

WLIC2023 Rotterdam  
IFLA News Media Section  
“Collecting News in Times of Conflict”

# International Library Cooperation and Trusted News in Times of War

## Ukraine Art Aid Center

Anna Bohn, Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin, Germany  
Olaf Hamann, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany

Photo: PIDHAINÉ VILLAGE LIBRARY / СІЛЬСЬКА БІБЛІОТЕКА С. ПІДГАЙНЕ  
<https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/?p=2866>

# Agenda

1. Russia's war in Ukraine and (dis-)information wars
2. Why words matter: “War” *versus* “conflict / crisis/ special military operation”
3. Disinformation – definitions
4. Strategies to fight disinformation
5. International networks: Ukraine Art Aid Center
6. Role of libraries

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# 1. Russia's War in Ukraine

- 24th February 2023: Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine
- Russia's aggression started in February 2014 with the annexation of Crimea and support of Pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas War.
- July 17, 2014. Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down by Russian-controlled forces while flying over eastern Ukraine



Screenshot: Memorial at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport for the victims of Flight MH17, shot down by Russian-controlled forces on July 17, 2014  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia\\_Airlines\\_Flight\\_17#/media/File:Amsterdam\\_Airport-Flight\\_MH17\\_Memorial\\_\(14675744526\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia_Airlines_Flight_17#/media/File:Amsterdam_Airport-Flight_MH17_Memorial_(14675744526).jpg)

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# Russia's (Dis-) Information Wars

Russian State funded Media Outlets  
as „Information Weapons“

**RT- Russia Today** **Disinfo**  
**Sputnik** **Disinfo**

“The information weapon, of course, is used in critical moments, and war is always a critical moment. And it's war. It's a weapon like any other.”

March 7, 2013 RT editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan, Interview Lenta.ru

<https://lenta.ru/articles/2013/03/07/simonyan/>

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## 2. Why words matter

„war“

*versus*

„crisis“

„conflict“

„special military operation“

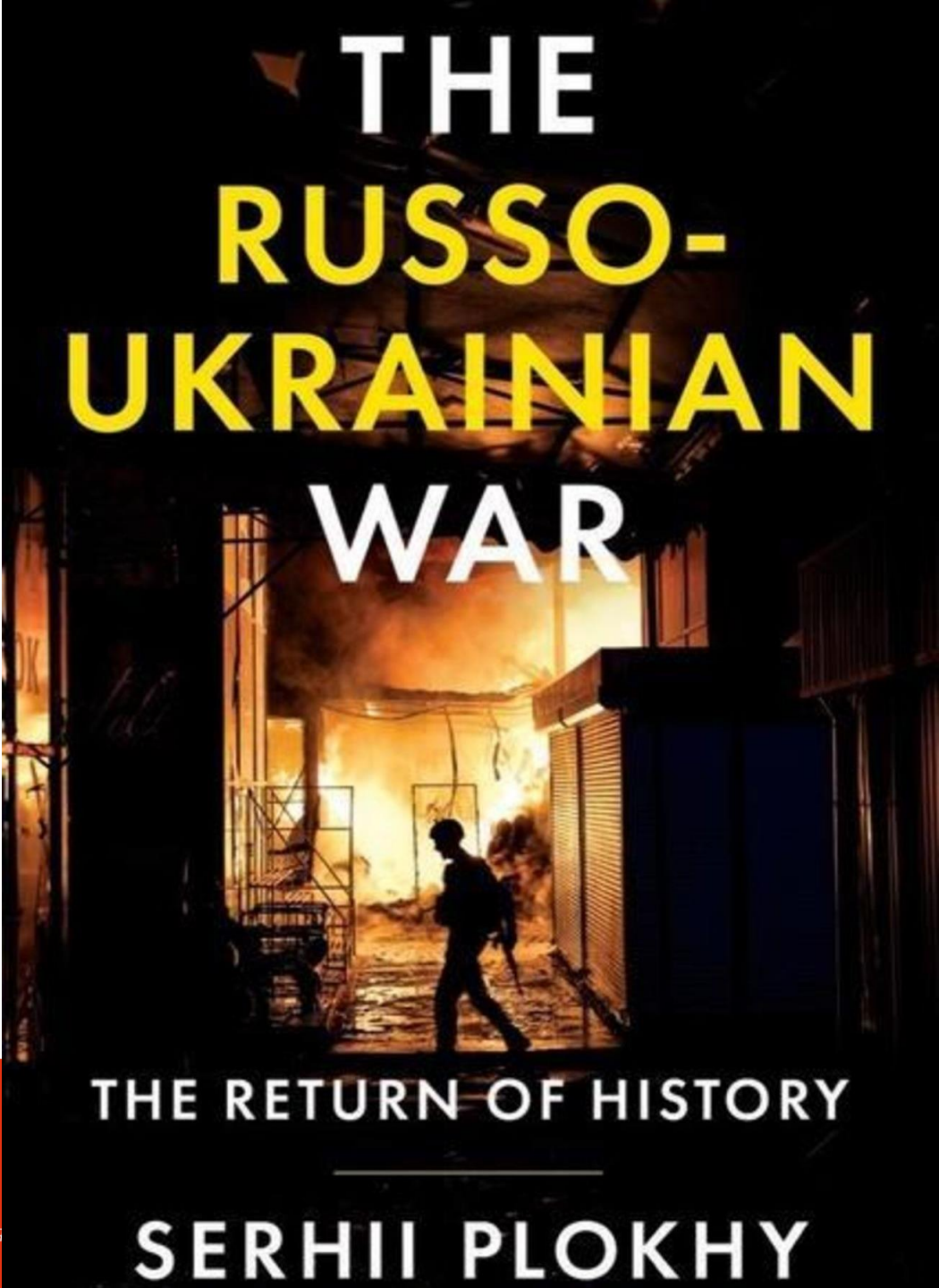
Photo: Cover Serhii Plokyh (2023): *The Russo-Ukrainian War. The Return of History*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

