

**Information-communication technologies enhanced
Social Sciences and Humanities**



Nikolay Bystritskiy

Institute of Oriental Studies RAS, LMSU (Moscow)

SYSTEM APPROACH for DIGITAL HISTORY



PROBLEMS OF DIGITALIZATION

- ◆ The heterogeneous nature of historical messages, making it difficult to transform into a digital form acceptable for accumulation and storage.
- ◆ Fuzzy concepts and definition.
- ◆ A mixture of reality and knowledge about it.
- ◆ Misunderstanding of the relative nature of knowledge. Incomplete sources. Messages of different levels of trust.
- ◆ A mixture of social and environmental factors.



SYSTEM APPROACH TO THE HISTORY

- ◆ Considering human society as a complex system. History is an evolution process of the society (historical objects).
- ◆ Identification of typology and classification of historical knowledge elements
- ◆ Formalization of factual knowledge as a rigid structural scheme.
- ◆ Universal description format for chronological and spatial data.
- ◆ Factual knowledge differentiation by major properties: type and rank.
- ◆ Identification of mutual relations between factual knowledge entities (temporary, causal, targeted, typological, genetic, etc.).
- ◆ Determination of veracity (reliability) parameters of factual knowledge and their sources.
- ◆ Developing an application for historical hypothesizes creation and validation, dating/routes clarification, scientific visualization, etc.

