

## Historical Sciences and Archaeology

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### The Ukrainian Documentary Heritage in Canadian Virtual Space: Digital Exhibitions, Encyclopedias and Databases

Khrystyna M. Vintoniv

Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas, Ukraine  
13, Korolia Danyla Street, Ivano-Frankivsk, 76010

Assistant

E-mail: chris\_tina3000@yahoo.com

**Abstract.** The article characterizes the Ukrainian documentary heritage in the Canadian virtual space. The Canadian digital exhibitions, databases and encyclopedias that present the information about the history of Ukrainian emigration, economic, cultural, religious and political life of Ukrainians in Canada are analyzed.

**Keywords:** Ukrainian Canadians; Ukrainian documentary heritage; Internet; digital exhibitions; databases; encyclopedias; Canada; archives; digitization.

#### Introduction.

More than one hundred years have passed since the first two Ukrainians immigrated to Canada. Ivan Pylypiw and Wasyl Elyniak from the village of Nebyliv in Western Ukraine started the first wave of Ukrainian immigration when more than 170 000 Ukrainians found their new homeland abroad since 1891 [1]. New generation of Ukrainians (called Ukrainian Canadians) formed a unique ethnic component in multicultural country as they managed to overcome all the difficulties, including long travelling by sea, financial problems, lack of knowledge of English or French, cultivation of new land, founding of first churches and schools, process of assimilation and Canadization, prejudice from local citizens and many others.

According to the 2011 Census of Population there are 23 major language families in Canada. Slavic language family, including Polish, Russian and Ukrainian, has numbers 721, 605 people. About 201,000 persons have Polish as their mother tongue; Russian and Ukrainian have numbers below 200,000 [2].

Nowadays the Ukrainian diaspora of Canada consists of four waves of immigrants, developing and flourishing in all aspects of life. They have established many religious, cultural, political, professional, beneficial, educational, business institutions, information about which is holding in many Canadian repositories. With the help of digital exhibitions, databases and encyclopedias we have the opportunity to investigate the Ukrainian documentary heritage in Canada.

The goal of the article is to find out and analyze the resources about Ukrainian Canadians in Canadian virtual space.

#### Materials and Methods.

The major sources for this article are the websites of Canadian libraries, museums and archives that are preserving, digitizing and giving the online access to the Ukrainian documentary heritage. Other sources are databases of different Canadian institution where archival descriptions by using keyword "Ukrainian" can be found. **Methods.** In the article we apply fundamental (philosophical) methods which include analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, generalization. Among general scientific methods we use historical, system, social and cultural approaches. We also use historical methods such as historical-typological, historical-comparative and retrospective which allowed to consider the object from historical point of view.

## **Discussion.**

I. Digital exhibitions are the most effective way of presenting documentary heritage of any nation because you can study materials through photos, texts, audio and video recordings. Canadian institutions have digitized a lot of materials and created the interesting exhibitions via the Internet. The most successful in this work is the Library and Archives Canada that is the main institution, responsible for preserving the documentary heritage of Canada. Among 109 databases and 89 virtual exhibitions, presented on its website, the Ukrainian materials can be found in the following three exhibitions [3]:

1. The aim of exhibition “Moving Here, Staying Here. The Canadian Immigrant Experience” is to provide information about immigration to Canada in 1800-1939. The exhibition consists of three sections: 1) “The Documentary Trail”, where following documents of immigrant are characterized, e. g., printed advertisements about immigration to Canada, immigrant guides, government rules and regulations, travel documents, lists of passengers who travelled by vessels, identity files, land patents, immigrant diaries and memoirs, photos; 2) “Traces of the Past” includes period from 1800s, when the first legislation to protect emigrant was enacted, to 1930s, when the federal government of Canada passed strict restrictions about immigration during the Depressing Period; 3) “Find an Immigrant” give advices how to find an immigrant by using passenger lists and databases.

2. The exhibition “The Canadian West” presents 188 items (1540-1930s) from the holding of Library and Archives Canada that are grouped into three categories, followed by textual information and photos: “Anticipation; Expectations for the New Land”, “Contact: Making the West Canadian”, “Accommodation: The West as Home”. The Ukrainian immigration is considered in the context of general immigration to western Canada that made this country one of the most multicultural in the world.

