

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INTERNET IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION

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Annotation: This scientific article analyzes the role and importance of information in the modern world. It also explores scholars' approaches to information, examining their definitions and concepts of information from a scientific perspective. Additionally, the article scientifically analyzes the significance of the Internet in the information exchange process, its distinctive features, advantages, and legal relevance compared to other information resources. The article highlights the Internet's superiority over other mass media and mentions how, in its early years, it attracted an audience that traditional mass media could not gather. Statistical data related to the Internet's global audience in 2024 are also provided.

Keywords: Information, Internet, information technologies, scholar, mass media, information-communication, globalization, civilization.

Nowadays, the role of information in the world is increasing day by day, especially when this information can attract the attention of society and arouse interest among the population. It can be seen that the significance of information is crucial and has become an integral part of society today. This process is only in the development stage. The right to obtain and disseminate information, regarded as a direct continuation of this process, has now been included in the set of natural rights, such as birth, life, and reproduction. The guarantees of the right to obtain and disseminate information, which have become part of natural rights, are directly reinforced by laws. The need for information, reinforced by laws, is now being met directly through information technology, which has become part of our daily lifestyle.

At present, it has become challenging to imagine the modern world without information and information space. Indeed, in today's rapidly accelerating era of globalization, the process of information exchange affects the development and advancement of many sectors in various aspects. This is because it is impossible to develop a specific field today without having specific information. For this reason, in recent years, humanity's need for information and knowledge has become higher than ever.

The 21st century is rightly called the century of information and the revolutionary age of information. This is primarily due to the unprecedented development in information transmission volume, speed, and the creation of new technologies.

Currently, societies with an open information policy are more democratic, stronger, and in harmony with life compared to societies with information restrictions and isolated from global problems. It should be emphasized that the constitutional right to information is one of the fundamental rights of a person and is also expressed as an external manifestation and guarantee of freedom of speech and freedom of worldview selection.



At this point, it would be appropriate to analyze scholars' approaches to the concept of information. Generally speaking, approaches to the concept of information are varied, and scholars' definitions of information differ from each other. In particular, according to N.B. Baranova's view on information, information is an essential component of human communication, and therefore, its quality and truthfulness are not just an ethical category. The reliability of information is the basis for equal and effective relationships among people. Thus, at the current stage of human development, information transmitted between people serves as a tool for achieving favorable conditions for the development of individuals and society as a whole [1].

A.V. Krotov considers information in modern society as a diversity existing regarding the objects of animate and inanimate nature and material and ideal worlds (within objects and between them) reflected in the object representing information [2].

From the views of scholars, it is clear that they have given different definitions of information, but their common point is the manifestation of information serving human progress. In our opinion, the views of N.B. Baranova and A.V. Krotov on information can be considered profound and realistic among the views mentioned above.

In general, considering the views of the scholars above, each has its unique characteristics. This is because they shed light on the role, necessity, and status of information in their research, including its place in society and the state mechanism. In their research work, they tried to give a broad and popular definition of the concept of information.

At this point, let's examine how scholars have described the concept of "information" and its role in today's world. In particular, N.B. Baranova emphasizes that information is one of the most critical factors of modern civilization. The 21st century is called the information age, and the term "information" has lost its purely technical or purely philosophical meaning. Currently, the term "infosphere" is even used, emphasizing that the global information space is created by human efforts. Modern scholars even claim that a new third type of civilization—the "information" civilization (the first being "agrarian," the second "industrial")—is emerging. Continuing this thought, we can confidently say that today is the information era. Because without information, no field can develop, and perhaps it would decline. Indeed, information is the primary element of today.

To support our opinion, we present below the views of scholar T.Sh. Izzatov. He states that no field of life in modern society can function without a developed information structure. Today, the national information resource is one of the primary sources of economic and military power of the state. Information, entering all areas of state activity, includes specific political, material, and value expressions [3].