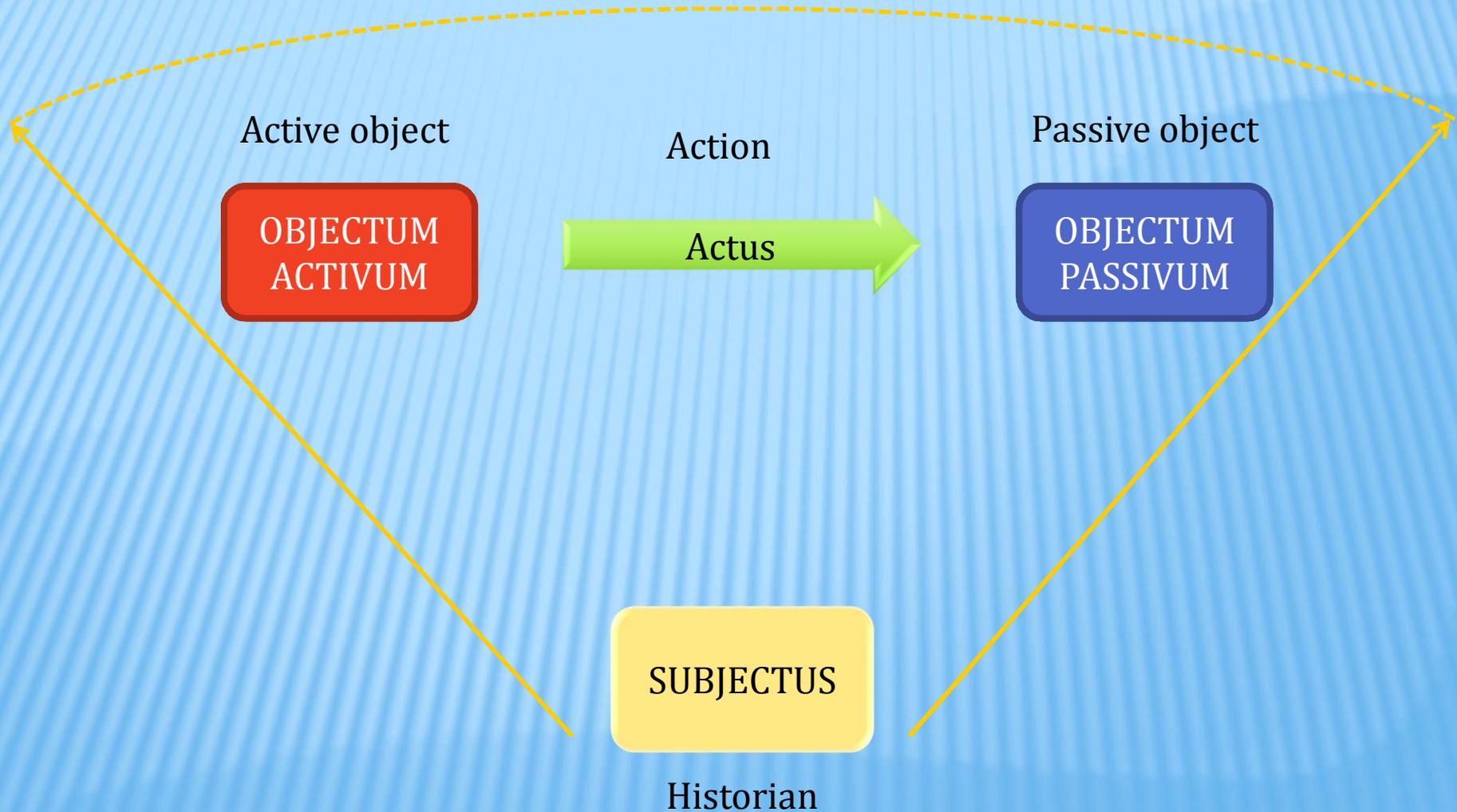


HISTORICAL OBJECTS

- ◆ Social (primary)
 - ◆ Person
 - ◆ Group
 - ◆ Organization
- ◆ Natural
(environmental+transcendental)
- ◆ Artificial (artifact)
 - ◆ Informational
 - ◆ Products
 - ◆ AI-generated (artifacts)



BASE MODEL OF HISTORICAL REALITY



KINDS OF PROCESSES

Natural process

- form of movement, which is an untargeted change by an object of its own properties
- specific for natural objects

Action [Actus]

- form of movement, which is a targeted change by an object of its own properties
- specific for social objects



CATEGORIES OF HISTORICAL REALITY

Event [Obvenientia]

- reflects changes in the properties of the object that occurred at a particular point in time and space
- has no duration, is determined by a specific moment in time and the current state (property values) of the object

Process [Processus]

- reflects the course of changes in their duration, the transition of an object from one state to another
- occurs in time, characterized by duration, start and end events, as well as the result



KNOWLEDGE PROPERTIES OF THE ACTION

Active object— X

- Object implementing action

Operand — A

- Groups of actions by type

Passive object — Y

- Object over which the action is performed

Relative object — Z

- Related object

Target

- Planned result of the action

Effect

- Obtained result (cause of next actions)

Supplement

- Additional information related to the action



KNOWLEDGE PROPERTIES OF THE EVENT

Time - D

- Julian date (interval)

Space - L

- Geographical coordinates (polygon)

Action

- Generating action (see prev.)

Connections

- Interrelations

Type

- Subgroup division for structuring purposes

Rank

- Significance

Veracity

- Assessment of the truth and completeness



TYOLOGICAL AND SIGNIFICANCE PROPERTIES

◆ Typology

- ◆ domestic policy (unrest, civil war, state, economic and legal)
- ◆ foreign policy (war, embassies, pacts),
- ◆ religious,
- ◆ cultural,
- ◆ biographical,
- ◆ natural (astronomical and climatic phenomena, disasters).