3. The exhibition “The Kids' Site of Canadian Settlement” is created for children at the age of four to six in order to know the history of their country. The information about early Ukrainian settlements in Canada is given among other 18 ethnic communities that helped to form Canadian state such as Acadians, Africans, Beothuk, Chinese, Doukhobors, Dutch, French, Haida, Inuit, Irish, Japanese, Metis, Mi'kmaq, Nisga'a, Plains Cree, Scots and Wendat (Huron). Each community is presented through three aspects – history, daily life and culture; photos, references and glossary are also added.

Next four projects are coordinated by the Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore at the University of Alberta. The Centre was established in 2001 and it has become one of the most important institutions in Canada for the study of Ukrainian culture. The Centre presents the following projects via the Internet:

1. “Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives” that will be considered below in the section about databases.

2. “Ukrainian Dance” is based on the published book “Ukrainian Dance: A Cross-Cultural Approach” by Andriy Nahachewsky, director of the Kule Folklore Centre. The website is under construction but we are able to read about popular Ukrainian folk and ethnic dances (e. g., hopak, hutsulka, kolomyika, wedding dances, the match), supplemented by photos and videos [4].

3. The project “Ukrainian Traditional Folklore” was initiated by the professor and the first holder of the Kule Chair in Ukrainian Ethnography Natalie Kononenko. Since 1998 the scientist has been interviewing people in the villages of Central Ukraine, Volyn region of Western Ukraine, Alberta and Saskatchewan, Kazakhstan. This comprehensive resource presents ritual, material, spiritual and verbal cultures of Ukrainians in their country and abroad. With the help of Virtual reality presentation we have the opportunity to see three-dimensional objects such as churches, houses, people in national costumes or painted Easter eggs (pysankas). The section “Verbal Culture” contains more than 200 hours of sound recordings with Ukrainian songs, tales, beliefs, prayers, taboos, legends, stories, etc. [5].

4. “Ukrainian Wedding Exhibit” is maintained by the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives and presents rich Ukrainian wedding traditions before 1940 and after 1970. The website compares weddings in Ukraine and Canada through videos and photos. There are also teacher resources, bibliography and glossary of Ukrainian wedding terms [6].

II. Databases have some advantages over digital exhibitions – they contain more information about holdings of any institution in the form of archival descriptions. With the help of databases in

the Internet a scientist or a simple user can search for the necessary materials from distance. Moreover, databases are updated more often as neither scanning nor photos or textual explanation is needed in comparing with virtual exhibitions. We will characterize several Canadian databases that hold information not only about Ukrainians but also about other ethnic groups of Canada.

1. While conducting our research, we have found one database of Ukrainian organization that is searchable database of the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives. The Archives is a part of the Peter and Doris Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta. It is considered to be the largest archives of Ukrainian folklore materials in North America. The Ukrainian Folklore Archives was founded in 1977 by Dr. Bohdan Medwidsky from students' fieldwork projects at the University of Alberta and nowadays it houses approximately 45000 items [7].

The online archives present over 23 000 descriptions of different records: 5300 albums, 13 000 songs and musical pieces, 3500 photographs, 1000 field recordings [8]. For the basic search you can use keyword search, people search, subject search (e. g., agriculture, clothing, crafts, rites and ceremonies, settlements) or accession # search. Advanced searches include search in commercial recordings, photo collection, field recordings and publications.

2. The website "Connecting Canadians: Canada's Multicultural Newspapers" in English and French languages was launched by Athabasca University with support of the Department of Canadian Heritage. It presents digitized early newspapers of ethnic communities such as Croatian, Estonian, Finnish, Hungarian, Polish, Serbian, Ukrainian, Serbo-Croatian, Latvian and Lithuanian. We have the opportunity to look through four Ukrainian-language newspapers, published in Canada [9]: 1) the only Ukrainian Weekly West of Winnipeg "Western News", later renamed to the only Ukrainian Catholic Weekly of Canada "Ukrainian News" (Edmonton); 2) social-political weekly "Ukrainian Echo" (Toronto); the only Ukrainian weekly in Eastern Canada "Ukrainian Toiler" (Toronto); the Ukrainian weekly "Free Word" in Toronto.