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**THE  
RUSSO-  
UKRAINIAN  
WAR**

**THE RETURN OF HISTORY**

**SERHII PLOKHY**

# 3. Disinformation – definitions

**Disinformation**  
**Misinformation**

**Fake news**  
**Deepfakes**

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# 4. Strategies to fight disinformation

- fact checking & debunking
- exposing common false narratives
- countering disinformation with facts
- providing historical context
- promoting media & information literacy



**Disinfo:** Fake cover of a Polish Magazine showing a sunken submarine with Ukraine colors. <https://ukrainefacts.org/>

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# Fact checking tools and websites on Russia's War in Ukraine

- EDMO European Digital Media Observatory  
<https://edmo.eu/war-in-ukraine-the-fact-checked-disinformation-detected-in-the-eu/>
- EU Disinfo Lab <https://www.disinfo.eu/ukraine-hub/>
- Bellingcat <https://www.bellingcat.com/>
- #UkraineFacts by the International Fact-checking Network Signatories  
<https://ukrainefacts.org/>
- NewsGuard Russia-Ukraine Disinformation Tracking Center  
<https://www.newsguardtech.com/special-reports/russian-disinformation-tracking-center/>

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# Debunking common disinformation narratives

- **Disinfo:** The massacre of civilians in Bucha, Ukraine, during the first month of the war 2022 was staged
- **Disinfo:** Russia does not target civilian infrastructure in Ukraine

Source: Cadier et al. (2022), “Russia-Ukraine Disinformation Tracking Center”, News Guard, <https://www.newsguardtech.com/special-reports/russian-disinformation-tracking-center/>