Continuing with scholars' views on information, its legal aspects, and significance, we turn to N.B. Baranova's conclusions. Specifically, N.B. Baranova states that information has indeed become not only an economic, political, and military resource but also a factor shaping the image of the era. The scholar emphasizes the relevance of research on information, noting that studies related to the legal aspects of information, especially if this issue concerns human rights, are significant. She also touches upon information freedom, which has become a pressing topic today and is reflected in the research work of many scholars. Indeed, freedom of information has now become a natural right of citizens and members of society in the present-day context. Specifically, N.B. Baranova states that the information society qualitatively changes the social-legal aspects of society's life, setting the issue of freedom to use and disseminate information on the agenda.

During the development period, humanitarian and enlightened lawyers, scholars, and writers have long recognized, felt, and discovered certain personal rights and freedoms not dependent on the state or individual will. They considered these rights and freedoms to be natural since they are believed to be



inherent to humans, existing alongside physical or natural laws from birth. For this reason, natural rights are considered inseparable rights of individuals, and no one has the right to violate these rights.

In this regard, T.A. Timerbayev's thoughts are relevant. T.A. Timerbayev includes the right to life, the inviolability of the person and private property, equality of people under any conditions, reproductive rights, and others under natural rights. Here, we can also include the right to information as a natural right, although this right itself has recently emerged as a form of right. However, in the information age, this phenomenon has become a fundamental right. This even laid the foundation for the creation of a new branch of law—the right to information [4].

Above, several definitions and descriptions of information were considered. Thus, information has now become an inseparable natural right of people. Free access to information without any restrictions is firmly established in the constitutions of many countries, particularly all democratic countries. The inherent right to information and obtaining information forms the foundation of a free civil society. Specifically, we can cite countries like the United States, Lithuania, and Estonia as examples.

The evolution of mass media and communications over the centuries includes many significant events, including the invention of the telegraph and rotary press (1847), telephone (1870), radio (1895), wireless telegraph (1922), television (1930), and in 1946, the radio-telephone system was created in St. Louis (USA). This invention is considered the ancestor of mobile communication. It was these inventions that paved the way for the next groundbreaking event, which was the creation of the Internet (1986) [5].

Today, the information and communication sector is developing rapidly worldwide, directly impacting the information exchange process. The Internet is increasingly establishing its place as the dominant field in the information exchange process.

The creation of the Internet was one of the most remarkable events in human history because the global network today unites millions of people and hundreds of countries. By eliminating geographical distances and barriers, it has established mutual relationships in various fields of science, culture, and education.

As we live in the information technology age, it can be observed that the importance of the Internet in the information exchange process is increasing daily. This is because it has opened the doors to broad opportunities for humanity today. More and more, the Internet is replacing both traditional media and traditional communication channels. This is a global trend adapted to the state of the information environment and the level of legal and informational culture of users.

According to statistical data, as of March 1, 2024, there are currently 5.35 billion Internet users worldwide. This means that 66% of the world's population now has Internet access [6]. As of March 1, 2024, 5.04 billion users are using social networks, which is slightly less than 60% of the world's population [7].

The importance of the Internet continues to grow day by day, as it has opened up extensive opportunities for humanity today. More and more, the Internet is replacing both traditional media and traditional communication channels. This is a global trend adapted to the state of the information environment and the level of legal and informational culture of users.

In the democratization process, the need to effectively use the potential of the information communications sector and strengthen the legal basis for the further development of its networks has arisen. Currently, achieving progress in the Internet system, which is a crucial link in modern information communication, and systematizing the relevant legislation have become important.

For this reason, the higher the growth rate of the Internet, the more interest there is in it from academic fields. Today, sufficient scientific research in philosophy, sociology, psychology, informatics,



and law is dedicated to various aspects of the Internet. Therefore, it is not difficult to imagine that many definitions of the Internet exist today. At this point, let us turn to a definition of the Internet.

The Internet (from Latin: inter – among and net – network) is a global and publicly accessible set of computer networks that exchange data through the standard Internet protocol (IP). The main protocol that carries data is TCP/IP. TCP/IP is a set of interrelated protocols that play a central role in the distribution of data on the Internet. The Internet network consists of thousands of academic, government, commercial, and household networks. The Internet includes services like email, chat, interconnected web pages, and other World Wide Web services.

