International Library Cooperation and Trusted News in Times of War: Ukraine Art Aid Center

Anna Bohn
Consultant strategic development audiovisual resources, Berlin Central and Regional Library (ZLB), Germany
E-mail address: anna.bohn@zlb.de

Olaf Hamann
Head of Eastern Europe Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library), Germany
E-mail address: olaf.hamann@sbb.spk-berlin.de

Abstract:
This study explores the collaborative efforts of libraries within the Ukraine Art Aid Center network, dedicated to preserving cultural heritage during times of war. Emphasizing the vital role of international library cooperation, we investigate the dissemination of trusted news in the Russo-Ukrainian war. The first section examines Russia's use of (dis-)information as a weapon in the ongoing war. The second section clarifies key terminology distinctions related to disinformation, misinformation, fake news and deep fakes. In the third section, we scrutinize the importance of accurate language and wording to avoid manipulation and disinformation. The fourth section explores strategies to counter disinformation, empowering individuals to make informed decisions. Section five highlights the support provided by international library networks in aiding libraries and societies under attack, focusing on the Ukraine Art Aid Center (Zentrum Kulturgutschutz Ukraine). The sixth section presents curated information services and reliable news sources from Ukraine and exiled Russian media. The seventh section underscores libraries' role as providers of access to reliable information on war crimes and human rights violations.

Keywords: *disinformation, Russo-Ukrainian war, Ukraine Art Aid Center, Ukrainian cultural heritage, news media*

In the night spanning November 11 to November 12, 2023, Russian forces directed their attacks towards the Regional Library in Kherson, Ukraine. The consequence of this assault was the near-complete destruction of the Kherson Regional Universal Scientific Library, named after Oles Honchar (see **Figure 1**). This shelling occurred precisely one year after the liberation of Kherson from Russian occupying forces on November 11, 2022.

Figure 1: Kherson Oblast Scientific Library named after Oles Honchar after Russian shelling on 12 November 2023. National Police of Ukraine, CC BY 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kherson_Oblast_Scientific_Library_named_after_Oles_Honchar_after_Russian_shelling,_2023-11-12_(01)_cropped.jpg (last accessed 2023-12-12).

The Kherson Regional Scientific Library is just one of numerous cases where libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions in Ukraine have been attacked in the full-scale invasion by Russian forces that commenced on February 24, 2022 (Al'ternativa 2023a and 2023b). The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine documents the damage to cultural infrastructure objects: as of November 25, 2023, 1750 objects of cultural infrastructure have suffered losses, among them 615 libraries.[1]

---

[1] MCIP: "Due to russian aggression in Ukraine, 1750 objects of cultural infrastructure have suffered." https://mcip.gov.ua/en/news/due-to-russian-aggression-in-ukraine-1750-objects-of-cultural-infrastructure-have-suffered/ (last accessed 2023-12-12). It is impossible to calculate the exact number of cultural infrastructure

Our study focuses on the collaborative international efforts of libraries within the Ukraine Art Aid Center network, working to preserve cultural heritage in libraries and other cultural institutions during times of war. Additionally, we delve into the pivotal role played by library services in third-party countries in disseminating trusted news in times of war.

We deliberately employ the term "war" to address the Russo-Ukrainian war, refraining from using terms such as "conflict" or "crisis". Across various third-party countries and international organizations, a prevailing tendency exists to avoid explicitly referring to Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine as "war" or "invasion". Instead, they employ terms like "conflict" or "crisis" and avoid naming the aggressor.[2] This shift in wording aligns with the aggressor's broader disinformation strategy. Recognizing that the terminologies we choose play a pivotal role in countering disinformation, our paper delves into the heart of the matter: Trusted news in times of war. We underscore the role of international library cooperation, emphasizing the importance of reliable news during times of war and the battle against disinformation in the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war.

The first section "Russia's war in Ukraine and (dis-)information wars", sheds light on how information is used as a powerful weapon of disinformation in Russia's ongoing war on Ukraine, showcasing the intricacies of information warfare which extends worldwide. The second section "Defining disinformation" briefly clarifies key terminology distinctions. In the third section "Why words matter" we scrutinize the use of terms like "war" versus „conflict", „crisis" and „special military operation", highlighting the significance of using accurate and precise terms to avoid manipulation. Section four, "Strategies to fight disinformation," explores effective strategies in countering disinformation, empowering individuals to make informed decisions. This section identifies how information specialists and librarians from third-party countries uphold their mission of providing access to reliable news souces on the Russo-Ukrainian war, even amidst the deluge of disinformation. The fifth section "International networks: *Ukraine Art Aid Center*" (*Zentrum Kulturgutschutz Ukraine),* underscores the support offered by international library networks in aiding libraries and societies under attack in time of war. Section Six "Library information services and trusted news sources," presents a curated selection of information services and trusted news sources from Ukraine, as well as independent, trusted media exiled from Russia. The seventh section focuses on libraries' as heralds of access to reliable Information, providing documentation on war crimes and on human rights violations.

---

objects that have suffered during the hostilities, as significant parts of the territories of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, and Donetsk regions and almost the entire territory of Luhansk are still under temporary occupation.

[2] Here are some examples: The "IFLA Statement on Ukraine" (IFLA 2022-03-01), published by the IFLA Governing Board on 1 March 2022 does not use the term war but the terms "violent actions" and "conflict" or "situation" instead and refrains from naming the aggressor. The "IFLA response to the situation in Ukraine" published by the Governing Board on 21 March 2022 again refrains from naming the aggressor and calls for "an immediate end to the conflict" (IFLA 2022-03-21). As revealed by Naomi O'Leary of *the Irish Times* on March 8, 2022, The United Nations' Department of Global Communications instructed staff of the international organisation not to refer to the situation in Ukraine as a "war" or "invasion"; Instead, UN staff were instructed to use the terms "conflict" or "military offensive" to describe Russia's invasion of its neighbour country. (O'Leary 2022).

1. Russia's war in Ukraine and (dis-)information wars

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched a full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, brazenly violating international law and the UN Charter by invading the independent and sovereign country Ukraine. This shocking invasion caught the world off guard, but in truth, Russia's aggression had already started in February 2014. The war began with Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. Subsequently, Russian paramilitary groups infiltrated Ukraine, backing pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas region of South East Ukraine.

