CLASSIFICATION OF HISTORICAL SOURCES OF PODILLIA: MODERN TRENDS IN DIGITAL ARCHIVING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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Local history of Podillia, as a region with a multilayered cultural heritage encompassing Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian, and Jewish influences, has traditionally relied on archival sources. However, limited access to documents, the dispersion of funds, and the physical condition of materials have complicated research [9, p. 12].

The archival funds of the State Archive of Khmelnytskyi Oblast (hereinafter DAKhMO) are formed based on the principle of provenance (origin) and reflect the activities of institutions, organizations, and individuals [1, p. 12]. They are divided into pre-revolutionary (up to 1917), Soviet (1917–1991), and modern ones. For the local history of Podillia, the following funds are representative:

Fund 18 "Churches of the Podolian and Volynian Governorates (collection)" (1769–1927) contains 1745 storage units, primarily metric records, confessional registers, and church acts [4, pp. 7–10; 3]. This fund serves as the basis for genealogical and ethnographic studies, including biographies of Podolian intellectuals such as Józef Rolle [9, pp. 34–35], covering Orthodox, Catholic, and Uniate parishes to reconstruct migrations and the social structure of villages (for example, Starokostiantyniv district) [8, p. 5].

Fund 315 "Podolian Spiritual Consistory" (XVIII – early XX century) includes documents on church administration, revision tales (poll taxes), and land descriptions [7]. It houses materials on collectivization in the 1920s in the Dunaiivtsi region, illustrating conflicts between peasants and authorities [9, p. 43].

Fund 226 "Podolian Treasury Chamber" (XIX century) covers financial and land affairs, descriptions of estates of families such as the Orlovskys or Shandors, useful for economic history (industry in Mohyliv-Podilskyi) [2, p. 78; 12].

Modern funds, particularly since 2022, are forming a collection of documents on the Russian-Ukrainian war (personal origin fund) with over 200 autobiographies of child volunteers in the "Ukraine – This Is Us!" project [3]. Declassified funds of the repressed contain cases on the Holodomor of 1932–1933 and deportations of 1935–1936 [9, p. 60; 15].

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Access to funds is provided through the guides "State Archive of Khmelnytskyi Oblast" (volumes 1–2, 2010–2011), describing over 1200 funds [1, p. 512; 2, p. 512]. 20% of funds have been digitized (as of 2025), available on the "Archive-on line" portal [3].

The collections of DAKhMO are artificially formed sets of documents from various funds, thematically united for research needs, with a focus on crisis periods in the history of Podillia [2, pp. 16–20].

The "Monuments of History and Culture of Podillia" collection includes photographs, oral histories, and documents on insurgent underground activities (Slavuta, 1940s) and industry (Mohyliv-Podilskyi, late XIX – early XX century) [8, p. 51; 9, p. 78].

The collection of the repressed and Holocaust victims, compiled from NKVD funds, contains testimonies of Podolian benefactors during the Holodomor (1932–1933) [9, p. 73]. Cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum ensured the digitization of over 1000 cases [10].

The oral history collection in the "Memory of My Family" project covers interviews with World War II veterans, available online since 2023 [3]. The collection "Those Who Die in the Struggle – Live in Our Hearts Forever" (2022–2025) records portraits of fallen defenders of Podillia [3].

The collections are integrated into the journal "Podilska Starovyna" (issues 2017, 2021) with catalogs for international access [9, p. 2; 8, p. 2]. 15% of collections have been digitized, with plans for full digitization by 2030 [3].

Population censuses (revision tales, all-Union censuses) are demographic sources that record the quantitative composition, ethnic structure, and property status [1, p. 30; 2, p. 62]. For Podillia, the key ones are:

Poll (revision) censuses of the Russian Empire (1795, 1811, 1816, 1836, 1851, 1858) are stored in funds 315 and 226, covering 6 revisions of the Right Bank with data on peasant households, taxes, and ethnic composition (Kamianets-Podilskyi district, 1850) [8, p. 52]. They are used for analyzing urbanization (Proskuriv, 1917) [8, p. 105].