◆ Rank

- ◆ role of historical action/event in the global process and establishing the degree of its impact on the subsequent course of history
- ◆ ranging from universal significance (super-important, rank 0) to personal significance (negligible, rank 9)



SPACE & TIME PROPERTIES

- ◆ Time accounted by **Julian date**
 - ◆ the count of days that have passed since Monday, January 1, 4713 BC. e. julian calendar
- ◆ Location describes by **Geographical coordinates**
 - ◆ latitude, longitude and altitude
- ◆ Time interval acts as a typical temporal and polygons as spatial characteristics
 - ◆ apparatus of fuzzy interval logic and networks

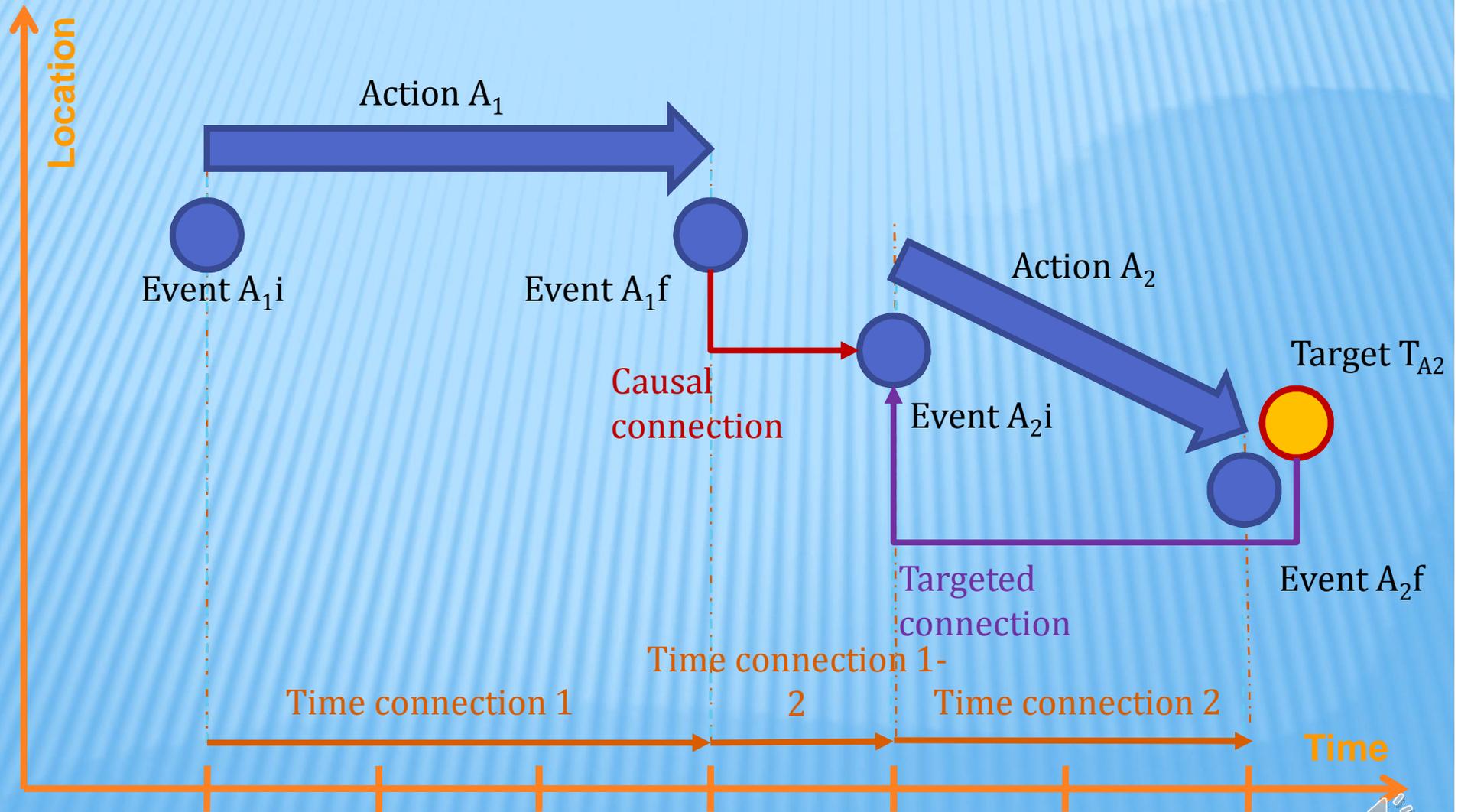


KNOWLEDGE VERACITY

- ◆ **Veracity** [testatus] – assessment of knowledge in terms of its validity and evidence.
- ◆ Establishment of veracity is provided by empirical confirmation, experimental data, judgment of the scientific community, public practice, i.e. multisubjective assessments.
 - ◆ Expert estimates
 - ◆ Logical consistency
 - ◆ Mathematical probabilistic methods
 - ◆ Trust in the source
- ◆ Represents by interval from absolutely reliable (1.0) to absolutely unreliable (0).