The Internet is a worldwide computer system that connects large (global) and small (local) computer networks. Regardless of geographic location, time, and space, individual computers and minor networks cooperate to create a global information infrastructure. All derivative networks governed by protocols provide users the ability to store, publish, send, receive, search, and exchange information in any available form (text, sound, video, photo, graphics, music, and others) [8].

Thus, the Internet is an information network combining a set of networks according to protocols and consisting of a collection of services. However, as S.V. Petrovsky points out, the term “information network” in relation to the Internet is not very successful due to its broad interpretation. The “information network” category can encompass both technical (telephone, telegraph, and other networks) and social (intelligence, business communities, and others) entities that transmit information [9].

The Internet performs all the functions characteristic of traditional mass media and even has certain advantages over them. Comparing the Internet with print media, radio, and television, it becomes apparent that traditional media are weaker than the Internet in terms of promptly updating materials, access speed to information, simultaneous use of text, audio, and video data, and lack of a broad choice of topics. Some studies note that the Internet has combined television, radio, and press. The main advantage of the Internet is that it allows users to access information resources (not only local but also foreign) and quickly obtain any interesting information at any time convenient for them without leaving their homes [10].

In 2018, the concept of the Internet began to differ significantly from its original meanings. Its essence remains the same—the global association of individual computers, nodes, as well as local, backbone, and city networks. However, although the Internet was initially intended to be controlled by state agencies, today it is accessible to everyone, which is a positive result. Of course, there are exceptions in some countries [11].

The number of global network users continues to grow daily. Today, the Internet has transformed from a means of transmitting electronic messages to a complete virtual space for meetings, people, and ideas—a cyberspace. It has become a space for communication and information exchange where there is no concept of distance.

On March 24, 2004, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan spoke warmly about the global network at the Global Internet Governance Forum held in New York. Within a few years, the Internet revolutionized trade, healthcare, education, and human interaction. Moreover, the Internet’s potential does not stop at the opportunities we have witnessed in the relatively short time since it was created. Regulating, developing, and protecting the Internet in our lives requires intelligence no less than that of its creators. Undoubtedly, the Internet needs to be managed, but there is no need for a special approach to do so [12]. It is not difficult to understand that Kofi Annan’s views on the Internet at that time sparked a sense of trust and hope in the global network in developed democratic countries. Indeed, the rapid development of the Internet reflects a bold step toward significant achievements in the information field of civil society.



Research conducted by the U.S. government showed that the Internet developed rapidly. Specifically, it took radio 30 years, television 13 years, and the Internet only 4 years to reach an audience of 50 million people.

Today, interest in fields such as painting, graphics, architecture, sculpture, music, ballet, theater, and fine literature is declining. The Internet is replacing these areas (interest in electronic books is growing instead of traditional books).

This kind of development in civilization and the high degree of informatization and computerization of social relations prove that the Internet has penetrated all areas of human activity.

Deepening democratic processes and increasing citizens' practical participation in socio-political life largely depend on the fast and effective delivery of information and news. For this purpose, first of all, mass media, particularly the global network Internet, should be effectively organized, and its legal basis should be strengthened.

In conclusion, information has become an integral part of civil society today. This process is only in the development stage. The right to obtain and disseminate information, regarded as a direct continuation of this process, has now been included in the set of natural rights, such as birth, life, and reproduction. The guarantees of the right to obtain and disseminate information, which have become part of natural rights, are directly reinforced by laws. In this regard, relevant laws regulating many areas have been adopted, and the process continues. The need for information, reinforced by laws, is now being met directly through information technology, which has become part of our daily lifestyle. The Internet directly fulfills this process through its participation. Indeed, the Internet has become essential in the daily lives of the state, society, and individuals. The importance of the Internet is so strong that it serves as a means of forming not only interstate but also intercontinental relations.

Through our article, we have observed and analyzed that the Internet has become a dominant field in meeting the need for information, delivering it quickly, continuously, and without limits. Indeed, the Internet today can be called the author of the global information space and the globalization process.

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