On July 17, 2014, Malaysia Airlines flight 17, traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was shot down by Russian-controlled forces while flying over Eastern Ukraine. All 283 passengers and 15 crew members died (**Figure 2**). Investigators traced the origin of the missile responsible for the attack to a Russian military base. Russia escalated the war significantly in 2022, inflicting further damage by targeting critical infrastructure. The consequences of the Russo-Ukrainian war are not limited to Ukraine alone. The global impact is evident, with Russian missiles targeting Ukrainian granaries in the port of Odesa in July 2023, exacerbating the hunger and food crisis worldwide (United Nations 2023; Walker 2023).

Figure 2: Amsterdam Airport – Flight MH17 Memorial. Roman Boed from The Netherlands, CC BY 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amsterdam_Airport-_Flight_MH17_Memorial_(14675744526).jpg

The Russian Federation not only launched an aggressive attack on Ukraine but also initiated a disinformation war that extends beyond borders, rapidly spreading across the globe. Playing a pivotal role in this spread of disinformation are the state-funded international media outlets *Russia Today* and *Sputnik*. As early as March 2013, Margarita Simonyan, the editor-in-chief of *Russia Today*, in an interview published on the portal lenta.ru candidly referred to these media outlets as "information weapons," stating that

"The information weapon, is certainly used in critical moments, and war is always a critical moment. That's why it's war. It's a weapon like any other. Do you understand? And saying why we need it is about the same as saying, 'Why do we need the Ministry of Defense if there is no war?" (Azar 2013)[3]

Using *RT/Russia Today* and *Sputnik* as tools, Russia disseminated disinformation throughout the European Union. Consequently, in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the European Union on March 2, 2022, imposed sanctions on these state-owned media outlets. The Council of Europe stated that the Russian Government has been applying systematic information manipulation and disinformation as an operational tool in its assault on Ukraine:

"In order to justify and support its aggression against Ukraine, the Russian Federation has engaged in continuous and concerted propaganda actions targeted at civil society in the Union and neighbouring countries, gravely distorting and manipulating facts." (Council of the European Union 2022).[4]

Since 2022, the Russian Federation has significantly expanded the reach of its news media outlets, Russia Today and Sputnik as well as TASS foreign language newswire service, in Africa, Latin America and other regions of the world (Africa Center for Strategic Studies 2022; Patrikarakos 2022; Peltier et. al. 2023, Atlantic Council 2023, 28f.). Following Russia's full scale invasion in Ukraine in 2022, a surge of pro-Russian content has been observed on African news platforms and social media channels. Russia has signed media cooperation memorandums with foreign media and news agencies in several countries in Africa.[5] For instance, News Agency TASS signed cooperation memorandums with news agencies from the Republic of Congo and Senegal on the sidelines of the Second Russia-Africa summit in July 2023.[6]

The study published by OECD Disinformation and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine statet that the "disinformation surrounding Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 marked an escalation in Russia's longstanding information operations against Ukraine and open democracies." (OECD 2022). Russian government bodies are increasingly acting as agents of disinformation, employing various communication channels, including official press releases from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, social media platforms like Telegram, and websites of Russian embassies.

---

[3] „Информационное оружие, безусловно, используется в критические моменты, а война — это всегда критический момент. На то она и война. Это такое же оружие, как и любое другое. Понимаете? И говорить, зачем нам оно надо, — это примерно то же самое, что говорить: «А зачем нам Минобороны, если войны нет?» ("Ne sobirajus' delat' vid, čto ja ob-ektivnaja". Interview s Margaritoj Simon'jan. https://lenta.ru/articles/2013/03/07/simonyan/. The interview with RT editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan was published by Il'ja Azar on the portal lenta.ru on March 7, 2013.

[4] Despite being banned from broadcasting in the European Union since March 2, RT and Sputnik remain accessible to those who bypass the ban using virtual private networks (VPNs).

[5] Sputnik: Sputnik élargit so réseau de partenaires en Afrique. October 23, 2023. https://fr.sputniknews.africa/20231023/sputnik-elargit-son-reseau-de-partenaires-en-afrique-1063013571.html (last accessed 2023-12-12)

[6] TASS Russian News Agency: "TASS signs cooperation memorandums with news agencies from Republic of Congo, Senegal. 28 July 2023. https://tass.com/society/1653597?utm_source=bing.com&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=bing.com&utm_referrer=bing.com (last accessed 2023-12-12).

2. Defining Disinformation

When discussing disinformation and fake news, the terms are defined as follows: Disinformation denotes the purposeful propagation of false information, encompassing forgeries. The origin of the term "disinformation" can be traced linguistically to the Russian word "dezinformacija". Intriguingly, it was a century ago, in 1923, that the Soviet Union's secret service GPU first coined the term. The "Disinformation Bureau" (in Russian: "Dezinformacionnoe bjuro" / "Dezinformbjuro"), an information and propaganda agency, was established on January 11, 1923, by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) Central Committee. Tasked with misleading the enemy, this bureau's responsibilities included the "compilation, technical production of a whole series of false information, documents"[7].

The concept of disinformation revolves around the intentional spread of false or misleading information with the aim of deceiving others. Recognizing the gravity of the issue in 2018, the European Commission formed a high-level expert group to advise on policies to counter fake news and online disinformation. According to this expert group, disinformation is defined as "false, inaccurate, or misleading information designed, presented and promoted to intentionally cause public harm or for profit." (European Commission 2018, 11). In contrast, misinformation involves the unintentional spreading or dissemination of false information. Fake news, on the other hand, is generally described as false or misleading information presented in the form of news. The term "deepfakes" marries "deep learning" and "fake (media)", describing content modified or manipulated using machine learning, deep learning, and artificial intelligence to appear as if it is real.

The European Union (EU) Commission's high-level expert group (HLEG) prefers using the term "disinformation" and avoids the term "fake news" for specific reasons:

> "Firstly the term is inadequate to capture the complex problem of disinformation, which involves content that is not actually or completely 'fake' but fabricated information blended with facts, and practices that go well beyond anything resembling 'news' (…) Secondly, the term 'fake news' is not only inadequate, but also misleading, because it has been appropriated by some politicians and their supporters, who use the term to dismiss coverage that they find disagreeable, and has thus become a weapon with which powerful actors can interfere in circulation of information and attack and undermine independent news media." (EU HLEG 2018, 10).

