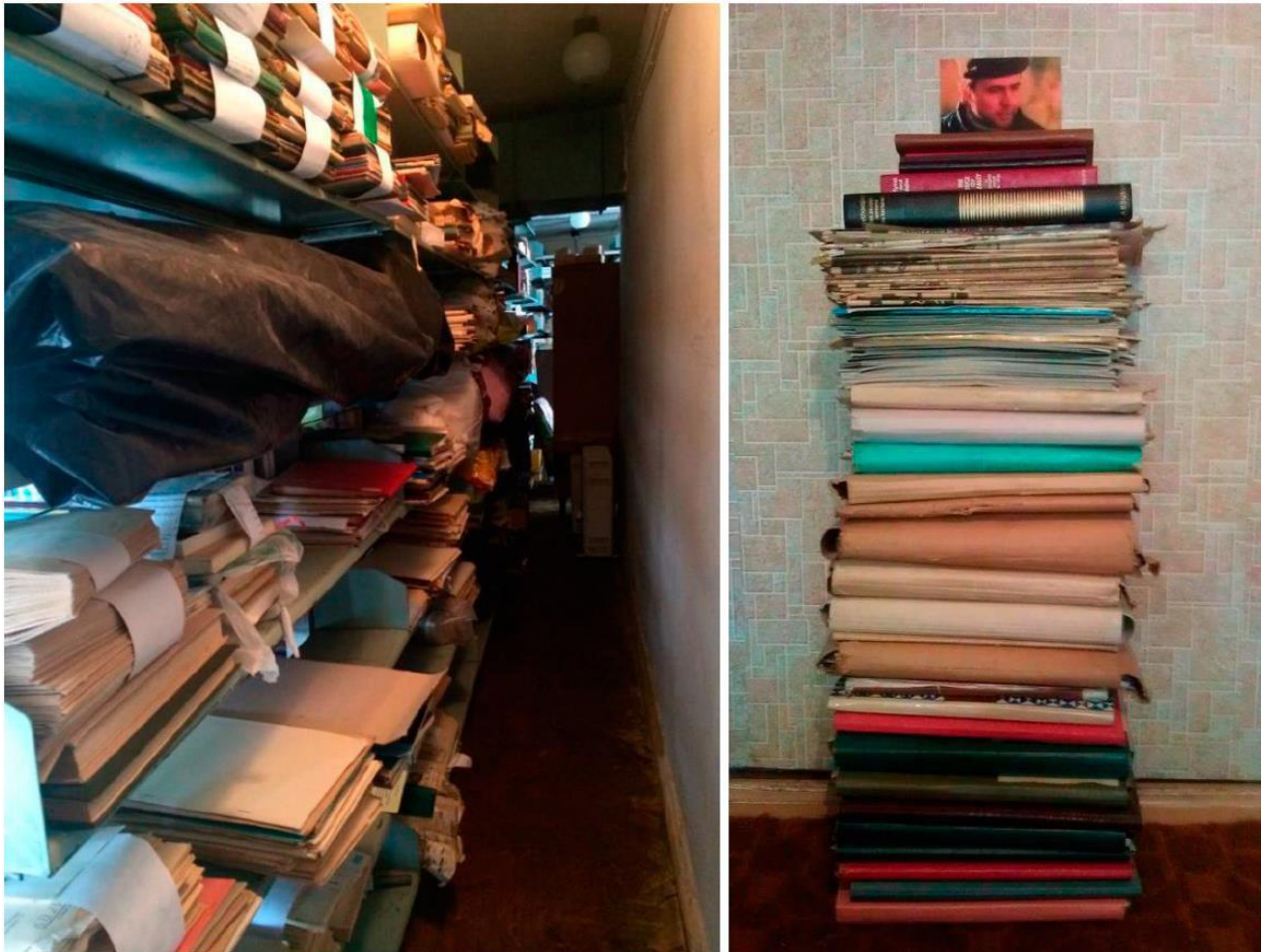


Fig.1 Photo of the archive of the "Heritage" project from the central state repository. Part of the archive of V.V. Rubtsov was temporarily stored in S.O. Petrov (right)

Main text. 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, Andriy Vlasov and Sergiy Petrov.

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.

