



## **The concept of “document” in the epistemological system of knowledge: A methodological discourse in the philosophy of science**

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**Abstract.** Transformational changes in the modern scientific environment are conditioned by the information and technological development of all branches, among which document science has undergone significant changes due to digitalisation and the development of e-documenting, which leads to changes in the object of research and the expansion of interdisciplinary tasks and indicates the transition of the philosophy of science to a new stage of development. In the process of objectifying the conceptual search of philosophers of science, there was an evolution from relatively simple systems in the classical period to complex systems in the non-classical period and to complex systems that self-develop. The purpose of this study is to clarify the epistemological essence of the concept of “document” through the methodological prism of the theories of the philosophy of science. In the research process, general scientific methods and special methods of philosophy, documentation science, archival science, information science, and social communication were used. The synergy of general scientific and specialised methods, along with philosophical methodology, allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the concept of “document” as a sociocultural phenomenon, analysis of the philosophical characteristics of the document, and identification of interdisciplinary connections. Emphasis has been placed on positivist achievements, which have contributed not only to the activation of the search for and establishment of the informativeness of documents and their quantitative increase but also to the theoretical study of carriers of information from the past. Such processes have enriched knowledge about documents, contributing to the expansion of their methodological and epistemological boundaries. It should be noted that the post-positivist stage has caused philosophical discussions between representatives of the “historical school” and “critical rationalism”. The structure-forming functions of scientific knowledge and the sociologisation of the examination of the scientific information space, based on the methodology of the philosophy of science, have led to the acquisition of modern characteristics by document science, the development of complex interdisciplinary

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connections that ensure the integrity of the study of the document phenomenon. Thanks to the methodology of the philosophy of science in the research, the ideas of the unity of scientific knowledge, the epistemological and philosophical methodological determinism of document science, and the integral significance of philosophy in constructing a holistic scientific picture of the world have been revealed. The conceptual and terminological toolkits and mechanisms for introducing the philosophical concepts of determinism, causality, space, and time into the documentary discourse have been defined. Such modern trends in the development of the philosophy of science and an interdisciplinary approach to the scientific and theoretical substantiation of document science issues will contribute to the development of the discussion on documentation science issues and will lead to the emergence of new theoretical and methodological developments in the field of social communications

**Keywords:** documentation science; philosophical methodology; scientific knowledge; theory of knowledge; post-positivism

## Introduction

The philosophy of science is undergoing a new phase of development, characterised by a shift in its object of study and an expansion of interdisciplinary connections. The evolution of the objectification of conceptual inquiry in the philosophy of science can be traced from relatively simple systems in the classical period, through complex systems in the non-classical period, to complex self-organising systems in the contemporary period. These systems define and shape contemporary science.

The regulation of document systems is a crucial factor in the sustainable and formalised development of society, to ensure the preservation and transmission of information to future generations. It is well known that information recorded on a physical medium has the status of a document, demonstrating the dichotomous nature of the two important and interconnected terms “information” and “document” (Law of Ukraine No. 2657-XII, 2023). As society becomes more structured and sociocultural processes diversify, the volume of documentary material also increases. Formal and categorical features characterise transformative processes, the material characteristics of the information carrier, and so on. The philosophy of science has faced the challenge not only of structurally organising the field and developing new methods for harmonising existing documentary collections but also of developing methods for understanding document theory and integrating it into general scientific knowledge. Therefore, the philosophy of science acquires an integral and structure-forming significance, the ability to propose mechanisms for influencing the science of documents on the development of scientific knowledge.

The fundamental basis for the study of the concept of a “document” is formed by the studies of Ukrainian document specialists and archivists. In her research, document specialist V. Bezdrabko (2023) pays significant attention to establishing the content and features of the visualisation of archival information in terms of its technological capabilities and development trends. Ya. Kalakura (2020) conducts research on the development of the document within the system of social communications in the modern world, with a focus on

the study of electronic sources within the structure of sociocultural information. M. Paliienko (2019) explores the sociocultural mission of the archive and new strategies for archival management, emphasising the importance of international openness and accessibility of archival documents and the development of new approaches to understanding documents. The prerequisites for the emergence and formation of documentation have been the subject of research by H.M. Shvetsova-Vodka (2023), which has prospects for further improvement of methodological support and refinement. A thorough analysis of theoretical and methodological support and disclosure of the specifics of documentary-information resources and their features in the system of scientific knowledge and the preservation of historical continuity is proposed in the article by L. Kovalska (2015).