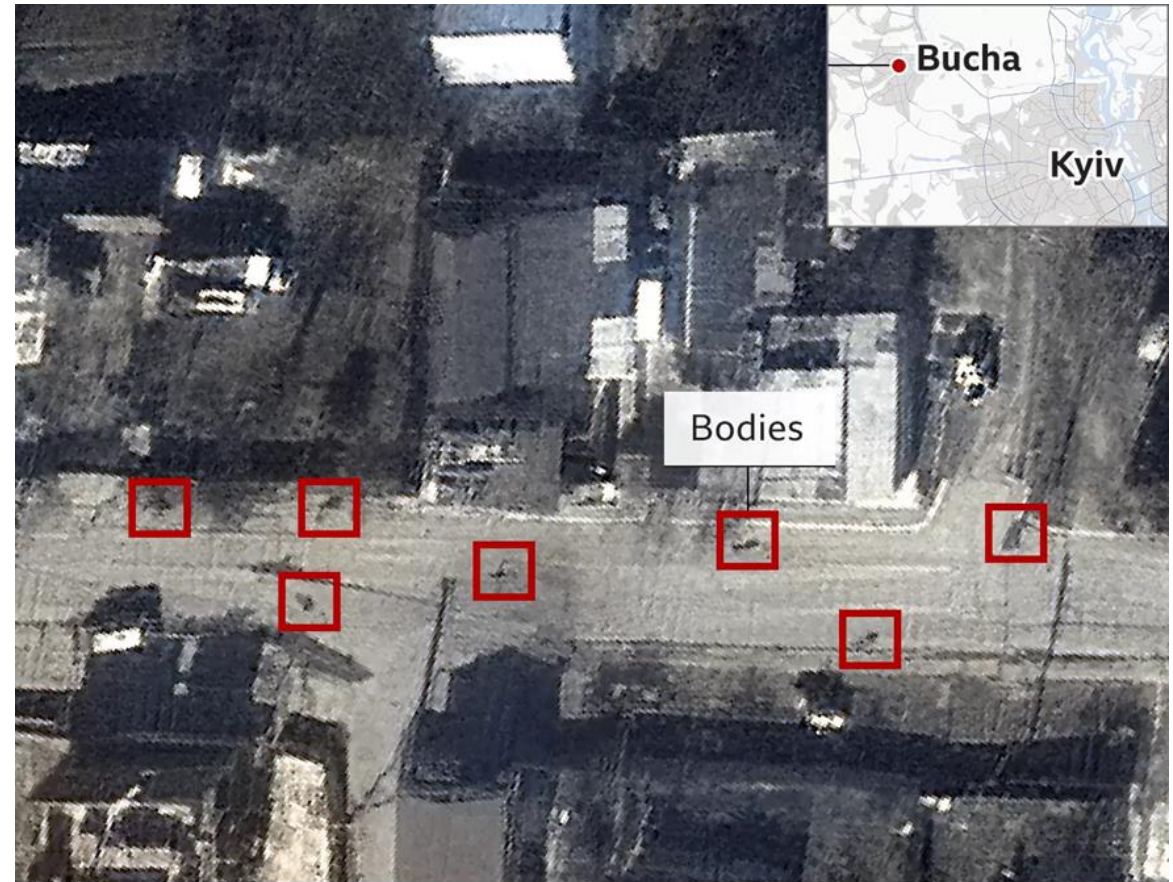


Image from Maxar, 19 March 2022

BBC: Bucha killings: Satellite image of bodies site contradicts Russian claims. BBC. 11 April 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/60981238>

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# 5. International Networks – Ukraine Art Aid Center