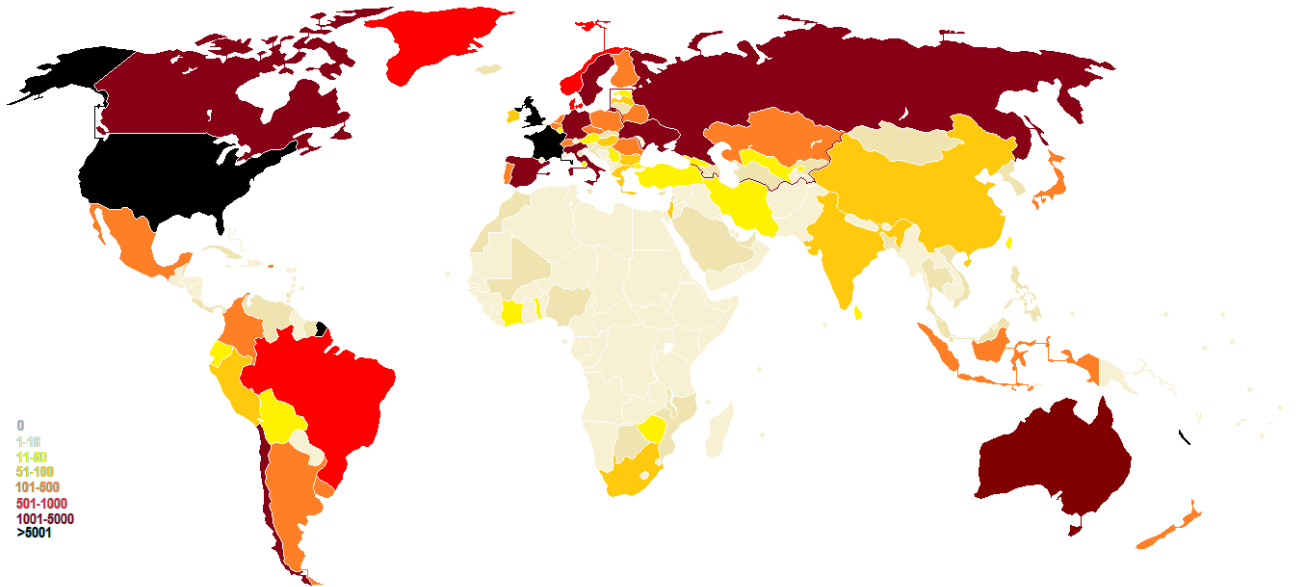


Fig.2 General statistics of the archive by country, data for November 2025, colors correspond to the number of material units, gray indicates countries without information on UFO. The entire archive now occupies 584 gigabytes, that is 68,022 files, for 2,523 organizations or publishing houses or structures. In total, 98 countries are represented in it (including those that no longer exist).



Fig.3 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."