CHAINS OF ACTIONS



PROPERTIES OF CAUSAL CONNECTION

Cause

- Cause-event

Effect

- Effect-event

Intensity

- Degree of influence of the cause

Modus

- Promotional or obstructive direction

Veracity

- Assessment of the truth and completeness

Supplement

- Connections and related information



FACTOGRAPHIC DATABASE EXAMPLE

N	%	t.p.q.	t.a.q.	Δt	год	мес	д.	атер	objectum activum	actio	objectum passivum	circumst	источники	исследования	
1	1	2046189	2046280	92	0890.	03...05.	.	2	P.ex	сицилийские арабы	восстали	против эмира Ифрикии		ChrMin 45.30 [Schreiner I 335] ("6398	
2	1	2046130	2046494	365	0890.		.	3	P.ex	арабская армия	вторглась	в фему Анатоликов			
3	1	2046130	2046494	365	0890.		.	3	P.ex	Никифор Фока	совершил поход	на Адану	вернулся		
4	1	2046255	2046255	1	0890.		06.	4	R.chr	Псамафийский мон-рь	освящен		построен	VEuth 5 [ПсамХр, 37-38]	
5	1	2046531	2046531	1	0891.		06.	3	Z.vit	бывший патриарх Фотий	умер		в ссылке	[Красносельцев, Типик, 12]	
6	1	2046495	2046859	365	0891.		.	3	Z.vit	Евдокия, дочь Льва VI и	умерла			VEuth 6 [ПсамХр, 40]	
7	1	2046495	2046859	365	0891.		.	3	P.in, R.	Лев VI	вступил в конфликт	с синкеллом Евфимием	из-за	VEuth 6 [ПсамХр, 41-42]	
8	1	2046495	2046859	365	0891.		.	3	P.ex	эмир Язаман	выступил по суше и морю	вдоль юж. берегов Малой	умер во		
9	1	2046860	2047225	366	0892.		.	2	P.ex	посольство кор. Арнульфа	прибыло	в Болгарию	для		
10	1	2046860	2047225	366	0892.		.	1	P.in, R.	Владимир-Расате	выступил	против христианства			
11	1	2047104	2047133	30	0892.		09.	1	P.in	халиф аль-Мутамид	умер		в возрасте		
12	1	2047104	2047133	30	0892.		09.	1	P.in	аль-Мутадид	провозглашен	халифом	после		
13	1	2047312	2047312	1	0893.		03.	28	P.in	Борис-Михаил	поставил	князем Болгарии мл. сына	после	28.3.893: Тхрилов	
14	1	2047225	2047590	365	0893.		.	3	P.ex	арабский флот	осадил	Самос		893: Васильев [Виз	
15	1	2047225	2047590	365	0893.		.	2	P.ex	Византия и Армения	заключили союз		против		
16	1	2047225	2047590	365	0893.		.	2	R.chr	Климент Охридский	избран	епископом Болгарским			
17	1	2047225	2047590	365	0893.		.	3	P.ex	Стилиан Зауца	притесняет	болгарских купцов		889...893: Каждан	
18	1	2047362	2047363	2	0893.		05.	17/18.	3	R.chr	патриарх Стефан	умер		Красносельцев, Типик, 12 (data); VTh	
19	1	2047438	2047468	31	0893.		08.	.	3	R.chr	Антоний II Калей	избран	патриархом	ThC VI Leo 9	
20	1	2047560	2047649	90	0893...0894.		12...01.	.	1	P.ex	Симеон Болгарский	объявил войну	империи		
21	1	2047650	2047771	122	0894.		03...05.	.	2	P.ex	болгарские войска	разбили	армию стратигата Кринита	в	