The philosophical and cultural theoretical discourse is provided by publications and research findings of foreign and Ukrainian scholars, whose studies demonstrate an active scientific discourse and the development of thought on scientific knowledge and the development of the philosophy of knowledge. K.R. Popper (1934) emphasises the development in the researcher the ability to analyse and translate primary sources, highlighting the unreliability of induction as a method of scientific research, introducing falsifiability as a criterion of demarcation, and attempting to solve the problem of the “empirical basis”. The German scholar J. Ryuzen (2010) considers the sphere of historical thinking, historical culture and consciousness and tries to find answers to the question of how people deal with the past, interpreting it to understand themselves, their present, and plan for the future. A classic exposition of the philosophy of science can be found in the research of S. Toulmin (1953), where, in the alternation of periods of “normal science” and scientific revolutions, the development of science is seen as the evolution of conceptual systems; the competition of research programs; a cumulative process of adding new truths to previously acquired knowledge; and a continuation of the general theory of organic evolution. Among contemporary Ukrainian philosophical studies, the research

of O. Gabovich & V. Kuznetsov (2022) is particularly noteworthy. In this article, the authors distinguish between various types of modern philosophy, and the specific features of each are analysed based on graph classifications of the respective philosophies, further emphasising the importance for all types of philosophy of science of using reconstructions of practical theories. In the development of the philosophy of science, there has been a noted interest in theoretical-methodological problems, revealing significant directions for further aspects of the study and improvement of the epistemology of the concept of "document".

The research aims to reveal the characteristic features of the scientific cognition process and to clarify the epistemological component of the concept of "document" based on the achievements of the philosophy of science.

The scientific novelty of the research lies in the structuring of the conceptual apparatus of philosophy in the sectoral study of the science of documents, the implementation of an analytical examination of the epistemological essence of a document/source of information through the use of philosophical methodology.

## **Materials and Methods**

Both general scientific and specialised methods from philosophy, documentation science, archival science, information science, and social communication were employed in this research. The general scientific methods used included analysis and synthesis, which facilitated a comprehensive review of sources and literature, as well as the identification and integration of information related to the research problem. A comprehensive approach, combining general scientific and specialised methods, ensured not only a high-quality analysis of the chosen topic but also contributed to the formation of new scientific conclusions that made a significant contribution to the relevant field of knowledge. The review-analytical method allowed for an examination of the concept of "document" within the knowledge system of epistemology and revealed the methodological discourse of the philosophy of science. The historical method allowed for a retrospective examination of the object-subject component and the identification of the main stages in the development of documentation science and its philosophical interpretation. The method of analytical internet monitoring allowed for the examination of information from various sources and the identification of the features of preservation, transmission, and presentation of information about the object. The combination of specialised and general scientific methods with philosophical methodology has allowed for a deep exploration of the concept of "document" as a sociocultural phenomenon, an analysis of the philosophical characteristics of documents, and the identification of established interdisciplinary connections. Emphasis is placed on positivist achievements, which have contributed to the

intensified search for and establishment of the informativeness of documents, their quantitative increase, and the theoretical study of previous information carriers. Such procedures have enhanced the understanding of documents and contributed to the expansion of their methodology and epistemology. It is worth noting that in the post-positivist stage, philosophical debates have taken place between proponents of the "historical school" and proponents of "critical rationalism". The application of structural analysis methods and the identification of the functions of scientific knowledge and the sociologisation of research into the scientific information space, based on the methodology of the philosophy of science, has contributed to the identification of the modern characteristics of documentation science. This has facilitated the further development of complex interdisciplinary connections that ensure the coherence of the study of the document phenomenon. This research employed the methodology of the philosophy of science to explore the interconnectedness of science and philosophy, the extent to which science relies on documentation, the significance of philosophy in forming a comprehensive worldview, and how philosophical concepts can be integrated into documentation science discourse in terms of causality, determinism, space, and time. The philosophy of science aids in understanding the nature of scientific knowledge, its structure, methods, and limitations. A crucial aspect of the study was to uncover how scientific knowledge is documented and preserved, as well as how documents influence the development of scientific theories and concepts. The methodology of the philosophy of science enabled the examination of the relationship between scientific knowledge and its documentation, revealing that scientific documents not only transmit knowledge but also shape it.