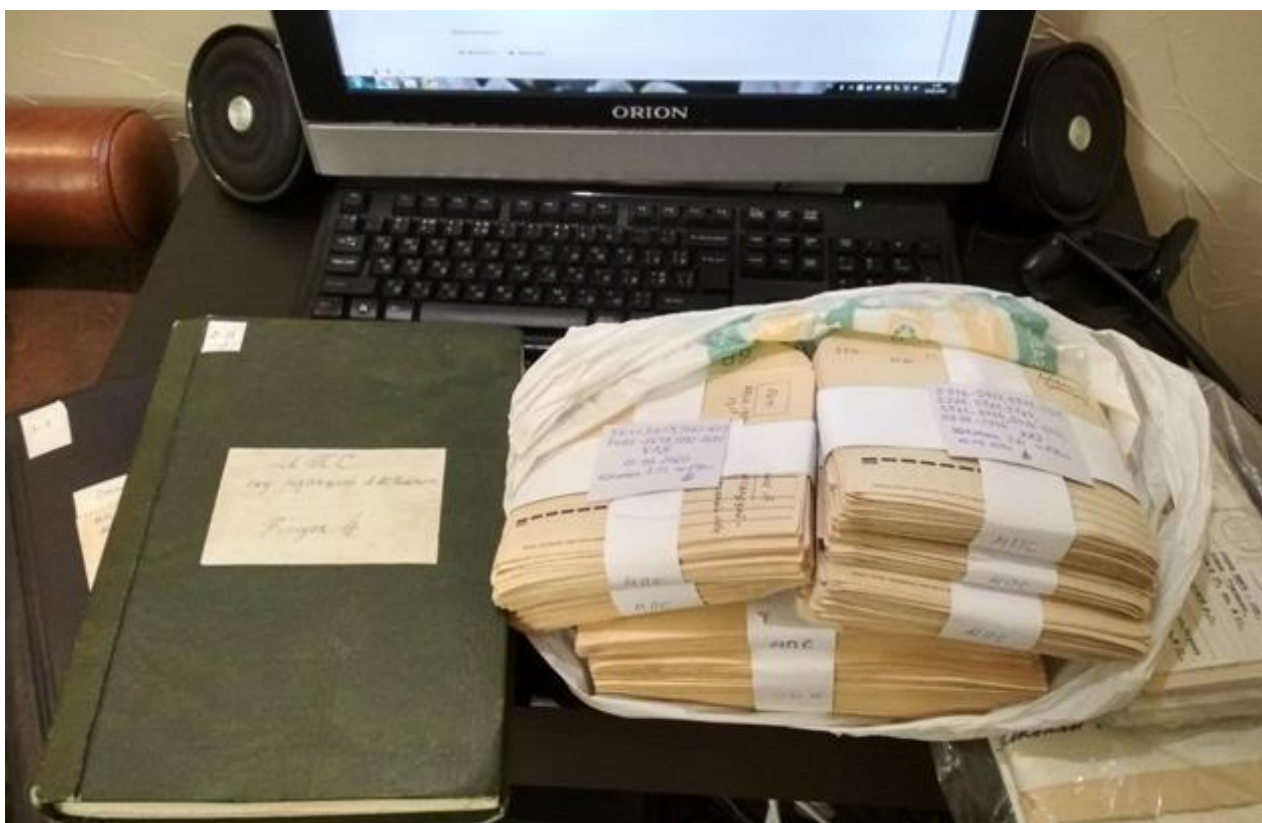


Fig.4 Works on scanning and systematization of archives SRCAA expert "Zond" I. Kalytyuk 2014, 2016, 2018



Fig.5 A. Vlasov temporarily receives materials from the storage facility from A. Bilyk for digitization

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 inheritance 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, Vlasov 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.

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. 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.