Therefore, opting for the term "disinformation" aligns with the complexities of the issue, acknowledging its multifaceted nature that goes beyond outright falsehoods. Disinformation is a more complex term that can include content that is not entirely fake but contains a mix of fabricated information and facts. Disinformation can extend beyond traditional "news" and encompass various forms, such as automated accounts, networks of fake followers, and manipulated videos. In contrast, "fake news" is considered narrower and potentially misleading, as some politicians and their supporters have appropriated the term to dismiss coverage they find disagreeable.

---

[7] "Postanovlenie politbjuro CK RKP(b) 'O dezinformacii' s priloženiem predloženij I. S. Unšlichta. 11 janvarja 1923. APRF. F. 3. Op. 58. D. 2. L. 129-130. Lubjanka. Stalin I VČK-GPU-OGPU-NKVD. Janvar' 1922-dekabr' 1936. Moskva: Meždunarodnyj Fond Demokratija, 2003, p. 73. https://archive.org/details/Lubyanka.StalinIVChKGPUOGPUNKVDRuLitMe507985/page/n71/mode/1up (last accessed 2023-12-20)

3. **Why words matter for information specialists: war versus "crisis"/"conflict"/"special military operation"**

Language plays a pivotal role in shaping public perception. The choice of words can drastically impact how events are framed and narratives are shaped, leading to the dissemination of disinformation. On February 24, 2022, when the Russian Federation launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin notably avoided using the terms "war" or "invasion" in his televised announcement. Instead, he referred to it as a "special military operation" ("О проведении специальной военной операции" / "On conducting a special military operation").[8]

Shortly after the full-scale invasion, on the 4th of March 2022, Russia's parliament passed a federal law imposing a jail term of up to 15 years for spreading intentionally so called "fake" news about the military, stepping up the information war over the war in Ukraine.[9] The adoption of this law caused the mass exodus of foreign media from the Russian Federation. It also terminated the activity of independent Russian media.

Subsequently, the use of the word "war" was criminalized in Russia, with news media and individuals facing punishment up to 15 years of penal colony for using the term. The ban on the word "war" was officially confirmed by Moscow's Tverskoy District General Prosecutor's Office on July 21, 2022.[10]

The choice of words in news reporting provides crucial clues about the credibility and bias of information. The blocking and punishment of individuals and organizations for exercising their constitutional right to freedom of expression raise concerns about dictatorial and authoritarian regimes.

Disinformation thrives when terminology like "special military operation" or "conflict" is used instead of the term "war." This deliberate word choice masks the true nature of actions and confuses the public, contributing to the spread of disinformation.

In conclusion, understanding the power of language, the historical context of concepts and terms and the manipulation of words is essential in critically evaluating information and discerning truth from falsehood.

4. **Strategies to fight disinformation and the role of libraries**

Libraries in open democratic societies in Europe and around the world face the challenge of efficiently countering disinformation and providing access to reliable information about the war. Faced with the spread of disinformation by the Russian government and aligned actors, libraries have to develop new strategies on how to counteract false and misleading content.

---

[8] „On conducting a special military operation. Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_conducting_a_special_military_operation (Last accessed 2023-11-17)

[9] See references: Reuters: "Russia fights back in information war with jail warning." Reuters. March 4, 2022 : https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-introduce-jail-terms-spreading-fake-information-about-army-2022-03-04/

[10] BBC News: „Прокуратура объяснила, почему в России запрещено слово "война". Это убедительно?" - BBC News Русская служба. 21 июля 2022. https://www.bbc.com/russian/news-62248490 (last accessed 2023-11-17); Meduza 2022-07-21: Генпрокуратура объяснила, почему войну запрещено называть войной — это «предполагает наступление правовых последствий» — Meduza. 21 июля 2022. https://meduza.io/news/2022/07/21/genprokuratura-ob-yasnila-pochemu-voynu-zarescheno-nazyvat-voynoy-eto-predpolagaet-nastuplenie-pravovyh-posledstviy (last accessed 2023-11-17)

Fact-checking information to verify the accuracy of information and debunk false claims helps to identify and expose misleading or fabricated content. By shedding light on common false narratives, libraries help the public understand the manipulative tactics used in disinformation campaigns. Countering disinformation with facts, libraries provide reliable and evidence-based information to counter disinformation. They ensure that credible sources and accurate data are readily accessible to the public, enabling individuals to make informed decisions. Libraries also offer historical context information to current events and issues, helping people understand the broader context in which disinformation may be spread.

Historical perspectives contribute to a more nuanced and deeper understanding of complex situations. Amplifying credible sources, libraries actively promote and share content from reputable sources, both locally and globally. This includes giving access to books and media on Ukrainian history and on the Russo-Ukrainian war, like for instance, *The Russo-Ukrainian War* by Serhii Plokhy (Plokhy 2023), *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* by Timothy Snyder (Snyder 2010) or the book on the present of Ukraine "Out of the fog of war" (*Aus dem Nebel des Krieges – Die Gegenwart der Ukraine)* by Katharina Raabe and Kateryna Mishchenko (Raabe, Mishchenko 2023).

For Ukrainian writers, the genre war diary became of growing importance to document life in times of war. Technology allows for sharing the diaries in real time on blogs, social media platforms and online magazines, finding its public online. The Ukrainian artist Mila Teshaiva living in Berlin travelled to her hometown Kyiv when the Russian full scale invasion of Ukraine had started and published her *Photo Diary from Kyiv* first on the internet platform decoder.org (Teshaieva 2022). The journalist and media personality Vitaly Sych published his diary of the war on *NV, the New Voice of Ukraine* (Sych 2022) and the Ukrainian writer Olena Stiazhkina shared her war diary in Ukrainian language on DW Deutsche Welle (Stiazhkina 2022a) and in English language on CNN (Stiazhkina 2022b). Sky News Storycast published the podcast series "Ukraine War Diaries" (Sky News 2022), including the podcast diary of Oksana and Sveva Koshel from Ukraine.