## **Results and Discussion**

The philosophy of science is one of the most defining and at the same time most complex branches of philosophy and scientific knowledge in general. As early as the Modern period, drawing on the methodological positions of epistemology, the philosophy of science underwent significant development and institutionalisation. Scholars such as F. Bacon, R. Descartes, G.W. Leibniz, J.L. d'Alembert, D. Diderot, I. Kant, J.G. Fichte, and G.W.F. Hegel provided scientific grounding for the claims of philosophers, playing a decisive role in the development of subsequent directions of philosophical thought. In subsequent periods of development, the content and significance of the philosophy of science were determined by its place in society and worldview, as well as by the set of internal concepts and problems that arose historically. In the scientific substantiation of propositions about documents, the philosophy of science acts as a consolidated interdisciplinary study, during which researchers

operate with concepts from logic, sociology, information science, history of science, and others.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the philosophy of science primarily focused on analysing the epistemological dimensions of science, forming a distinct philosophical discipline. The evolution and formation of the philosophy of science were clearly traceable in its gradual development and were characterised by a diversity of ideas. Representatives of positivism, neo-positivism, post-positivism, certain strands of neo-Kantianism, critical rationalism, and neo-rationalism contributed to the development of this philosophical direction. For these philosophical concepts, the philosophy of science provided the foundation for a problem field and its primary content.

At the same time, the core ideas of the philosophy of science had to evolve within the framework of contemporary concepts for which the problem of scientific development was not the primary task, and the analysis of science was embedded in and determined by broader philosophical contexts. Thus, representatives of Marxism, phenomenology, existentialism, neo-Thomism, and others contributed to the development of the main ideas of the philosophy of science. For these representatives, the themes and conceptual apparatus were defined by the limits of the philosophy of science's issues and were subsequently incorporated into the research focus of various philosophical movements (Toulmin, 1953).

The problem field of the proposed research requires the clarification of the conceptual apparatus that will allow for the free use of terms and the disclosure of the essence of the scientific problem of documented information in the methodological discourse of the philosophy of science. This list includes the concepts of science, information, document, knowledge, and scientific cognition.

Science is a special kind of cognitive activity aimed at obtaining systematic, ordered, justified, objectively true knowledge and clarifying the essence of the subject of study. Using the methodology of philosophy in their cognitive activity, scientists operate with abstractions and idealisations, which determine the nature of their perception of the object of knowledge. As a constitutive factor of sociocultural progress, science acquires the significance of a social institution with the functional provision of scientific cognitive activity.

Knowledge is a way of internalising the results of cognition, a process of reflecting reality that involves awareness of its existence (Blihar *et al.*, 2020). Knowledge is a product of social, material, and spiritual activity, expressed in symbolic form, social and individual memory, a communicative scheme of activity and communication, and the result of defining an object in the process of cognition. It serves as a subject's belief about a particular phenomenon, grounded in facts and rational arguments. Knowledge characterises the presence of certain properties and patterns in objects.

It should be noted that information is a sign system that forms an ideal message and reduces uncertainty/unpredictability (as a manifestation of being, its attributive properties (determinism)) in choosing one of several possible alternatives (Law of Ukraine No. 2657-XII, 2023). The axiomatic characteristics of information include its ideal nature, the possibility of storage and transmission using a material carrier, and a variety of forms (Dzyuba, 2001).

