

SCIENTIFIC AND THEORETICAL–METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SECURITY IN OPEN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
<p>The rapid development of information and communication technologies has fundamentally transformed modern society, accelerated information flows and reshaping individual consciousness, social relations, and state governance. In the context of open information systems, information and psychological security has become one of the most critical challenges of the twenty-first century. This article explores the scientific, theoretical, and methodological foundations of information and psychological security within open information systems. Special attention is given to the dual nature of information as both a developmental resource and a potential source of psychological threats. The study analyzes the impact of intensive information environments on individual, social, and state stability, highlighting the role of mass media, digital platforms, and information warfare. The article also emphasizes the necessity of developing comprehensive socio-psychological, educational, and governance mechanisms to ensure resilience against destructive information influences and to protect national and human security in the global information space.</p>	<p>Information security, psychological security, open information systems, information influence, mass media, information warfare, social stability</p>

Introduction

The accelerating pace of technological development has significantly affected the traditional balance of time and space in human activity. New approaches to development strategies have led societies and regions to shift from isolation toward integration and interdependence. As a result, information has become a central element of almost every sphere of human knowledge and practice. The twenty-first century is widely recognized as the “information age,” reflecting the unprecedented growth of information production, dissemination, and consumption.

Rapid development has begun to influence not only traditional principles but also the balance of time and space. The formation of new approaches and development strategies in all spheres of activity has led individuals and regions to move from isolation toward integration and unity.

Today, information is extremely widespread and interpreted in diverse meanings. It is difficult to find any field of knowledge in which information does not play a role. The twenty-first century is considered

the era in which the theoretical and practical creation of information has reached its peak. For this reason, the XXI century is often referred to as the “information age.”

Information can be defined as a set of data about individuals, objects, facts, events, phenomena, and processes, regardless of the sources of information and the forms of its presentation.

World experience shows that the development of a state’s information infrastructure transforms all spheres of society and government, including people’s worldview and the conditions of their participation in labor, social, and political life, thereby accelerating social development. Various information technologies, automated systems, and databases have become an integral part of governing state institutions, the economy, and national defense.

Like other products, information serves its users and consumers; therefore, it has specific clients. Information must possess characteristics that meet the requirements of recipients and production needs. From the clients’ point of view, the quality of the information used should bring additional financial and moral benefits. From the observers’ perspective, it should ensure the protection of important commercial secrets and create opportunities for successful competition in the sale of goods and services. Naturally, this requires the protection of information that must remain confidential.

Humanity is living in an era in which information flows are accelerating and information technologies have emerged that are capable of changing the mood, psychology, goals, aspirations, and even the entire way of thinking of the world’s population. This phenomenon is a unique achievement of modern civilization, contributing to closer relations among peoples, countries, and states, facilitating the management of global socio-political processes, and shaping a global mindset, worldview, and ideology.

However, a legitimate question arises: for what purposes and in whose interests is such an immense, large-scale, and multifaceted achievement of civilization being used? For what aims is its incomparable and powerful force employed?

The consequences of information depend on the purpose of its use. Information may be applied for both positive and negative objectives. Information used with negative intentions leads to harmful consequences that may be directed against society, the state, or the individual.

In a highly informatized society, ensuring the interconnectedness, integrity, and balance of the “individual–society–state” relationship becomes increasingly difficult. This is because the acceleration of information flows and living within an information vortex create complex and contradictory situations that directly lead to sharp changes in individual thinking and worldview.

Today, in an era of advanced technology, various types of information can be found quickly and easily through mass media. Among them are materials that promote destruction, aggression, and immoral behavior. Unfortunately, such sources exert a particularly strong influence on the consciousness of the younger generation.

Under conditions of psychological conflicts caused by information, the task of state information policy is defined as reliably protecting society from negative information and psychological attacks and creating strong defense mechanisms.

Each new information and psychological conflict may generate new threats for the society being protected. The greater the number of threats, the higher the levels of fear, anxiety, and distrust. Therefore, based on such moral, psychological, and social conditions, it becomes critically important to regulate, guide, and manage public sentiment.

Information and psychological security is not only about preventing political conflicts; first and foremost, it involves fostering self-awareness, shaping interpersonal relations among citizens based on high moral and educational standards, and using information tools to develop modern humanistic thinking, creativity, constructive spirit, and creative potential.