3. One of the most valuable and comprehensive project in the Internet is "Our Roots: Canada's Local Histories Online" in English and French, developed by the University of Calgary and Université Laval. This unique resource was initiated in 2000 and presents 5685 digital texts with 1.3 million pages about Canada in June 2012. To find the necessary information you can do a title, author, chapter, text or subject search by entering any keyword in a database. By typing the keyword "Ukrainian" in the title search, the list of 23 items are yielded. Every item is added by the information about authors, related subjects, publication and rights attribution statement [10].

4. The mission of website "Canadiana.org" is to support an access to Canada's digital documentary heritage for Canadians and the world. The term "Canadiana" refers to all materials, concerning history, economy and culture of Canada. The website was launched by the Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries and the AlouetteCanada initiative (founded by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries) that merged in a new organization "Canadiana.org" in 2008. Today it is possible to use digital Canadiana via fourteen online collections, e. g., "Early Canadiana Online", "Department of Foreign Affairs", "English Canadian Literature", "Hudson's Bay Company", "War of 1812", "Canadiana Discovery Portal" and others. The last mentioned collection provides access to digital books, periodicals, government materials, photos, audio and video files; it contains materials about Ukrainians the most – 299 results by using a title search [11].

5. Since 2011 the Canadian Register of Historic Places provides an opportunity via the Internet to find information about all historic places that were recognized for their heritage value in Canada. A historic place is a structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site or other place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value by an appropriate authority within a jurisdiction. The website is maintained by Parks Canada Agency and currently, over 12 500 historic places are accessible online [12].

To find the concrete historic place you are able to use the advanced register search by entering a keyword, province or territory, location (city, town, township), jurisdiction (federal, provincial or territorial), postal code, purpose group (i. e. historic or current function of historic place, for example, commerce, education, government, leisure). By entering the keyword "Ukrainian", we get the list of 103 historic places, most of which are religion places. Each cultural object is supplemented by such characteristics as address, date of recognition, photos, other name(s), links and documents, construction date(s), date of being listed on the Canadian Register, statement of significance (description of historic place, heritage value and character-defining

elements), information about recognition, historical information (significant date(s), category and type, function, architect/designer, builder), additional information (location of supporting documentation, identifier, related places, etc.).

III. Internet encyclopedias and dictionaries. The information about Ukrainians in Canada can also be found in different Canadian encyclopedias and dictionaries in the Internet. We will characterize five of them such as Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Multicultural Canada, The Canadian Encyclopedia, The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan and Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online.

1. One of the first encyclopedias about Ukraine and Ukrainians in the Internet was created in 2001 by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) – “Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine”. The site is an online version of the printed five-volume edition of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, prepared by the CIUS, Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies and the Shevchenko Scientific Society in 1984-1993 under the direction of V. Kubijovyc and D. Husar-Struk. The online encyclopedia is maintained by Roman Senkus, Marko Stech, Andrij Makuch and more than twenty subject editors. Approximately 4700 articles were presented online in 2012, supplemented by photographs, illustrations, maps, video and audio materials [13].

The Internet Encyclopedia consists of six subject headings such as Ukrainian history, land, people, culture, art and literature. The information about the life of Ukrainians in the prairie provinces of Canada (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) where most of Ukrainian pioneers found their new homeland is presented in the section “People”. To search for the necessary materials you can use several types of searches, viz.: title search, simple full text search, index search, advanced full text search [14].

2. The aim of the Multicultural Canada project is to provide a free access to the rich documentary heritage of ethnic communities of Canada, including Ukrainian. The project is coordinated by Lynn Copeland from Simon Fraser University and contains several resources [15]:

1) collections of newspapers, oral histories, photographs, books, newsletters, legal documents, etc. Three of 53 collections are Ukrainian and include 38 400 digitized items, contributed by the University of Calgary Library, 137 digitized published materials from 1900 to 1950 as a part of John Luczkiw’s Ukrainian collection, and 1272 issues of the Ukrainian-language newspaper “Zhyttia i Slovo” (Life and Word), published by the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians in Toronto between 1965 and 1991;

2) learning materials for teachers and students;

3) the online version of the Encyclopedia of Canada’s Peoples, published by the Multicultural History Society of Ontario in 1999 as the first Canadian encyclopedia about 119 ethnic groups. Every group is presented by the following topics: origins; migration; arrival and settlement; economic life; community life; family and kinship; culture; education; religion; politics; intergroup relations; group maintenance and ethnic commitment; bibliography. The entry about Ukrainians is prepared by Professor Frances Swyripa, University of Alberta. The separate entry is devoted to the Carpatho-rusyns (Ruthenians), ethnic group from east-central Europe.

