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**ELECTRONIC ENCYCLOPEDIAS IN UKRAINE**

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***Research methodology.*** *The theoretical framework has provided the use of both general approaches (particularly principles of scientific objectivity, comprehensiveness, analysis and synthesis) and special methods of social communications, which correlate to the research purpose. Thus, the involvement of the functional approach helped identify inconsistencies of actual material and the structure of electronic encyclopedias with the needs of readers (users), the method of content analysis made it possible to thoroughly describe the semantic content of the electronic encyclopedia products and formulate recommendations for their improvement, and the problem-thematic method allowed to isolate the main thematic areas, provided by network encyclopedic resources.*

***Results.*** *In modern conditions the priority of electronic encyclopedias development is undeniable and it is the focus of experts not only in IT, but in Social Humanities, especially social communications that can create and offer a high-quality product Ukrainian network to users with joint efforts. To ensure the activity of the network encyclopedic resources designers it is important to have a clear classification of electronic encyclopedias, combining both the criteria of typological division of directories and features of electronic forms. In the article we have proposed the typology that provides the classification of electronic encyclopedias in inappropriately, the reader’s address, the nature of the information, the structure, the availability of a printed or analog version, multimedia, the volume, the format. With these typological traits we have analyzed Ukrainian network encyclopedia resources (online and digital copies and electronic versions of publications) and revealed their positive features and some drawbacks.*

***Novelty.*** *The study cites the modern classification of electronic encyclopedias developed for the first time based on a thorough thematic-typological analysis of network encyclopedic resources (online and digital copies and electronic versions of publications), and confirms their expediency of combination of bibliological criteria of directories typological division and features of electronic form.*

***The practical significance.****The results of the study show that in the information space of modern Ukraine there are many electronic encyclopedic resources (actually 70) designed with their content to meet the needs of different categories of readers. The classification of electronic encyclopedias has been suggested that combines general criteria of typological division of directories (purpose, reader’s address, character of information, etc.) and features of electronic media (multimedia, format, volume, etc.) and allows the developers of such resources to meet sufficiently the needs of different categories of users (from highly qualified experts to the media and even children’s audience) in a credible, scientifically-perfect information provided involving the latest technological tools (specialized information systems with extensive searching capabilities, multimedia content, etc.).*