22	1	2047650	2047771	122	0894.		03...06.	.	2	P.ex	Византия и венгры ("турки")	заключили союз		против	ThC VI Leo 9 ПВЛ под 6410 (893) г.
23	1	2047711	2047833	123	0894.		05...08.	.	2	P.ex	доместик схол Никифор	посланы	против болгар		ThC VI Leo 9
24	1	2047711	2047833	123	0894.		05...08.	.	3	P.ex	Фока и друнгарий флота	прибыл	в Болгарию	для	ThC VI Leo 9
25	1	2047711	2047833	123	0894.		05...08.	.	2	P.ex	посол Льва VI Кесстор	переправил	венгров	через Дунай	
26	1	2047742	2047863	122	0894.		06...09.	.	1	P.ex	венгры	наносят поражение	болгарам	на Ниж.	ThC VI Leo 9
27	1	2047742	2047863	122	0894.		06...09.	.	2	P.ex	византийцы	выкупили	болгарских пленных у		
28	1	2047803	2047894	92	0894.		08...10.	.	1	P.ex	Симеон Болгарский	заключил перемирие	с Византией		ThC VI Leo 9
29	1	2047834	2047924	91	0894.		09...11.	.	3	P.ex	посол Льва VI магистр Лев	прибыл	в Болгарию	для	
30	1	2047956	2048320	365	0895.		.	.	4	Z.vit	Феодор Гуцуниат, муж Зои	умер			VEuth 7 [ПсамХр, 43] (Гуцуниат, "нем-
31	1	2048269	2048269	1	0895.		11.	10.	3	Z.vit	августа Феофано	умерла		Typic. CPolit. [Крас	10.11.895: Каждан
32	1	2047956	2048686	731	0895...0896.		.	.	2	P.ex	Византия и Сицилия	заключили перемирие		на 40	ChrMin 45.30 [Schreiner I 335] ("6404
33	1	2048260	2048351	92	0895...0896.		11...01.	.	1	P.ex	Симеон Болгарский	разгромил	венгров	в союзе с	
34	1	2048290	2048351	62	0895...0896.		12...01.	.	4	Z.fam.	Стилиан Зауца	предложил породниться	доместикую Никифору Фоке		ThC VI Leo 10 [CB, 359.17-20] ("Поско
35	1	2048290	2048351	62	0895...0896.		12...01.	.	3	P.in	доместик Никифор Фока	смещен		по	ThC VI Leo 10 [CB, 359.17-20] ("Поско
36	1	2048290	2048351	62	0895...0896.		12...01.	.	3	P.in	магистр Лев Катакалон	назначен	доместиком схол		ThC VI Leo 10 [CB, 855]
37	1	2048321	2048380	60	0896.		01...02.	.	1	P.ex	Симеон Болгарский	разгромил	армию доместика Льва	при	ThC VI Leo 10 896: Златарски [И
38	1	2048321	2048686	366	0896.		.	.	3	P.ex	выкупленные у венгров	переданы	болгарскому послу	по	ThC VI Leo 9

Time-Place-Coordinates

Space-geocoordinates

Rank

Type

Active object

Action

Passive object

Circumstances

Historical sources

Publications

FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE & HYPOTHESIS ANALYSIS

Historical fact (factum) — formalized messages (knowledge) about the event/action

Reliable fact -
verified
information
about the event
with high
veracity values
(0.7 ... 1)

Weakly reliable
fact - verified
information
about the event
with average
veracity values
(0.3 ... 0.7)

Unreliable fact
(factoid) -
verified
information
with low
confidence
values (0 ... 0.3)