3. “The Canadian Encyclopedia” is an online source of information about Canada and Canadians in English and French which was launched in 1999 by the Canadian institution “Historica Canada” and includes the Encyclopedia of Music in Canada, The Junior Encyclopedia of Canada and articles from the Canadian weekly news magazine “Maclean’s”. Originally it was published in 1985 by Mel Hurtig and immediately became a bestseller. The website is supplemented by TCE Blog that disseminates the information about Canadian history, politics, literature, music, film, culture and education.

The online encyclopedia provides the search function where you can enter a keyword or a phrase and indicate a type of record (articles, photos, video, maps, audio). By entering the keyword “Ukrainian” we get the list of 199 entries about Ukrainian immigration to Canada, Ukrainian writing in Canada, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village; Ukrainian-Canadian prominent people such as composer and pianist George Fiala, folklorist Robert Klymasz, pop music duo “Mickey and Bunny”, journalist and translator Myrna Kostash, comedian actor Luba Goy, priest and architect Philip Ruh and others. At the end of each entry there is information about author of article, list of suggested reading and links to related sites [16].

4. The publication “The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan” by the Canadian Plains Research Center was dedicated to the celebration of Saskatchewan’s centennial in 2005. It includes

2 300 articles with 1000 photos, maps, tables and graphs that describe life in Saskatchewan. Two years later online version of the Encyclopedia was launched. The entries can be seen alphabetically or in 22 subjects, e. g., arts and culture, communities, military, religion and philosophy, women. With the help of search function of the website we have found 83 articles. Topics of the articles are the following: Ukrainian Settlements, Ukrainian Catholics, Ukrainian-English Bilingual Education; activity of Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada, Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, Sheptytsky Institute; Savella Stechishin, writer and community leader; Constantine Henry Andrusyshen, linguist; Dmytro Stryjek, painter, etc. [17].

5. The website "Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online/Dictionnaire biographique du Canada" in English and French contains more than 8400 biographies of people that played an important role in constructing Canadian society since 1000 to 1930. The website is an online version of the 15 published volumes of the dictionary, prepared by the University of Toronto and the Université Laval since 1966. The advanced search on the website helps to find the necessary biography by entering a keyword, gender of a person, number of published volume and information about a searched person (occupation, region of birth, region of activities). For example, by typing the keyword "Ukrainian", we get the biographies of such prominent Canadian Ukrainians as: Nestor Dmytriw, Greek Catholic priest, interpreter and author; Tymofei Koreichuk, labour organizer and political activist; Cyril Genyk, translator, immigration owner and community leader; Joseph Oleskiw, who called "a father of Ukrainian immigration to Canada" and others [18].

We can **conclude** that the Ukrainian documentary heritage is widely represented in virtual space of Canada, including textual materials, photos, maps, sound recordings, videos in digital exhibitions, archival descriptions in databases and factual information in Internet encyclopedias. Due to the process of digitization Ukrainian scientists have the possibility to study valuable resources about Ukrainian emigration to Canada and more new interesting facts as a part of Ukrainian history will be found out. In the article we have considered not all web resources, although we have found a lot of interesting websites about Ukrainian Canadians, but they will be analyzed in our future publications.

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**Украинское документальное наследие в канадском виртуальном пространстве:  
цифровые выставки, энциклопедии, базы данных**

Кристина Михайловна Винтонив

Ивано-Франковский национальный технический университет нефти и газа, Украина  
76010, Украина, г. Ивано-Франковск, ул. Короля Данила, 13

Ассистент

E-mail: [chris\\_tina3000@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_tina3000@yahoo.com)

**Аннотация.** В статье характеризуется украинское документальное наследие в канадском виртуальном пространстве. Анализируются канадские цифровые выставки, базы данных и энциклопедии, которые презентуют историю украинской иммиграции, экономическую, культурную, религиозную и политическую жизнь украинцев в Канаде.

**Ключевые слова:** украинские канадцы; украинское документальное наследие; Интернет; цифровые выставки; энциклопедии; Канада; архивы; оцифровывание.