The highest level of reflection of objective reality, the process of producing true knowledge, is known as cognition. The process of cognition is closely linked to sociocultural circumstances and involves the acquisition and development of knowledge about the processes and patterns/necessities of the objective world, as well as their deepening, broadening, and improvement (Blihar *et al.*, 2020). Cognitive activity is an organic combination of direct and indirect, symbolic and figurative, logical-rational and intuitive-semantic components.

A document is a physical carrier that contains information, its primary functions being its preservation and transmission over time and space (Law of Ukraine No. 2657-XII, 2023). Documented information becomes evidence of any fact that has occurred and functioned at a certain time and plays an important role today. This is the objectification of information. Documentary information is certified and materialised, performing a constant function – to transmit and store it over time and space (DSTU 2732:2023, 2024). The definition of “document” attracts a wide variety of approaches to its interpretation and highlights the significant elements of a document, demonstrating its advantages at various stages of the scientific and technical development of the material component of this phenomenon, emphasising its functional properties, and its belonging to scientific, sectoral, and practical applications (Kalakura, 2020).

The concept of a “document” is the subject of the proposed research and, according to the Oxford Dictionary, refers to the primary designation of means for presenting or conveying information in text form (Simpson & Weiner, 1989). The increasing development of discourse surrounding the semantic component of the phenomenon of “document” has marked trends in the development of document science in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Questions that require resolution include whether to classify only textual or also material examples as documents, and the specific stage at which a document is created. In the methodological framework of the philosophy of science, a document is viewed broadly as a result of a realised fact. In defining a document as a carrier of information, F. Bacon was one of the first to propose studying documents as a resource for historical knowledge (Harre, 1985). The philosopher appealed to the source-based interpretation of documented information, noting the significance of a specific type of official document. Notably,



L. von Ranke summarised the methodological foundation of source-based document study. In particular, his research predominantly featured primary sources – archival documents of a political nature, with the observation that what is not documented does not exist for history (Kovalska, 2015).

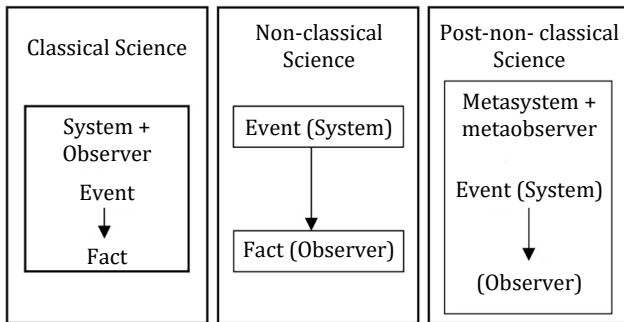
The direction of humanistic empiricism was founded by I. Droysen, who proposed his interpretation of history as an empirical science that relies on primary sources in its development (Kovalska, 2015). The philosopher's focus on primary sources and information resources in studying past facts and phenomena is based on comparing the information from documentary materials and personal observations, which are widely used in the process of scientific cognition. The French school of positivism contributed to the development of the documentation science direction. The positivists' perception of the historical past as a collection of verified facts was based on obtaining verified historical information, required by historians, mostly preserved in written documents. Positivists sought to provide historians with a tool/document with which they could "fill" history with the necessary historical content. The German school of history developed a source-based approach, which is based on the concept of a historical source, as opposed to the positivist understanding of documentary information.

The positivists S.-V. Langlois and C. Seignobos used the traditional French historiographical term "document" in their scientific study, which highlighted the impossibility of scientific historical knowledge without a source. This term highlighted the impossibility of scientific historical knowledge without a source. Thus, they reinforced the thesis of the superiority of historical sources over historical thought for scientific knowledge. In his reflections on primary sources, Langlois presented a document as "traces of people's thoughts and actions". C. Seignobos, supporting the idea of a document as a "trace", called it a historical document and divided it into two classes: material and psychological (Kovalska, 2015). The development of positivist views not only stimulated the search for historical documents and primary sources in research but also led to a significant quantitative increase and standardisation of the theoretical study of carriers of past information. Such trends in the perception of documents and primary sources in scientific knowledge have significantly enriched our understanding of documents and allowed for the definition of their methodological and epistemological boundaries.