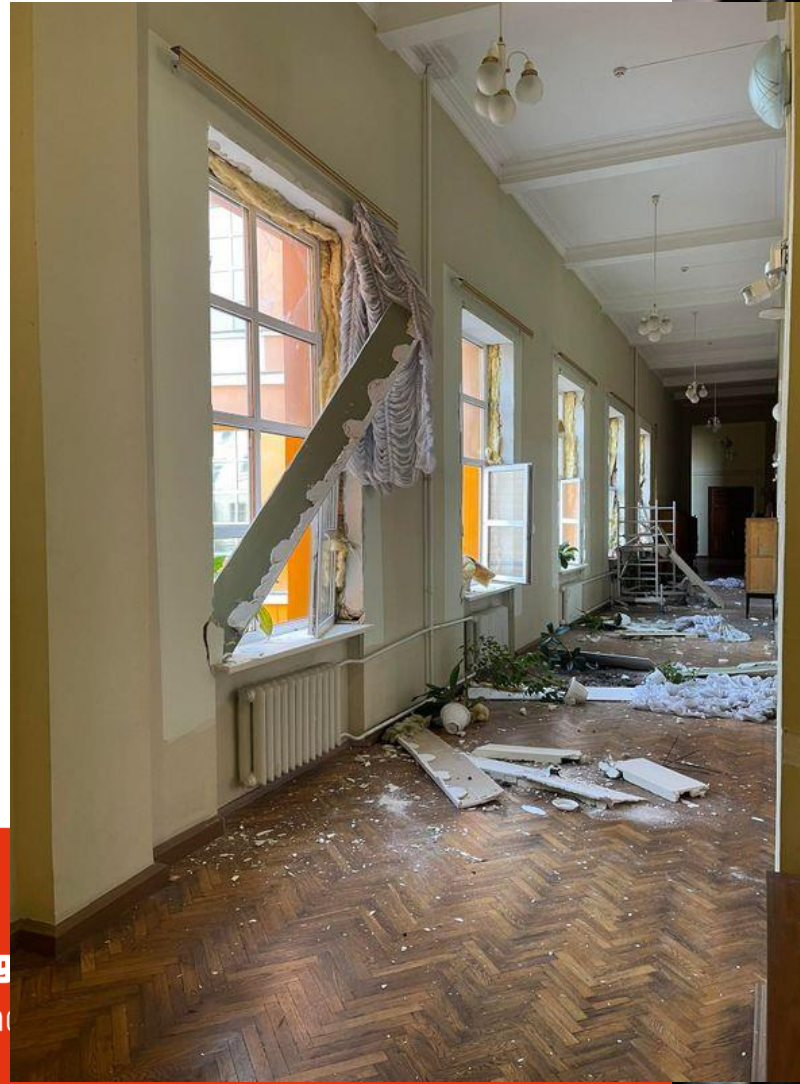
Screenshots:

**Maksymovych Scientific  
Library of the Taras  
Shevchenko National  
University of Kyiv**

<https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/?p=3879>

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# WIR FÜR DIE UKRAINE

- ✓ Netzwerk Kulturgutschutz  
Ukraine
- ✓ Aktivitäten der Deutschen  
Nationalbibliothek // Діяльність  
Німецької національної  
бібліотеки

## #StandWithUkraine

Für Frieden, Freiheit und Demokratie

### Ukraine Art Aid Center / Netzwerk Kulturgutschutz Ukraine

- Networking of institutions, actors and activities
- Collection and documentation of information on the risk situation
- Support of partner institutions

Contacts: [olaf.hamann@sbb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:olaf.hamann@sbb.spk-berlin.de) ; [Kulturgutschutz@dnb.de](mailto:Kulturgutschutz@dnb.de)

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# 6. Role of libraries

- Library networks: cooperation to preserve cultural heritage
- Building library and information services for displaced persons and the public
- Promoting media and information literacy
- News media documenting on war crimes and human rights violations



Photo: Regional Youth Library, Chernihiv.  
<https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/?p=447>

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# Library Information Services



VÖBB Association of Public Libraries  
in Berlin <https://www.voebb.de/>



Central City Public Library named after V.G. Korolenko, housed in the building of the former Mariupol State Bank, built in 1897-1905, Mariupol. <https://culturecrimes.mkp.gov.ua/?p=2039>

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# Independent Media from Ukraine

- 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/>



Screenshot: SCHOOL OF ARTS AND LIBRARY / ШКОЛА МИСТЕЦТВ І БІБЛІОТЕКА . Chasiv Yar. Bakhmut District, Donetsk region. <https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/?p=3674>

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# Independent Media (exiled) from Russia

- 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>



Screenshot: PIDHAINÉ VILLAGE LIBRARY / СІЛЬСЬКА БІБЛІОТЕКА С. ПІДГАЙНЕ  
<https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%96%D0%B4%D0%B3%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%BD%D0%B5-1.jpg>

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# Documenting War Crimes and Violations of Human Rights

- Exposing the Russian Military Unit Behind a Massacre in Bucha | The New York Times.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrGZ66uKcl0>
- 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/>



*20 Days in Mariupol*. Director: Mstyslav Chernov.  
Documentary, 2023 <https://20daysinmariupol.com/>

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# In memoriam Victoria Amelina (1986 – 2023)

Ukrainian writer and human rights activist.