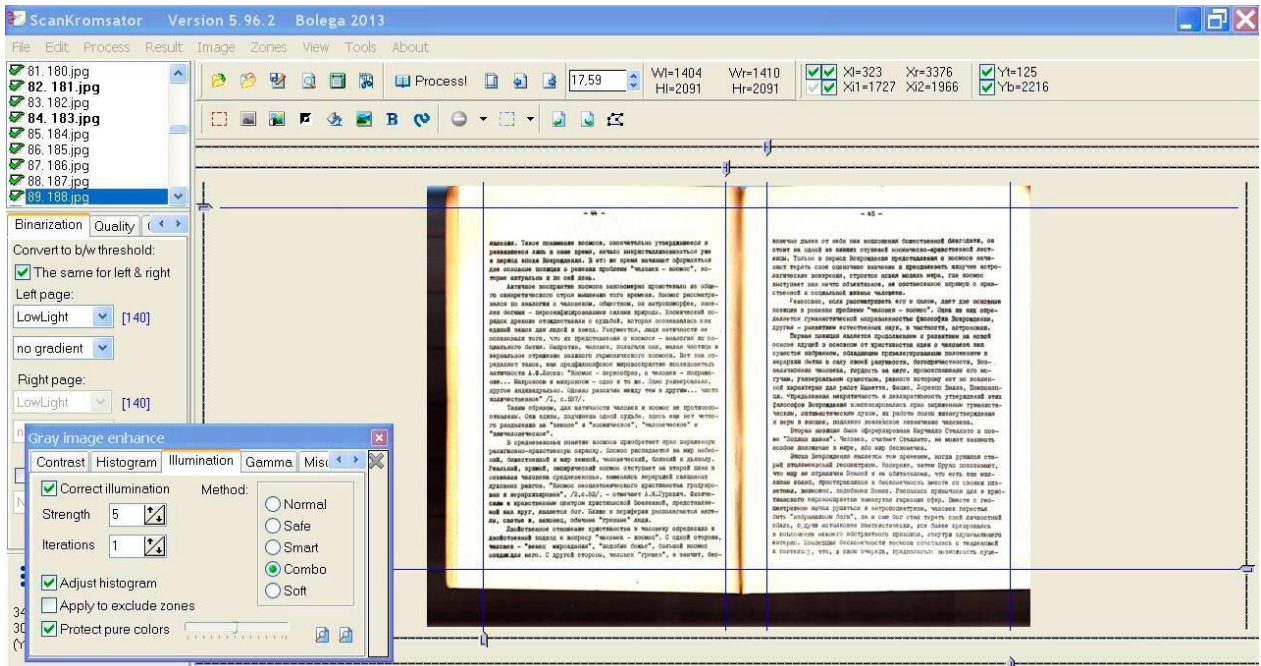


Fig.6 The principle view of an example of the layout of materials, which is most often performed by M. Gershtein, 2017

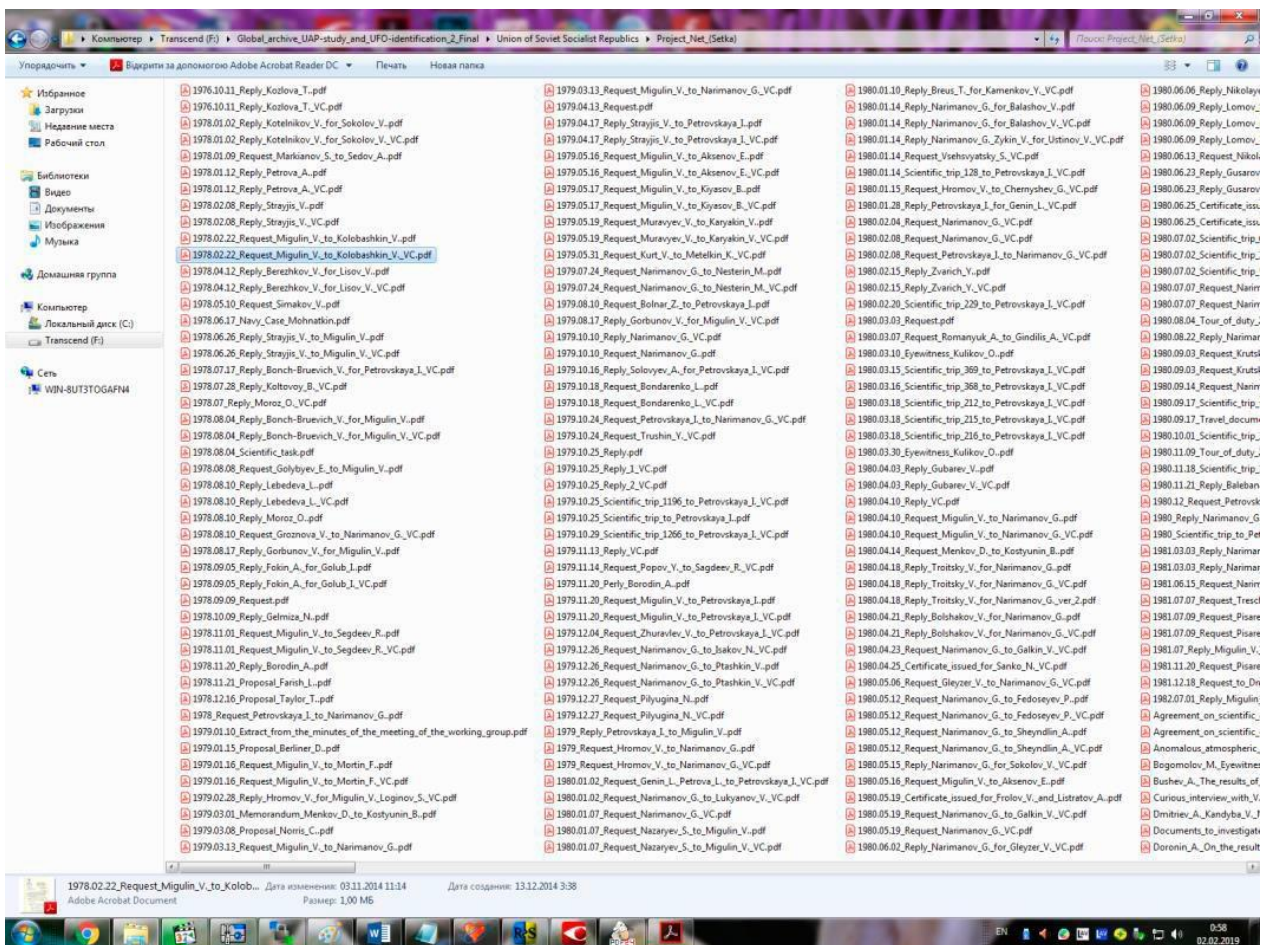


Fig. 7. A basic view of an example of an electronic library of systematized documents by I. Kalytyuk, 2018