The focus on socio-historical documentary information has given rise to various directions in the philosophy of science that study the document as a sociocultural phenomenon. Within the methodological framework of the sociology of knowledge and the sociology of science, the studies of M. Scheler, K. Mannheim, L. Fleck, and R. Merton explore the dichotomous

relationship between science and specific styles of thought (Shinkaruk, 2002). As N.M. Shvetsova-Vodka (2023) notes, that social purpose and values are determining factors in the ambivalence of scientific norms. The rapid development and improvement of document production technologies, as well as methods of recording information on physical and digital media, transform its perception from one-dimensional to multi-dimensional. This allows for the determination of advancements in documentation technology and their integration into methodological approaches to documents as sociocultural phenomena. According to researchers, a document is defined by three components: information/data, a material/physical carrier, and the technology for its storage and identification. Using the methodology of the philosophy of science, and documentation scientists A. Sokolov and G. Shvetsova-Vodka note the emergence of a new documentary environment and the formation of the documentary memory of the noosphere (Kovalska, 2015).

The post-positivist period has given rise to philosophical discussions between representatives of the "historical school" and "critical rationalism". Leading directions of discourse have become the prospect of restoring the historical dynamics of knowledge and the inevitability of social and historical-cultural determinants of cognition (Haken, 1980; Harre, 1985). According to philosophers such as T. Kuhn, I. Lakatos, P. Feyerabend, and K. Hübner, there has been a growing interpenetration of philosophy and specific socio-humanitarian fields. This has led to the blurring of the subject matter and methodological boundaries between the philosophy of science and other humanities disciplines. On the other hand, there has been a methodological synergy of the social sciences with an urgent need to structure new scientific fields, including the science of documents (Shinkaruk, 2002). Not only philosophers, sociologists, and historians but also documentation scientists have taken on the task of addressing the problems posed by philosophers and analysing specific cognitive situations. The concept of a "document" is the central element of documentation science – a new field of study that lies at the intersection of various directions and theoretical approaches to the study of documents. A powerful scientific direction has gradually formed, grounded in the study of the document as a unit of the documentary/documentary-information resource of society, a fact and content of culture, and a structural unit of social memory. In general, documents are present in every sphere of human activity – scientific, applied, educational, informational, managerial, etc. It is the document that records the information of the present and preserves it for future use and processing. The peculiarities of perceiving, storing, and documenting information are demonstrated by the example of classical, non-classical, and post-non-classical philosophy (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Relationship between event and information

**Source:** created by the authors based on V.I. Shinkaruk (2002)

With the completion of the formation of post-positivist concepts at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the question arose of the epistemological justification of previously proposed models. In particular, the development of appropriate methodological tools for researching analytical models of the cycle of humanities developed in the philosophy of science. In addition to the customary philosophical and methodological consideration of historical science and the clarification of the potential of documentary sources, the science of documents has undergone active development. At the same time, trends caused by the rethinking of the place and role of science, the antagonism between scientism and anti-scientism, and the development of countercultural/subcultural and religious movements have led to a crisis in the philosophy of science and even to the refutation, in the studies of P. Feyerabend, of its philosophical and general cultural significance (Blihar *et al.*, 2020). The structure-forming functions of scientific knowledge and the sociologisation of the study of the scientific information space within the methodological framework of the philosophy of science have led to the science of documents acquiring modern features; it has acquired broad and complex interdisciplinary connections that ensure the integrity of the study of the document phenomenon in the methodology of the philosophy of science.

According to postmodernist perspectives, humans are incapable of understanding, systematising, or changing the world. Postmodernists argue that the world is in a state of anticipating the exhaustion of history, progress seems illusory, and repetition becomes a style of thinking, taking on the characteristics of allusion, eclecticism, quotation, and borrowing. When a researcher cannot freely operate with primary information and gain access to original sources, they resort to secondary or mediated information, which allows for replication and serial reproduction (Shinkaruk, 2002). The postmodern era cultivates in individuals the foundations of liberal relations in the political and economic spheres, a culture of mass consumption, individualisation of needs, and pluralisation of lifestyles, thus making everything relative except relativity itself. Postmodern

differentiation of social existence also affects the scientific sphere, creating new branches and directions of science, and the informational aspect of societal functioning gains significance. The new conditions of the post-industrial society changed the essence of the concept of “documented information” (Kovalska, 2015).