The 1897 census (fund 244) records data on native language (Ukrainian – 81% in the Podolian Governorate), religion, and professions; dominance of Ukrainians in districts (Mohyliv – 90%) [7].

Soviet censuses: family cards of the All-Union Census of 1926 (fund 582, 47 cases) – a source for ethnography of the 1920s (Dunaiivtsi district) [9, p. 43]. Summaries of 1941 (fund 685) document the population of Proskuriv during the occupation [8, p. 59].

Census registers are presented in the DAKhMO guide (vol. 1) with 30% of materials digitized [1, p. 98].

Metric books are parish registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, the foundation of genealogy [4, pp. 5–6]. DAKhMO holds the largest collection for

Podillia: 1745 books (1769–1927) with gaps in the 1830s–1840s, covering over 500 parishes (Sharhorod Church: 1796–1888; Kamianets-Podilskyi Cathedral: 1757–1884) [4, p. 7; 6; 13]. Languages: Church Slavonic, Polish, Latin, Russian.

The Consolidated Catalog (vol. 8, 2018) is a two-volume set with descriptions by districts (Starokostiantyniv, Proskuriv) and name indexes, used for biographies (Rolle: birth 1829, Sharhorod) [4, p. 31; 9, p. 34].

Most books have been digitized since the 2010s, available on the DAKhMO website ("Archive-on line") and in the Kamianets-Podilskyi Museum (10 books from the XVIII–XIX centuries) [3; 14]. The "Consolidated Catalog of Metric Books" project (Ukrainian Institute of Archival Studies) integrates data from the Zhytomyr Archive [4, p. 587]. These sources reveal rituals and superstitions (chronicles of the Kamianets district) [9, p. 48].

Cartographic materials – land plans, estate maps, and topographic schemes for visualizing the spatial dynamics of Podillia, integrated into land funds [2, p. 78].

And this vast array of archival materials, thanks to digitization at the modern stage, transforms archives from passive repositories into dynamic platforms. In Podillia, GIS tools, such as in the Historic Podillya project (MAPA Digital Atlas of Ukraine), allow visualization of the toponymy of Medieval Podillia [5]. Developed by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) with the participation of Ukrainian historians, the atlas contains over 500 names of settlements, castles, and hydronyms from the XIV–XV centuries, with interactive maps based on ArcGIS [5]. This enables analysis of settlement dynamics after the Battle of the Blue Waters in 1362, integrating data from Polish and Lithuanian sources [8, p. 23].

Another tool is semantic search in the Eastern Podillia Digital Memory Storage, where over 1000 documents of the Khamchenko family (archaeological reports, photos) have been digitized [13]. Using OCR and AI analysis, the platform allows reconstruction of the ecological conditions of the Paleolithic in Podillia [6, p. 112]. In Ukraine, similar approaches are implemented in the "Formation of an Online Archive of Oral History Interviews" project, where audio, video, and texts about the Holodomor are combined [11, p. 73].

These tools open new approaches: from quantitative analysis of migrations [9, p. 60] to network modeling of social connections, as in the study of the Orlovsky family [9, p. 132].

Open archives reveal previously inaccessible sources, such as "Reviews of the Podolian Governorate" (1880–1912), digitized by DAKhMO, which record the state of prisons and industry [9, p. 112]. Digital versions of metric books

from the Zhytomyr Archive complement local funds, enabling genealogical investigations [9, p. 34].

Thus, open archives and digital tools radically change the study of local history of Podillia, transforming fragmentary sources into integrated resources. DAKhMO projects, Historic Podillya, and Eastern Podillia Digital Memory Storage not only preserve heritage but also stimulate innovative approaches such as GIS and AI. International cooperation with Poland and the USA opens horizons for cross-border research, contributing to a global understanding of regional history. Further development requires investments in cloud technologies and staff training for full realization of potential.

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