Libraries also take on an essential role in promoting media and information literacy. They offer workshops, training sessions, and educational programs to help the public develop strategies to identify and counter disinformation. In promoting media and information literacy, libraries empower users to critically evaluate sources and identify potential disinformation, combatting the spread of false narratives. By utilizing these strategies, libraries serve as bastions of reliable information, helping individuals navigate the overwhelming sea of disinformation. They empower the public to make well-informed decisions and foster a more resilient society against disinformation.

Library also cooperate to safeguard cultural heritage and to document eye witness accounts on the damages inflicted by the war. And, last but not least, libraries create information services tailored to displaced persons and the public. Through their collections and services, libraries provide valuable resources for researchers and the public to access credible and verified information.

4.1 Fact checking tools and websites on Russia's war in Ukraine

As information specialists, librarians adhere to a code of ethics to protect and strive to provide accurate and reliable resources. They actively work to counter disinformation by curating trustworthy materials and providing fact-checking resources. Libraries also serve as valuable resources for accessing fact-checking tools and websites focused on Russia's war in Ukraine. We recommend the following selection of fact checking tools and websites on Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) created the "EDMO Task Force on Disinformation on the War in Ukraine." Specific activities include independent fact-checking, independent research and access to relevant data as well as media and information literacy initiatives and best practices. The independent fact-checking encompasses collecting fact-checking articles produced by fact-checkers in the EDMO network. The activities also include weekly briefs summarising main narratives of disinformation and providing statements on specific topics that can be useful for stakeholders and for public awareness. (https://edmo.eu/war-in-ukraine-the-fact-checked-disinformation-detected-in-the-eu/).

The platform *EU Disinfo Lab* offers information and analysis on disinformation circulating around the war in Ukraine (https://www.disinfo.eu/ukraine-hub/).

Renowned for its investigative journalism and rigorous fact-checking, the platform *Bellingcat* uncovers and verifies information related to the war in Ukraine (https://www.bellingcat.com/).

The Hashtag *#UkraineFacts* by the *International Fact-checking Network Signatories* collects and presents fact-checked information about the war in Ukraine from various reliable sources (https://ukrainefacts.org/).

NewsGuard Russia-Ukraine Disinformation Tracking Center tracks and reports on disinformation pertaining to the Russo-Ukrainian War, while assessing the credibility of online sources (https://www.newsguardtech.com/special-reports/russian-disinformation-tracking-center/).

Fact checking tools on Russia`s War in Ukraine	Description	Website
EDMO European Digital Media Observatory	Fact-checks and detects disinformation related to the war in Ukraine	https://edmo.eu/war-in-ukraine-the-fact-checked-disinformation-detected-in-the-eu/
EU Disinfo Lab	Offers information and analysis on disinformation circulating around the war in Ukraine	https://www.disinfo.eu/ukraine-hub/
Bellingcat	Renowned for its investigative journalism and rigorous fact-checking, the platform uncovers and verifies information related to the war in Ukraine.	https://www.bellingcat.com/
#UkraineFacts	Collects and presents fact-checked information about the war in Ukraine from various reliable sources	https://ukrainefacts.org/
NewsGuard	Tracks and reports on disinformation pertaining to the Russo-Ukrainian War, while assessing the credibility of online sources	https://www.newsguardtech.com/special-reports/russian-disinformation-tracking-center

4.2 Debunking common disinformation narratives

Libraries assist in the essential task of debunking common disinformation narratives surrounding the war in Ukraine. As gruesome videos and photos of bodies from the Kyiv suburb of Bucha were published and circulated on social media, Russian state media falsely claimed that the massacre of civilians in Bucha, Ukraine, during the first month of the Russian occupation was staged. These false claims have been debunked as disinformation. Multiple credible sources, including the BBC, have provided evidence contradicting this claim. High resolution satellite images of the Bucha site revealed the presence of bodies, giving visual verification and validating the reports of the civilian massacre.[11]

Another common disinformation narrative is: "Russia does not target civilian infrastructure in Ukraine". The false narratives also have been debunked: various independent sources and international organizations have documented instances of Russia targeting civilian infrastructure during its invasion of Ukraine. Such incidents have been reported by reputable news outlets and verified through on-the-ground investigations. The claim of not targeting civilian infrastructure is false and contradicted by reliable evidence.

Figure 3: Maksymovych Scientific Library of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/?p=3879

Figure 4: Maksymovych Scientific Library of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/?p=3879

5. International Networks: Ukraine Art Aid Center

Among the many cultural heritage buildings of Ukraine targeted by Russian missiles is the Scientific Library, named after M. Maksymovych, which is the main scientific library of the

---

[11] BBC: Bucha killings: Satellite image of bodies site contradicts Russian claims. BBC. 11 April 2022. https://www.bbc.com/news/60981238. (Last accessed 2023-11-09).

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (**Figures 3 -4**). The library suffered significant damage as a result of the Russian missile attacks.[12] The Ministry of Culture of Ukraine documents information about the destroyed cultural heritage of Ukraine on CultureCrimes website: https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/.[13]

Responding to the targeted destruction of cultural heritage resulting from the Russian war against Ukraine, colleagues from libraries, museums, archives, and other cultural institutions of Ukraine, Germany and Switzerland are cooperating in an international network to protect Ukrainian Cultural Heritage: the *Ukraine Art Aid Center* (*Netzwerk Kulturgutschutz Ukraine*)[14].

In the library sector, the German National Library and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin are acting as joint contacts for Ukrainian libraries seeking assistance and German libraries offering help. They are maintaining dialogue with stakeholders in aid for Ukraine as part of the endeavours to link requests with donations and thus to protect Ukrainian cultural assets from the dangers and devastation of war as far as possible.

In Online-Meetings, museum officials, archivists, and librarians from Ukraine regularly report on the situation of cultural heritage institutions. The colleagues from Ukraine give eyewitness evidence on the damages and destruction of cultural property. They also report on colleagues killed in the course of evacuation efforts or defending their country from Russian invasion.

The material help for libraries in Ukraine concentrates on two directions. It is necessary to save endangered cultural heritage in libraries, pack it, and bring it to safe places. To support this, German libraries delivered packaging materials to the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences in Kyiv. Digitising important objects of Ukrainian historical heritage is another direction of help. Here libraries face a long period of missing investments in their infrastructure since 2014 when Russia's war against Ukraine started. German libraries organised scanners and servers to support digitisation of important historical book collections in Ukrainian language.