The accumulated experience of scholars and practitioners means that, in 2024, there is a need to rethink the concept of the document. To further develop the document in the latest technical conditions, it is necessary to determine how it can be utilised within a virtualised digital information space. Investigating the nature of documentary information and the document as a sociocultural phenomenon is the only way to address the current challenges facing document science. The development of the complex of information sciences leads to a scientific analysis of the informational characteristics of documents, stimulating active scholarly reflection on this field.

The philosophical exploration of the concept of a “document” encompasses ontological questions about the phenomenon of the document and its role in reconstructing historical processes, as well as gnosiological and logical-methodological problems of science (Kovalska, 2011). As A.E. Conversky (2010) notes, the methodology of cognition acts as a philosophical system through the processes of combining and logically standardising various principles, approaches, methods, rules, and norms of cognition, or as a science of the means of cognition. An example of the development of cognition is the combination of the principles of empiricism as a primary component in the study of anything. Idealists, as representatives of a separate direction in the methodology of philosophical science, in their reasoning gave a new impetus to the development of methodology, proposing to consider the patterns in thinking itself: the development from the concrete to the abstract, the controversy of the development of being and thought, reality and knowledge. The methodological principles of implementing document analysis methods and establishing their informativeness for scientific understanding are comprehensively revealed in the studies of famous philosophers such as E. Burckhardt, W. Dilthey, J. Droysen, G. Simmel, H. Rickert, and J. Ruesch (Blihar *et al.*, 2020). The studies of these scholars have developed general scientific and philosophical paradigms, as well as special methods of practical gnosiological activity and epistemology.

The science of documents is acquiring modern, and notably complex, connections that ensure the holistic study of the document phenomenon within a postmodern methodological framework. Postmodernists view humans as creations incapable of comprehending, organising, or improving the world. The development of the science of documents is occurring within the trends of the philosophy of science. Beyond the problems of the structure of scientific knowledge, the issue of its rapid

accumulation is also undergoing comprehensive analysis. The concept of scientific understanding is acquiring new meaning, based on which the philosophy of science justifies criteria for scientific validity, methodological foundations for scientific research, and standards for the selection and accessibility of theories. The expansion of the subject matter of the philosophy of science necessitates a thorough analysis of values, worldviews, and the identification of the range of social issues in science. The problem of the social justification and determination of scientific knowledge is arising, and directions for correlating science with other manifestations of thought are becoming more relevant as approaches to reconstructing the development of scientific knowledge.

Ukrainian researchers are actively contributing to the scholarly discourse on the development of documentation science, the study, and refinement of the concept of a document. In particular, V. Bezdrabko (2023) is actively advancing the scholarly discussion, including historiography, terminology, standardisation, and unification in documentation science. Global trends in implementing Ukraine's socio-humanitarian policy are presented in a research paper and have been tested at the conference "Applied Aspects of Modern Interdisciplinary Research" by L.A. Kovalska & G.E. Kovalsky (2022). Researchers highlight that among the pressing issues in the modern information environment are questions of document provision and problems of information preservation in socio-humanitarian activities. The issue of preserving documentary heritage, problems of archiving and providing access to information, its key characteristics and requirements for openness and access to documents are raised in the article of M. Paliienko (2019). L. Dubrovina *et al.* (2017) investigated the primary functions of libraries, archives, and museums as the main institutions for preserving and disseminating information in science and culture. Ya. Kalakura (2020) provides a thorough exploration of the concept of electronic sources and the phenomenon of sociocultural information, emphasising the need to preserve electronic documents not by their medium but by the method of recording information, which develops document science and expands the boundaries of perception and philosophical interpretation of the document in its contemporary form.