*War and Justice Diary: Looking at Women Looking at War*

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# References

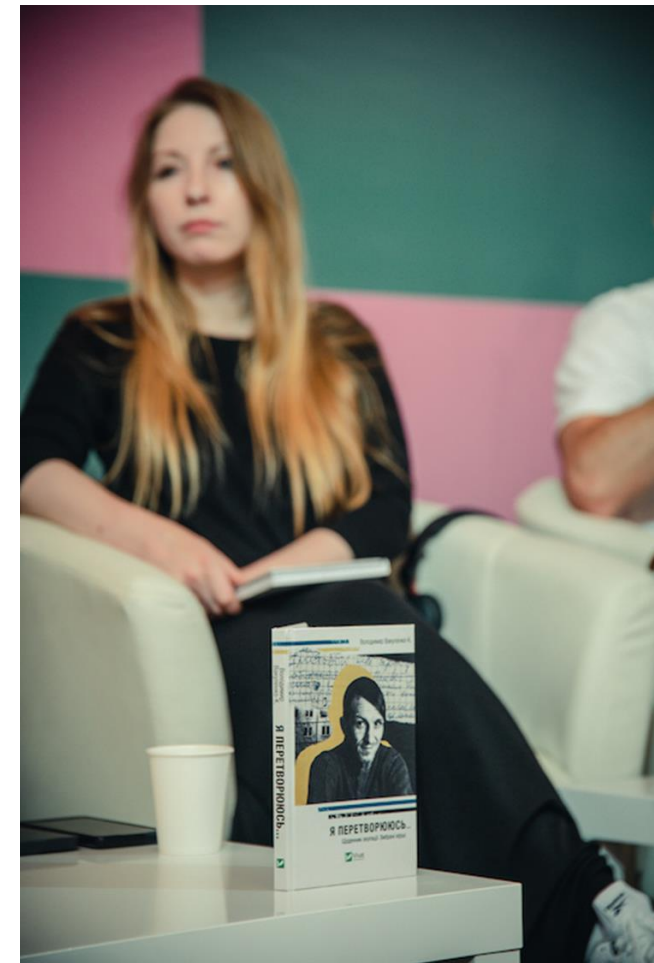
Africa Center for Strategic Studies (2022), “Mapping Disinformation in Africa”, <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/mapping-disinformation-in-africa/>

Victoria Amelina, *War and Justice Diary: Looking at Women Looking at War* (forthcoming)

Volodymyr Vakulenko (2023) I am Transforming... A Diary of Occupation. Selected Poetry. ( Я перетворююсь... Щоденник окупації. Вибрані вірші) <https://vivat-book.com.ua/ya-peretvoryuyus-shchodennik-okupatsii-vibrani-virshi.html>

EU (2018), [Final report of the High Level Expert Group on Fake News and Online Disinformation | Shaping Europe’s digital future \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-storytelling/en/final-report-of-the-high-level-expert-group-on-fake-news-and-online-disinformation-shaping-europes-digital-future)

OECD (2022), Disinformation and Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. Threats and governance responses. <https://www.oecd.org/ukraine-hub/policy-responses/disinformation-and-russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-37186bde/>



Screenshot: PEN Ukraine  
<https://pen.org.ua/en/na-knyzhkovomu-arsenali-prezentuvaly-knyzhku-volodymyra-vakulenko-k-ya-peretvoryuyus-scshodennyk-okupaciyi-vibrani-virshi>

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<https://culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua/?p=2866>