On the other hand, the civil activists project SUCHO – Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online – supported a backup of Ukrainian cultural institutions websites, catalogues, or digital libraries. Colleagues from the Bavarian State Library in Munich supported the project and used specialised information resources from Academic link share to identify relevant websites.

Another way of direct help is to support libraries in Ukrainian Hromadas (municipalities) with technical support, as for example PC-working stations with PCs, monitors, mouses, and keyboards. This supports the many refugees within Ukraine to hold contact to relatives, to go on with educational programmes, or to have access to important and reliable information resources for civil life in their evacuation places and about the development of war situation inside Ukraine.

---

[12] https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/?p=3879

[13] As of 20 July 2023, UNESCO has verified damage to 270 sites since 24 February 2022. https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/damaged-cultural-sites-ukraine-verified-unesco (last accessed 2023-08-11)

[14] Netzwerk Kulturgutschutz Ukraine https://icom-deutschland.de/de/icom4ukraine.html (last accessed 2023-08-11)

6. Library Information Services and Trusted News Sources

In May 2023, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported a staggering 8 million refugees in Europe, driven by the Russo-Ukrainian war.[15] In response to this humanitarian crisis, libraries across Europe have played a vital role in supporting Ukrainian refugees. One noteworthy example is the Berlin public libraries of the Association of Public Libraries in Berlin (Verbund der Öffentlichen Bibliotheken Berlins, VÖBB), which have extended a warm welcome to refugees by offering free library cards.

Through the VÖBB (https://www.voebb.de/), these libraries provide a range of services tailored to the needs of Ukrainian refugees. They offer a diverse collection of books and media in the Ukrainian language. Additionally, these libraries serve as information hubs, offering valuable services to the public aimed at disseminating reliable news and facts to counter disinformation surrounding the war. Recognizing the importance of media literacy in the current information landscape, libraries have collaborated with journalists to organize workshops. These sessions focus on enhancing media literacy skills and imparting fact-checking techniques and tools to empower individuals in critically evaluating information. By fostering a community that is well informed and equipped to discern credible sources, libraries are actively contributing to the fight against disinformation and misinformation.

Furthermore, libraries in Europe actively endorse trusted news sources from Ukraine, further emphasizing their commitment to providing accurate and reliable information. In doing so, they not only act as cultural and educational centers but also as crucial pillars of support for those affected by the ongoing war. In these challenging times, libraries serve as beacons of knowledge, resilience, and community for Ukrainian displaced persons and the broader public alike

6.1 Trusted News Sources from Ukraine

Libraries recommend reputable news sources from Ukraine, recognizing the crucial role of reliable information in understanding and responding to complex geopolitical events. Here are some recommended sources:

The Kyiv Independent (https://kyivindependent.com) is a Ukrainian English-language independent online media outlet, officially launched on 22 November 2021 by former staff of the *Kyiv Post*. Crowdfunding is a major source of funding for the online newspaper. *The Kyiv Independent* has become known worldwide for its reporting during Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine. In 2023, *The Kyiv Independent* started to investigate Russian war crimes with its own team. In July 2023, the Kyiv Independent published the documentary film *Uprooted: An Investigation into Russia's Abduction of Ukrainian Children*.[16]

---

[15] OCHA Situation Report, as of May 26, 2023 https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine

[16] *Uprooted: An Investigation into Russia's Abduction of Ukrainian Children* . The Documentary film is accessible via the Kyiv Independent YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cq2gEMhuDps

Ukrainska Pravda (The Ukrainian Pravda, which literally means Ukrainian truth), is one of the most popular and respected Ukrainian media outlets and offers an English service alongside the Ukrainian and Russian language services (https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/).

NV, an acronym for *The New Voice of Ukraine,* is one of the biggest news outlets, offering Ukrainian, Russian and English language services (https://english.nv.ua).

Hromadske (https://hromadske.ua/en) is a digital broadcasting station in Ukraine, offering news in English, Ukrainian and Russian languages.

Zaborona Media is a Ukrainian independent online media in Ukrainian and English language (https://zaborona.com/en/).

Independent Media from Ukraine	Website
The Kyiv independent (EN)	https://kyivindependent.com
Ukrainska Pravda (UKR, EN, RU)	https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/
The New Voice of Ukraine (EN, UKR, RU)	https://english.nv.ua
Hromadske (EN, UKR, RU)	https://hromadske.ua/en
Zaborona (EN, UKR)	https://zaborona.com/en/

6.2 Independent trusted media exiled from Russia

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, almost all independent media have been banned, blocked and/or declared "foreign agents" or "undesirable organisations".[17] However, some continue to provide trusted news sources report from exile:

Meduza is an international publication released in Russian and English working from Riga in Latvia (https://meduza.io/en). Select Meduza articles including the coverage on Russia's invasion of Ukraine are released and may be used under a creative commons CC by license. They can be republished without prior approval from Meduza's newsroom providing that the author(s) and source have been identified and named. The license however does not apply to photographs.

Novaya gazeta ("New Gazette") is an independent Russian newspaper and news portal published in Russian language in Russia and in some foreign countries (https://novayagazeta.ru). Selected English-language articles are published on a weekly basis in the form of "Russia, Explained" newsletter.[18] Novaja gazeta is known for its critical and investigative coverage of Russian political and social affairs. Several Novaya Gazeta journalists, including Anna Politkovskaya who wrote revealing articles on Russia's war in Chechnya and Anastasia Baburova, have been murdered since 2000 in connection with their

---

[17] RSF Reporters without borders https://rsf.org/en/country/russia (last accessed 2023-08-11)

[18]Russia, Explained. "Nyet Voinye / No to War" – Russia Invades Ukraine. In: *Novaya gazeta*. March 1, 2022. https://novayagazeta.ru/articles/2022/03/01/russia-explained

work as investigative journalists. In October 2021, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the NobelPeace Prize for 2021 to Dmitry Muratov, Novaya Gazeta's editor-in-chief, and Maria Ressa, for their courageous fight for freedom of expression in Russia and the Philippines.