Information can be broadly defined as a set of data and messages about individuals, objects, facts, events, phenomena, and processes, regardless of the form or source of their presentation. In the contemporary world, it is difficult to identify any field of knowledge or social activity that functions independently of information processes.

Global experience demonstrates that the development of state information infrastructure significantly accelerates social progress by transforming public consciousness, labor relations, and political participation. Information technologies, automated systems, and data repositories have become integral components of governance, economic management, and national defense systems.

Like any other product, information serves its users and consumers. Therefore, it must meet certain qualitative requirements, including relevance, reliability, and usefulness. From the users' perspective, information quality should provide material and moral benefits, while from the producers' and observers' standpoint, it should ensure the protection of commercial secrets, competitive advantage, and market stability. These conditions necessitate effective mechanisms for information protection.

Humanity currently lives in an era where information flows are rapidly intensifying and possess the capacity to reshape collective moods, psychological states, goals, values, and even patterns of thinking. This phenomenon represents one of the greatest achievements of modern civilization, contributing to the convergence of nations, societies, and states, as well as to the management of global socio-political processes.

However, the question of how this powerful informational potential is used—and for what purposes—remains a serious concern. Information can be applied for both constructive and destructive objectives. When used with malicious intent, information can generate harmful consequences targeting individuals, society, and the state.

In highly information-saturated societies, maintaining the balance between the individual, society, and the state becomes increasingly difficult. Accelerated information flows and constant exposure to diverse messages lead to profound transformations in individual consciousness and worldview, often creating psychological tension and instability.

In today's technologically advanced world, access to information through mass media and digital platforms has become fast and convenient. Alongside beneficial content, however, there is also a significant volume of information promoting aggression, extremism, immorality, and destructive behavior. The influence of such content on younger generations is particularly alarming.

Under conditions of information-induced psychological conflicts, the primary task of state information policy is to protect society from negative information and psychological attacks by developing effective defense mechanisms. Each new information confrontation introduces new threats, increasing fear, uncertainty, and distrust within society. Therefore, managing public mood and psychological resilience becomes a critical governance function.

Information and psychological security involves not only preventing political conflicts but also fostering self-awareness, constructive civic relations, and high moral and educational standards. It requires transforming information tools into instruments for promoting humanistic thinking, creativity, and social development rather than manipulation and destruction.

Modern governance demands the continuous search for effective methods to ensure sustainable development. This includes integrated political, legal, economic, social, psychological, and informational management strategies aimed at strengthening public trust, civic unity, and ideological coherence.

Preventing the spread of destructive ideas through mass media requires comprehensive educational efforts, particularly focused on youth. The role of educators, psychologists, parents, and civil society is crucial in enhancing critical thinking, media literacy, and moral responsibility.

Mass media systems function as open information systems, as global information flows cannot be fully controlled or regulated by any single state. Open information systems are characterized by transparency, unrestricted exchange, and the integration of information into everyday life and social activity.

Society must develop the capacity to select information that serves national interests and social development from an overcrowded information market. The right to access information should be elevated to a value aligned with national interests rather than purely individual benefits.

In this context, it becomes essential to establish ethical and psychological norms that limit the dissemination of content promoting violence, hatred, pornography, social conflict, and harm to personal dignity, relying not only on legal restrictions but also on moral consciousness and social responsibility.

Since the second half of the twentieth century, the rapid expansion of telecommunications and global information space has become a defining factor of human development. In recent years, information resources have increasingly been used as tools in geopolitical confrontation and interstate conflicts, particularly by technologically advanced nations.

Concepts such as “information warfare,” “information confrontation,” and “information pressure” have become common in international relations, underscoring the urgency of protecting populations from information attacks. Public consciousness today is significantly shaped by mass media and digital information resources.

Therefore, ensuring information and psychological security of individuals, society, and the state in open information systems is of paramount importance. At the same time, leveraging information technologies to protect and promote national interests within the global information space remains a key strategic objective.

Conclusion

Information and psychological security constitute a relatively new yet critically important field of scientific inquiry. As information systems continue to evolve, the need for specialized research, methodological frameworks, and trained professionals becomes increasingly evident. While global experience in this area has already accumulated, it must be carefully analyzed and adapted in accordance with national interests and socio-cultural contexts.

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