Counterfact -
information
about a
hypothetical
event that was
not realized in
reality (0)



APPROACH APPLICATION POSSIBILITIES

- ◆ Clarifying dates and routes
- ◆ Search for implicit regularities
- ◆ Predictive capabilities
- ◆ Automatic narrative generation
- ◆ Scientific visualization
- ◆ History of IoT and AI activity



APPROACH DISCUSSION FACILITIES

- ◆ Seminar «Problems of the theory and methodology of history: information and communication aspects» (on-line participation)
 - ◆ The aim of the seminar is to give a new impetus to the methodology of historical knowledge in the era of intelligent information technology and convergence of branches of knowledge.
- ◆ Open e-journal «**TESTIS TEMPORUM: History and Humanities in the Digital Age**» <http://ttemp.org/>
 - ◆ An open international scientific platform for a comprehensive and free discussion of modern problems of historical science and all related humanitarian disciplines.
 - ◆ Invites authors and reviewers



THANK YOU!

Nikolay Bystritskiy

nb@rusistin.ru

<https://independent.academia.edu/NikolayBystritskiy>

REFERENCES

Alikberov, A.K. "System Logic as an Instrument of a Systems-Based Approach to History." *Voprosy Filosofii*. 2 (2018). P. 16-26.

Allen, J.F. "Time and Time Again: The Many Ways to Represent Time." *Int. J. Intelligent Systems*. 6-4 (1991). P. 341-355.

Bloch, M. *Apologie pour l'histoire ou Métier d'historien*. Paris. 1952.

Bystritskiy, N.I. "Natural Science Approaches to the Acquisition and Analysis of Digital Data for the Byzantine History." In *Natural Science Methods in the Digital Humatitarian Envieronment*. Perm, 2018. P. 19-22.

Bystritskiy, N.I., Kuzenkov, P.V. Suggested Approaches to the Acquisition and Analysis of Data for the Byzantine History *Vizantiiskii Vremennik*. 103 (2019). P. 13-31.

Bystritskiy, N.I. Blockchain and the History. TESTIS TEMPORUM. (2020) <http://ttemp.org/index.php/ttemp/article/view/2>

Dubois, D., Prade, H. "Processing fuzzy temporal knowledge." *IEEE Trans. SMC*. 19 (1989). P.729-744.

Gevorkian, G.A. *Veroyatnoe i dostovernoe znanie [Probable and reliable knowledge]*. Erevan: AN ASSR, 1965.

Khvostova, K.V. "Mathematical methods in historical research and modern epistemology of history." *Novaya i noveishaia istoria*. 3 (2007). P. 66-78.

Kuzenkov, P.V., Bystritskiy, N.I. "Formalization experience of historical data on the example of Byzantine history" In *Proceedings of the 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies*. Volume III. Sofia, 2011. C. 302-303.

Kuzenkov, P., Bystrickij, N. "Current approaches towards acquisition and analysis of a Byzantine history digital data." In *Proceedings of the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies*. Belgrade, 2016. P. 231-232.

Nanetti, A., Cheong, S.A. "The World as Seen from Venice (1205-1533) as a Case Study of Scalable Web-Based Automatic Narratives for Interactive Global Histories." *Asian Review of World Histories*. 4-1 (2016). P. 3-34.

Ohrstrom, P., Hasle, P.F.V. *Temporal Logic from Ancient Ideas to Artificial Intelligence*. Kluver Academic Publishers, 1995.

Peuquet, D.J. *Representations of Space and Time*. New York: The Guilford Press, 2002.

Ricœur, P. *Histoire et vérité. [History and Truth]*. Evanston, Ill., 1965.

Varosian, S.O., Pospelov, D.A. "Nonmetric spatial logic." *Izvestia AN SSSR. Technical Cybernetics*. 5 (1982). P. 86-99.

Information-communication technologies enhanced Social Sciences and Humanities - ICTeSSH 2020