Mediazona is a Russian independent media outlet founded by two members of the Russian punk rock band Pussy Riot, Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, publishing in Russian and English language with news focusing on Russia, Belorus and Central Asia (https://en.zona.media/). MediaZona centers on the judicial, law enforcement and penal system in Russia. It offers articles on Russia's War in Ukraine under the Rubric "Voyna". On September 29, 2021, Russia's Ministry of Justice added the parent company of the Mediazona website and the human-rights project Zona Prava ot its blacklist of critical media organizations as so called "foreign-agents". On March 6, 2022, Roskomnadzor (the Russian Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media) blocked Mediazona in the Russian Federation because of the news coverage on the war in Ukraine and demanded that the website shut itself down.

The Insider is a Russia-focused, independent media outlet committed to investigative journalism, fact checking and to debunking fake news (https://theins.ru/en). The Insider offers articles in English and Russian language. It was founded in 2013 by the Russian journalist Roman Dobrokhotov. The editorial office of the Insider website is located in Riga, Latvia. During Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the Insider covered events of the war. On March 23, 2022 Oksana Baulina, correspondent of the Insider who had been reporting from Lviv and Kyiv, was killed by a Russian missile in Kyiv. On July 23, 2021, Russia's Ministry of Justice added The Insider to its blacklist of so-called "foreign agents". On July 15, 2022, *The Insider* was banned in Russia alongside *Bellingcat*.

Independent Media exiled from Russia	Website
Meduza (ENG)	https://meduza.io/en
Novaya gazeta (RUS)	https://novayagazeta.ru
MediaZona (RUS, ENG)	https://en.zona.media/
The Insider (RUS, ENG)	https://theins.ru/en

7. Documenting War Crimes and Violations of Human Rights

Human rights are fundamental to the work undertaken by librarians and information specialists, constituting the moral and ethical foundation for our profession. The code of ethics adhered to by librarians finds its roots in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) from 1948. Article 3 of the UDHR emphasizes that: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person," while Article 5 asserts that: "No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Article 19 reinforces the significance of freedom of expression and access to information as a fundamental human right:

> "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." (UDHR 1948).

Librarians and information specialists play an indispensable role in upholding these rights by facilitating access to trustworthy information. In times of war, ensuring access to reliable information extends to making available information on war crimes and human rights violations. Consequently, Human Rights Organizations serve as crucial sources of information for libraries. Noteworthy Non-governmental organizations operating in Ukraine to document war crimes and human rights violations include the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL), Truth Hounds, ZMINA Ukraine's information center for human rights, and the Crimean Human Rights Group. Ukrainian state institutions, including archives, are collecting evidence on war crimes. Despite global support, the challenge lies in preserving evidence amid ongoing cyber attacks and resource constraints during the war.

NGO's documenting war crimes and violations of human righs	Website
NGO CCL Center for Civil Liberties	https://ccl.org.ua/en/
NGO Truth Hounds. Human rights organization	https://truth-hounds.org/en/homepage/
NGO Ukraine's Information Centre for Human Rights (ZMINA)	https://zmina.ua/en/
NGO Crimean Human Rights Group	https://crimeahrg.org/en/

Reporting from the frontline exposes news media to significant dangers. Obtaining reliable news from a war zone becomes particularly challenging when the aggressor consistently commits war crimes and violates human rights. A group of Ukrainian journalists, affiliated with the news agency Associated Press, found themselves trapped in the besieged city of Mariupol. Despite the dangers, they persisted in their mission, documenting the atrocities of the Russian invasion. As the sole international reporters remaining in the city, they managed to capture powerful images of the ongoing war. The documentary *20 days in Mariupol*, directed by war correspondent Mstyslav Chernov, recounts the harrowing experience of the twenty days Chernov spent alongside his colleagues from Frontline and the Associated Press (AP) during the 2022 battle of Mariupol.

In our technology-driven media landscape, digital news media are ephemeral. News and journalistic content are increasingly produced and disseminated on social media platforms, predominantly consumed on mobile devices. Within this ceaseless stream of content, news is transient and short-lived, with attention spans being brief. Information is delivered in fragmentary bursts, and news dissemination is increasingly governed by algorithms. Platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Tik-Tok, Telegram, and Instagram have evolved into powerful channels for media information delivery but are also being used for disseminating disinformation. It is the responsibility of librarians and libraries to offer services that grant access to more enduring audiovisual resources documenting the war. Documentary films, in particular, stand out as lasting visual documents of the war, offering a depth and permanence that ephemeral news media often lack.

Audiovisual media documenting the war	About the film	Website / Label
Exposing the Russian Military Unit Behind a Massacre in Bucha. In: *The New York Times.*	New York Times visual investigation into the massacres committed by Russian troops in Bucha, Ukraine.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrGZ66uKcl0
20 days in Mariupol / 20 днів у Маріуполі. (UA 2023. Director: Mstyslav Chernov.	An AP team of Ukrainian journalists trapped in the besieged city of Mariupol struggle to continue their work documenting atrocities of the Russian invasion.	https://20daysinmariupol.com DVD edition PBS, USA, published Nov. 28, 2023
The Earth is as Blue as an Orange. (UA 2020. Director: Iryna Tsilyk).	To cope with the daily trauma of living in a war-zone, single mother Anna and her four children are making a film together about their live in Donbas, Ukraine.	https://web.archive.org/web/20200203185824/https://www.sundance.org/projects/the-earth-is-blue-as-an-orange
My ne zgasnemo / We Will Not Fade Away. (UA/FR/PL 2023. Director: Alisa Kovalenko)	Young Ukrainians in the Luhansk Region near the frontline have grown up among ruins, minefields and shelters since 2014. For Andriy, Illia, Lera, Liza and Ruslan, an expedition to the Himalayas briefly fulfills a dream before the full scale Russian attack on Ukraine shatters all hopes in February 2022.	https://www.berlinale.de/de/2023/programm/202306123.html
In the Rearview (UA/ PL/FR, 2023. Director: Maciek Hamela)	A Polish vehicle traverses the roads of Ukraine. On board, people are evacuated following the Russian invasion.	https://intherearview.eu/
Shidniy front / Eastern Front (LV/ CZ/ UA/ US 2023. Director: Vitaly Mansky, Yevhen Titarkenko)	On February 24, 2022, Yevhen and his friends volunteered for medical service at the front. They provided life-saving support and evacuated the wounded.	https://deckert-distribution.com/films/eastern-front
Intercepted (CA/FR/UA 2024. Director: Oksana Karpovych)	The documentary film *Intercepted* contrasts quiet compositions of everyday life of Ukrainians since the full-scale invasion with intercepted phone conversations between Russian soldiers and their families.	https://lightdox.com/intercepted/

To counteract disinformation, it is paramount to ensure sustainable access to audiovisual resources documenting the realities of war, offering enduring evidence of war actions and human rights violations. These resources also serve a pivotal role in providing audiovisual verification to counter disinformation. A compelling illustration of this is the The New York Times documentary *Exposing the Russian Military Unit behind a Massacre in Bucha*, countering the false narrative. Often, crimes committed during a war of aggression only come to light and can be exposed after a region is liberated from occupation.

