Announcement of the International Conference "Challenges of Source Evaluation in Science and Correlated Areas."

23-27th November 2020

Credible sources of information have become an urgent matter in this era. With the increasing level of accessibility to sources, which we could have only dreamed of before the invention of the internet and the emergence of social networks, we face an utterly distinct task.

How to find something that would surely meet the conditions of "objectivity," "reliability," and "accuracy" in the world of bits and bytes?

The digitalization era and overabundance of uncomplicated solutions offered by the internet lobbyists creates a hyper-environment that has produced the fallacy that Google *knows everything,* and that works authored by public figures can be fully trusted. Almost the entire human population is exposed to this hyperreality, particularly younger generations, shaping their beliefs and attitudes.

From the other side, it seems that the world's libraries are at arm's length; all it takes is pushing some buttons—and—any type of information is at your disposal. Four "black screens"—a TV screen, laptop, tablet, and smartphone screen are becoming mediators and substitutes for knowledge as a tool with an increasing tendency. These are not sources but programs and algorithms that cannot be disputed; they are impersonal and not responsible for data quality. They are simply electronic "hands" that pull some "sources" from the accessible information shelves of this world, and very often, these hands are nudged by search engines and social network marketing. No one is responsible for the quality of the content. Consequently, when it is about questions such as "Why do you/they/we think in a particular way?" there isn't anything reasonable to say. Why? "Because that's what scientists wrote. This is what Google says. This is the way it is commonly believed." These are paradigms heard and relied on by many today.

However, some fundamental questions remain open.
WHAT sources of information are trustworthy?
WHAT can you actually work with?
IS IT POSSIBLE to irrevocably trust what is endorsed by "scientists"?
Have the parameters and requirements changed for esteemed scholars and scientists? Perhaps, the most open question is **HOW to separate the fictional and fabricated from the authentic and functional?**

The upcoming international scientific and practical conference is designed to create conditions for a constructive dialogue on resolving the challenges of our time regarding source study and criticism as a branch of interdisciplinary applied knowledge.
Over the course of five days of online panel discussions, the following matters will be considered:

● The problem of data manipulation in science and further representation of scientific data to wider audiences;
● Orientation system among sources and the problem of priorities;
● Tools for dealing with information to determine its reliability;
● "Unwritten rules" in academia or why "it is customary to do something that has nothing to do with the results of scientific activity, but satisfies the bureaucratic apparatus in the scientific sphere;
● Where does "scientific" begin or end, and who is responsible for it? Are there any parameters or technologies for distinguishing between "science" and "junk science"?
● What is more important: the content of the scientific work or its design?
● Why should the language of modern academic science be obscure for the general public?
● How can a researcher rest on the principle of objectivity in the "Era of Truth Decay"?

These and many other unanswered questions require innovative approaches and open dialogue in an uncomplicated scientific language. The conference is designed to bring together leading experts and academics from different areas. This gathering's goal is to reflect on questions and find practical answers related to assessing and evaluating different types of sources, and discussing relevant challenges faced by scholars and experts globally. All in all, there will be around 50 participants at the conference from 10 countries.

Perhaps the saying *"Who owns the information, he owns the world"* is relevant, but whether it is so has to be considered in detail. **The key message and reason for this conference is OBJECTIVITY.**

ONLINE DISCUSSION PANEL TOPICS

SOURCE EVALUATION IN SCIENCE AND CORRELATED AREAS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

"CHALLENGES OF SOURCE EVALUATION IN SCIENCE AND CORRELATED AREAS"

23-27 NOVEMBER 2020

- **November 23, 2020**
  14:00 EDT/21:00 EEST
  Question 1. Classification of sources presented by Professor David Procoppio
  Discussion of the given model and classification
  Question 2. The challenges of choosing a credible source for conducting scientific research.
  Which sources are reliable and scientific? Which sources can be used in conducting research?

- **November 24, 2020**
  14:00 EDT/21:00 EEST
  Question 1. Does the authority of an author guarantee the accuracy of scientific information?
  Question 2. Priority of sources and self-alignment among them.
  Role of experiments. What if the facts contradict science? Do such contradictions indicate an unscientific nature of preceding inferences?

- **November 25, 2020**
  14:00 EDT/21:00 EEST
  Question 1. What makes a scientist?
  Some "scientists" do not write monographs but are considered as such for different reasons. Is it articles in indexed journals or the quality of scientific works (for example monographs) that determine him as a scientist?
  Question 2. How to differentiate a real scientific source from a fake.

- **November 26, 2020**
  14:00 EDT/21:00 EEST
  Question 1. Is it obligatory to reference other scholars in conducting research?
  The problem of "ecclesiasticism" in science.
  Question 2. Do scientometrics databases have any relation to science?
  Could it be that they were invented for reasons that do not relate to science? Issues with Scopus in the USA and Web of Science in Europe.

- **November 27, 2020**
  14:00 EDT/21:00 EEST
  Question 1. Is it permissible for a scientist to use free encyclopedias as sources of scientific information?
  The role of Wikipedia and similar sources.
  Question 2. The manipulation of data in science: challenges of assessing results received through quantitative and qualitative methods. The problem of division and disciplinary biases in modern science.

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