Considering that most UFO-related books available in Ukraine have already been digitized, most of the works currently processed by enthusiasts contributing to the “Global Archive” though

often unrelated to mainstream ufological research and may include unique observations, experimental methods, or personal hypotheses from individual authors. These books often contain only a single chapter or even a passing mention of ufology, yet their inclusion in a digital archive can significantly enhance our understanding of the broader context of anomalistic studies. The importance of such peripheral ufological materials lies in the diversity of perspectives they offer. Whether tangentially or directly connected to UFO phenomena, they hold the potential to reveal original insights from their authors, particularly when a book on related topics is written by someone who has also authored works specifically about UFOs.

Identifying and locating these materials requires a multifaceted approach. This might involve the rare but valuable step of establishing contact with potential authors of ufological materials, searching for any other books published by an author whose work touches on ufology, or exploring mentions of ufologists whose names appear in the text or bibliographies of other books. When a previously unknown ufological book is found, it often opens the door to additional materials. Tracing references in its bibliography or seeking other works by the same author or books from the same series, can yield unexpected insights, especially when these related materials lack overt connections to UFOs in their titles or primary subject matter. This approach ensures that even subtle threads of a researcher's thought are preserved, adding depth and context to the archival collection.

Rare books often exist in extremely limited quantities and risk disappearing into obscurity. It is fairly common for an author to publish a book with a limited circulation, and decades later these works may be virtually unknown to researchers. The value of such works cannot always be measured, for example, by their price on the antiquarian market. A modestly priced local find may represent significant efforts on the part of the author to produce the book. When an enthusiast discovers and digitizes a rare edition, it is akin to rediscovering it anew. The digital age greatly facilitates the dissemination of electronic versions among researchers, ensuring that these works do not remain forgotten.

The search for rare and valuable materials demands constant vigilance. Knowing which platforms to monitor, which keywords to use, and how to identify promising finds is as critical as the digitization process itself. Rare opportunities to acquire significant works may arise only after years of systematic observation, underscoring the importance of persistence. This process is a testament to the dedication of those who invest their time and energy in rediscovering and reintroducing these books to the world. The true worth of these acquisitions lies in their contribution to the completeness of the archive and the preservation of ideas that might otherwise have been lost forever. Digitization effectively grants a form of digital "immortality" to paper copies. Each addition to the "Global Archive", whether modest or monumental, reflects the cumulative effort invested in ensuring that the knowledge contained within these works is preserved and made accessible for generations to come.

In the context of digitization efforts in Ukraine, a particular challenge lies in identifying and preserving rare or niche publications with limited print runs. The Russian military invasion of Ukraine has further highlighted the fragility of such resources, particularly in regions like Donetsk, where numerous publications focused on anomalistics were produced around the 2000s. Books often circulate unevenly, primarily reaching local population through regional stores. Given their limited distribution, only a small portion may have been sent to other parts of Ukraine, often with no international sales. With the destruction or occupation of these territories, recovering such editions has become an increasingly infrequent and fortunate event.

The scale of a digitization project also determines the complexity of its workflow. Scanning a single book is one matter, but processing large batches of materials necessitates that the digitizer have an efficient system in place for maintaining quality while minimizing the need for rescanning or corrections. This includes setting standards for scan clarity, ensuring consistent formatting, and minimizing post-scan adjustments. By adhering to these principles, digitization efforts can maximize their outcomes, preserving not only the intellectual integrity of the materials but also streamlining their integration into a broader digital archive.

The digitization process itself often presents practical challenges that require creativity and adaptability. Fragile books require special methods, while some may need to be carefully disassembled to ensure proper scanning, particularly when bindings prevent full access to pages. Self-published materials, frequently printed on delicate or translucent paper using outdated techniques,

require specialized handling and scanning settings to preserve text and illustrations faithfully. These efforts ensure that even the most challenging materials are successfully digitized and made available for study and research.

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.

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