In memoriam Victoria Amelina (1986 – 2023)

On June 27, 2023, Russia committed another heinous war crime, unleashing a missile attack on the Ria Lounge restaurant in Kramatorsk, a city in Eastern Ukraine. The attack took the lives of 13 indivuduals, including two 14-year-old twin sisters, Yulia and Anna Aksenchenko (Gumenyuk 2023). Among the gravely injured was Ukrainian writer and human rights activist Victoria Amelina (**Figure 5**), who passed away five days later in hospital (Graham-Harrison 2023).

Since the commencement of the full-scale invasion in 2022, Victoria Amelina had been actively collaborating with the NGO *Truth Hounds* (https://truth-hounds.org/) as a dedicated war crimes researcher. Accompanied by organizations such as the Association of Poets, Essayists, and Novelists from Ukraine *PEN Ukraine* and *Truth Hounds*, she frequently ventured into frontline territories, meticulously documenting human rights violations perpetrated by Russian occupying forces.

Victoria Amelina's final literary endeavour, *War and Justice Diary: Looking at Women Looking at War*, narrates the compelling story of journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers, and volunteers documenting war crimes in Ukraine while the war is still ongoing. [19] Collaborating with Truth Hounds' documenters, Amelina visited the family of Volodymyr Vakulenko, a Ukrainian writer detained and killed by Russian soldiers in 2022. Thanks to Amelina's relentless search, Vakulenko's Diary was discovered and has recently been published in Ukrainian language. In the foreword to the book, Victoria Amelina wrote: *"As long as a writer is read, he's alive"* (PEN Ukraine 2023).

On July 1, 2023, Victoria Amelina herself fell victim to a war crime, succumbing to her severe wounds (Gumenyuk 2023). This paper is dedicated to Victoria Amelina, a courageous woman and writer, and relentless advocate for justice and human rights.

Figure 5: Victoria Amelina (1986-2023), Ukrainian Writer. Osabadash, CC BY-SA 4.0
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/05/Amelina_Victoria.JPG

References

Africa Center for Strategic Studies (2022), "Mapping Disinformation in Africa", April 26, 2022. https://africacenter.org/spotlight/mapping-disinformation-in-africa/

Al'ternativa (2023a): *Attacking museums as an attempt to destroy Ukrainian identity. Consequences of the shelling of Ukrainian museums by the Russian army in the period from*

---

[19] IWM: Institute for Human Sciences: Victoria Amelina (1986-2023) https://www.iwm.at/documenting-ukraine/grantees/victoria-amelina

February 24, 2022 to January 25, 2023. https://museum-portal.com/en/news/16_attacking-museums-as-an-attempt-to-destroy-ukrainian-identity (last accessed 2023-12-12).

Al'ternativa (2023b): *Russian attack on Ukrainian libraries*. Monitoring study on the consequences of the Russian army shelling of library infrastructure from 24 February 2022 to 15 November 2023. https://www.alterpravo.org.ua/vidannya/ (last accessed 2023-12-20).

Amelina, Victoria: *War and Justice Diary: Looking at Women Looking at War* (unfinished book project)

Anderson, Jon Lee (2023): "The Death of a Ukrainian Writer". In: *The New Yorker*. August 7, 2023. https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-death-of-a-ukrainian-writer-victoria-amelina (last accessed 2023-11-27).

Atlantic Council (2023): *Undermining Ukraine. How the Kremlin Employs Information Operations to Erode Global Confidence in Ukraine*. Research coordinated by Roman Osadchuk; Edited by Andy Carvin. Washington: Atlantic Council DFRLab. February 2023. https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/undermining-ukraine/ (last accessed 2023-11-28).

Azar, Il'ja (2013): "Ne sobirajus' delat' vid, čto ja ob-ektivnaja". Interview s Margaritoj Simon'jan. ["I'm not going to pretend I'm objective" Interview with Margarita Simonyan.]. Il'ja Azar, March 7, 2013. In: lenta.ru. https://lenta.ru/articles/2013/03/07/simonyan/. (last accessed 2023-07-20).

BBC News (2022): „Прокуратура объяснила, почему в России запрещено слово "война". Это убедительно?" - BBC News Русская служба. 21 июля 2022. https://www.bbc.com/russian/news-62248490 (last accessed 2023-11-17)

Council of the European Union (2022a): Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/351 of 1 March 2022 amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine. In: Official Journal of the European Union L 65, Volume 65, 2 March 2022. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2022:065:TOC (last accessed 2023-08-11)

Council of the European Union (2022b): "EU imposes sanctions on state-owned outlets RT/Russia Today and Sputnik's broadcasting in the EU. Council of the EU. Press release. 2 March 2022. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/03/02/eu-imposes-sanctions-on-state-owned-outlets-rt-russia-today-and-sputnik-s-broadcasting-in-the-eu/ (last accessed 2023-11-27)

EDMO (2023): "Latest Periodic Insights and Early Warnings." European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) taskforce on disinformation on the war in Ukraine. https://edmo.eu/war-in-ukraine-the-fact-checked-disinformation-detected-in-the-eu/

EU HLEG (2018): A multi-dimensional approach to disinformation. Report of the independent High Level Expert Group on fake news and online disinformation. 12 March 2018. https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/final-report-high-level-expert-group-fake-news-and-online-disinformation (last accessed 2023-11-17)

Graham-Harrison, Emma (2023): "Ukrainian Writer Victoria Amelina dies after being wounded in Kramatorsk strike." In: *The Guardian*. 3 July 2023. Ukrainian writer Victoria Amelina dies after being wounded in Kramatorsk strike | Ukraine | The https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/03/ukrainian-writer-victoria-amelina-dies-after-being-wounded-in-kramatorsk-strikeGuardian (last accessed 2023-11-27)

