Methodology of the Complex Analysis of Statistical-Information Collections (Exemplified by "The Kharkiv Calendar", 1869–1917): Study Experience

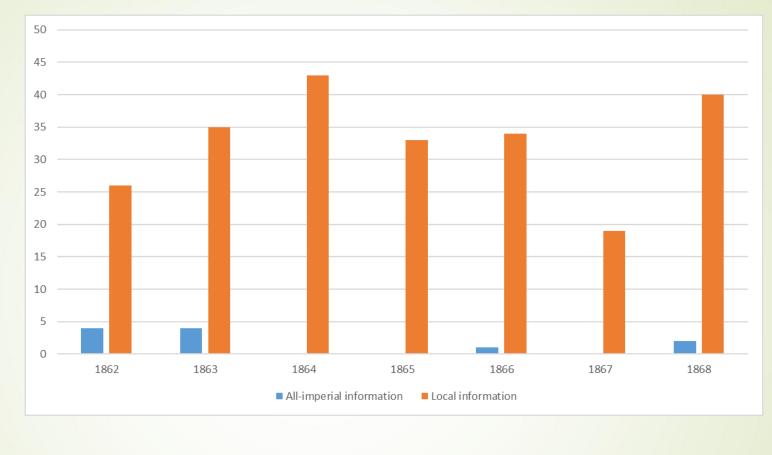
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- New local periodicals commemorative books (or calendars) first appeared in the 30s of the 19th century, with the advent of provincial statistical committees in the Russian Empire.
- The contents of the commemorative books reflected the specifics of the region where they were published. They contained statistics, a variety of local information, the address book of institutions and leaders, as well as popular science materials on the history of the region, geography, etc. In fact, they absorbed elements of many periodicals: magazines, almanacs and so on. Such collections were published once a year.
- In 1862, similar publication "The Commemorative Book of Kharkiv Province" appeared in Kharkiv. A total of 7 issues of this collection were published (the last one was in 1868). This edition preceded the emergence of "The Kharkiv Calendar for 1869" in 1868 and was its continuation (a total of 49 issues were published).

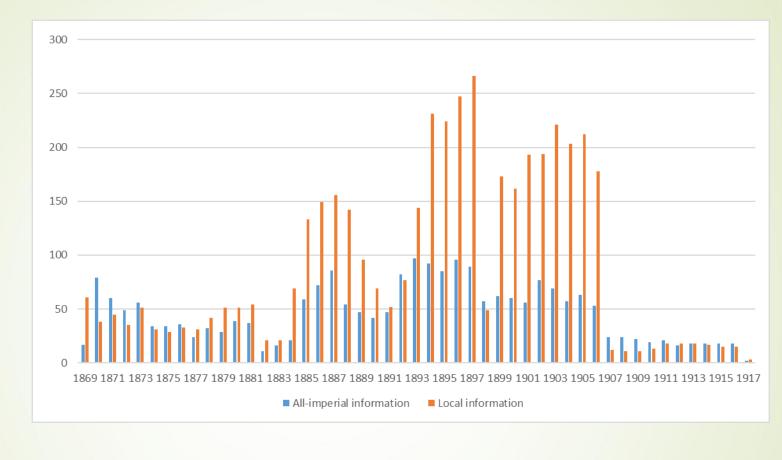
- Nowadays, "The Kharkiv Calendar" is an important source of the regional history of that period, giving specialists the opportunity to extract various topics for further research, to clarify specific facts from its pages, as well as to create generalizing works on the history of Kharkiv and Kharkiv Region.
- It is worth noting that today there is no clear method of working with commemorative books and calendars. This topic is new for Ukraine and it is poorly developed. This situation has arisen because the source experts did not pay much attention to sources for a long time (perhaps due to the large volume of publications, which sometimes reached more than 800 pages), and even more so, did not single them out as an independent type of periodicals (statistical information collections).

- When working with this type of periodicals, you should take into account their specifics. The content of commemorative books and calendars is diverse and covers almost all spheres of life in the society of that time. In the case of "The Kharkiv Calendar", we state that its content structure constantly changed throughout its existence. There were the so-called "traditional" headings and those that were added (or excluded from the structure).
- Permanent headings (or departments) in "The Kharkiv Calendar" were "Menology", which published various church data, "Financial Department", which contained information on financial institutions in Kharkiv and the province. There was "Statistical Department" too, which contained statistical tables on population, factories and plants, indicators of agriculture, etc., "The Address Calendar" contained a list of institutions, addresses and officials, "Announcements" placed advertising. All other headings in the publication (such as "Medical Department", "Literary and Scientific Department", etc.) were added and disappeared at different times.