Gumenyuk, Nataliya (2023): "My friend was out for pizza when the missile hit. Putin's targeting of civilians must be punished." In: *The Guardian,* 3 July 2023.
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/03/russia-bombing-civilian-targets-crimes-ukraine-victoria-amelina https://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-response-to-the-situation-in-ukraine/ (last accessed 2023-11-27)

IFLA (2022-03-01): "IFLA Statement on Ukraine". IFLA Governing Board. 01 March 2022. https://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-statement-on-ukraine/ (last accessed 2023-11-27)

IFLA (2022-03-21): "IFLA response to the situation in Ukraine". IFLA Governing Board, 21 March 2022. https://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-response-to-the-situation-in-ukraine/ (last accessed 2023-11-27)

IWM: Institute for Human Sciences (IWM): "Victoria Amelina (1986-2023)" https://www.iwm.at/documenting-ukraine/grantees/victoria-amelina

Judge, Michael (2022): "Diary of War and Justice in Ukraine. A conversation with Ukrainian Writer Victoria Amelina about her new project, 'War and Justice Diary: Looking at Women Looking at War,' and holding Russia accountable for murderous war crimes. 29. August 2022. https://michaeljudge.substack.com/p/diary-of-war-and-justice-in-ukraine (last accessed 2023-11-27)

Meduza (2022): „Генпрокуратура объяснила, почему войну запрещено называть войной — это «предполагает наступление правовых последствий» — Meduza 21 июля 2022. https://meduza.io/news/2022/07/21/genprokuratura-ob-yasnila-pochemu-voynu-zprescheno-nazyvat-voynoy-eto-predpolagaet-nastuplenie-pravovyh-posledstviy (last accessed 2023-11-17)

O'Leary, Naomi (2022): "United Nations advises staff against using 'war' or 'invasion' regarding Ukraine. In: *The Irish Times*. March 8, 2022. https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/united-nations-advises-staff-against-using-war-or-invasion-regarding-ukraine-1.4821438 (last accessed 2023-11-27)

OECD (2022): "Disinformation and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Threats and governance responses". OECD Policy Responses on the Impacts of the War in Ukraine. 03 November 2022. https://www.oecd.org/ukraine-hub/policy-responses/disinformation-and-russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-37186bde/ (last accessed 2023-11-27)

Patrikarakos, David (2022): Russia's Hunger War. In: *The Atlantic*. July 20, 2022. https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/07/russian-disinformation-africa-food-crisis/670570/ (last accessed 2023-11-27).

Peltier, Elian; Satariano, Adam; Chutel, Lynsey (2023): "How Putin Became a Hero on African TV." In: *The New York Times*. April 13, 2023, updated April 18, 2023. https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/13/world/africa/russia-africa-disinformation.html (last accessed 2023-11-27).

PEN Ukraine (2023): "Volodymyr Vakulenko's book I Am Transforming… A Diary of Occupation. Selected Poetry presented at Book Arsenal Festival." June 23, 2023. https://pen.org.ua/en/na-knyzhkovomu-arsenali-prezentuvaly-knyzhku-volodymyra-vakulenka-k-ya-peretvoryuyus-scshodennyk-okupaciyi-vybrani-virshi (last accessed 2023-12-20).

Plokhy, Serhii (2023): *The Russo-Ukrainian War*. London: Allen Lane, an imprint of Penguin Books, 2023.

Raabe, Katharina; Mishchenko, Kateryna (2023): *Aus dem Nebel des Krieges – Die Gegenwart der Ukraine.* Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2023.

Sky News: Ukraine War Diaries. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ukraine-war-diaries/id1615987767 (last accessed 2023-12-12).

Snyder, Timothy (2010): *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin.* New York: Basis Books, 2010.

Stiazhkina, Olena (2022a): "Щоденник війни. П'ятий тиждень довгого лютого / Diary of the war. The fifth week of the long February." In: DW https://www.dw.com/uk/shchodennyk-viiny-piatyi-tyzhden-dovhoho-liutoho/a-61341699 (last accessed 2023-12-12).

Stiazhkina, Olena (2022b): "Poetic, raw and darkly comical. A Ukrainian author shares her war diary." In: CNN https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/26/opinions/war-diary-ukraine-author-russia-stiazhkina/index.html (last accessed 2023-12-12).

SUCHO – Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online https://www.sucho.org/

Sych, Vitaly (2022): My diary of the war. In: *The New Voice of Ukraine* https://english.nv.ua/korrespondents/vitaliy-sych.html (last accessed 2023-12-12).

TASS (2023): "TASS signs cooperation memorandums with news agencies from Republic of Congo, Senegal. 28 July 2023". TASS Russian News Agency https://tass.com/society/1653597?utm_source=bing.com&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=bing.com&utm_referrer=bing.com (last accessed 2023-12-12).

Teshaieva, Mila (2022): „Fototagebuch aus Kyjiw". In: dekoder.org https://www.dekoder.org/de/article/fototagebuch-kyjiw-mila-teshaieva (last accessed 2023-12-20)

UDHR (1948): Universal Declaration of Human Rights. https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights (last accessed 2023-11-27).

Ukrainian writer Victoria Amelina dies after being wounded in Kramatorsk strike | Ukraine | The Guardian

United Nations (2023): "Russian Federation Attacks on Ukrainian Ports Risk Far-Reaching Impacts for Food in Developing Countries; Under-Secretary-General Tells Security Council. Security Council CS/15362, 21 July 2023. https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15362.doc.htm (last accessed 2023-11-27)

Walker, Shaun (2023): "Odesa suffers 'hellish night' as Russia attacks Ukraine grain facilities." The Guardian, 19 July 2023 https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/19/odesa-suffers-hellish-night-as-russia-attacks-ukraines-grain-facilities (last accessed 2023-11-27).

Wardle, Claire; Derakhshan, Hossein (2017): *Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making*. By Claire Wardle, PhD and Hossein Derakhshan. With research support from Anne Burns and Nic Dias. September 27, 2017. Council of Europe report DGI (2017)09. https://edoc.coe.int/en/media/7495-information-disorder-toward-an-interdisciplinary-framework-for-research-and-policy-making.html (last accessed 2023-11-27).