- Working with this source, we should pay attention to the ratio of imperial and world information to the local information. According to our observations, there was dynamics of such information first in "The Commemorative Book of Kharkiv Province" and then in "The Kharkiv Calendar".
- Having analyzed the relationship between these types of information, we have found that general information was "mandatory" and did not differ in the variety of materials. The purpose of such data was to make mandatory up-to-date information available to the public. As a rule, it was common to all such publications of the empire. Instead, local data had a wider range of content, included diverse information (in particular, popular science articles on the history, nature of the region, etc.).



Ratio between general imperial and local information on the pages of "The Commemorative Book of Kharkiv Province" (1862–1868)



Ratio of general imperial and local information on the pages of "The Kharkiv Calendar" (for 1869–1917)

Working with the publication, it is worth highlighting the periods of its existence. Like any publication, "The Kharkiv Calendar" has gone through several stages of its development. We offer a conditional periodization of these processes (taking into account "The Commemorative Book of Kharkiv Province"):

- 1862 until the 1880s a period of the publication formation (including –"The Kharkiv Calendar" as an independent one), a long search for information content;
- 1880s to 1900s a period of the publication "prosperity", growing popularity and final expansion in terms of the content. We should especially mention the issues (for 1884–1887) under the editorship of Petro Yefimenko (1835–1908), secretary of the committee, historian, ethnographer, and public figure. During this period, the "Calendar" focused not only on statistics, but also on a number of analytical materials (respectively, there was a scientific reference or literary-scientific department). Gradually, some of these materials accumulated. Thus, in 1887, there appeared a supplement to "The Kharkiv Calendar" "The Kharkiv Collection", which contained ethnographic, historical and local lore pages.

• The last period in the development of "The Kharkiv Calendar" continued from 1900 to 1917. We can define this period as a gradual decline. It turned out that its content was almost unchanged, and in some cases even reduced, fewer companies and institutions placed their ads there, and so on. This can be explained by the difficult general imperial situation: the financial crisis of the early twentieth century, the Russian-Japanese War in 1904–1905, the First Russian Revolution in 1905–1907, the First World War in 1914–1918, the revolutionary events of 1917, etc.

During the First World War in Kharkiv, all periodicals were subject to partial censorship after publication, carried out by the inspector of press (he was accountable to the governor or governor-general). This fact could also have led to the decline of "The Kharkiv Calendar", as the governor was the chairman of Kharkiv Provincial Statistical Committee, and some information on the collection pages was banned from publication. Among other things, at that time, information of a military nature (addresses of military units, military, etc.) disappeared from the pages of "The Kharkiv Calendar".

Statistics as a subject of study is of great interest to researchers around the world (Senra, 2008), but in our case it was not the main topic of the research. We only drew attention to some of its features presented in "The Kharkiv Calendar". Statistical tables are an important part of commemorative books and calendars of the Russian Empire. Therefore, working with them is also important for the analysis of the collections. We should say that some statistics (usually published in a special "Statistical Department") given in "The Kharkiv Calendar" (including demographic data), is not very reliable as we see different figures, while comparing data with the All-Russian census. "The Kharkiv Calendar for 1899" gave the figure of 2,650,022 inhabitants of Kharkiv province, while according to the All-Russian Census it was 2,492,316 of the current population and 2,507,277 of the permanent population.

This discrepancy can be explained by different methods of collecting and processing materials. Kharkiv Provincial Statistical Committee collected the population data annually in the course of the so-called "one-day census". For this procedure, there were special questionnaire forms distributed by the committee members and volunteers to houses and apartments. At the same time, questions for houses and apartments differed. The discrepancy may be due to the fact that the Kharkiv Provincial Statistical Committee used data from all officially registered persons in the province, while the general census was conducted by a direct survey of the population. Some of the residents could go to work in other provinces or study, and so on. Therefore, the difference in the method of counting the local population gave different results.

- The methodology of complex analysis of the statistical and information publication "The Kharkiv Calendar" allowed us, first of all, to consistently reveal its entire history from the first steps in the form of "The Commemorative Book of Kharkiv Province" to the fundamental edition, which existed for almost half a century. The obtained results during the study of these sources, in our opinion, indicate that researchers of such publications should first determine the general picture of these existing collections for each region. Having identified some interesting points and directions, they may specify their research, that is, deal with narrower issues of certain topics reflected in them.
- Practical significance of the study is in the analysis of one of the most important sources on the history of Kharkiv in the second half of the nineteenth early twentieth century. In our opinion, this will allow researchers to use it more effectively and increase the interest in studying similar publications in other regions.