As an organic part of the sociocultural space, within the philosophy of science, a society's document system acquires the characteristics of a complex, self-organising, and self-developing system. This necessitates the development of a corresponding methodology of cognition using synergetic methods. Complex systems in a non-equilibrium state are a source of the emergence of a new system organisation or a source of self-organisation, that is, the ordering of their elements. The philosopher H. Haken (1980) emphasises that synergetics deal with complexly organised systems of various natures and levels of organisation (natural, social, cognitive, etc.).

The researcher revealed a deterministic unity of diverse systems in the form of the spontaneous formation of structures, qualitative changes at the macroscopic level, and processes of self-structuring in open constructs. The difference between the synergetic approach and the classical one is due to the development of a research focus from simple systems to mastering complex constructs, from closed to open, from linearity to nonlinearity, and from equilibrium to non-equilibrium processes.

The rapid development of the sociocultural sphere is prompting contemporary concepts in the philosophy of science to turn to the widespread use of the dialectical method in scientific cognition, emphasising the object's integrity, self-development, and the contradictions of theoretical models. The weakening of established norms of rational scientific discourse is leading to a strengthening of the significance of extra-rational components. For documentation science, philosophy serves as an attractor – it integrates theoretical reflections on documents and helps to organise the methodological apparatus.

New approaches, grounded in postmodern methodological and paradigmatic theories of knowledge, have become more significant and innovative than traditional approaches to the study of history. The German researcher J. Ryuzen (2010) proposed using a modernist approach through traditional historical thinking. Scientific rationality and the pursuit of applied significance and practical application of empirical research are important components of the methodology of scientific research and the scholarly exploration of the past. Representatives of each of the distinguished philosophical directions formulate the characteristics of the development of historical science from the perspective of their own methodology, which has led to the distinctiveness of viewpoints and their justification. For instance, the Enlightenment successfully combined historical thinking with the fundamental requirements of rationality, historicism in its methodology employs classical methods of historical research, while post-historical approaches utilise diverse ways of expressing theoretical elements of historical interpretation. Consequently, the popularity of the philosophical concept of "time" is contributing to the active historicisation and dialecticisation of the fundamental principles of the science of documents. Drawing on postmodern methodology, it is worth considering that memories and memory are cultural drivers of contemporary life practices, while the linguistic form of historical narration is what the postmodern paradigm offers. Attention is shifting away from professional historical science, which is based on historical data and evidence from various documents, towards mass cinema and television, towards the audiovisual presentation of testimonies, and towards visualised documents. After literature and art became evident intermediaries of the historical, a demonstrative embellishment obscures the understanding of the past. It is important to consider prevailing trends and

to study the development process from the perspective of new methodologies. However, it is also essential not to entirely dismiss the undeniable advantages of past contributions: rational methods that transform historical information into knowledge and gnosiological results; these can be tested through subjective experience and the internal coherence of arguments. When scientific documents were processed under the conditions of modernism, many aspects and features of historical thinking were overlooked or underestimated. Contemporary times have led the scientific community to recognise the limitations and deficiencies of relying on a single methodology in scientific inquiry. The ideas of methodological pluralism have found expression in the studies of philosophers of science such as P. Feysabend and W. Heisenberg. Methodological pluralism has become a satellite of modern science and public consciousness, and the application of diverse methods in modern scientific research has become the norm, and in some cases, a necessity to avoid subjectivity and bias (Blihar *et al.*, 2020).

Although this opposition is not absolute, postmodernism often contrasts these characteristics with the elements of scientificity. Conversely, by considering both aspects and understanding how they are interconnected, it can uncover the full complexity of history, its methodological autonomy, and its defining role in the cultural life of society. In the course of conducting scientific research, Western European historical thought intertwines with other non-Western traditions. Through such productive and open interaction, intercultural communication, which should address similar issues, will stimulate development and yield new and unexpected results. On one hand, it is necessary to integrate historical thinking with the processes of globalisation, to critically and consciously promote its involvement, and to transform it into a culturally productive force. On the other hand, it is essential to recognise that historical thinking has a unique and undeniable significance in this process and to emphasise and demonstrate its distinctiveness as historical.

The latest scientific advancements and the introduction of technology are changing the way of thinking about history, the past, and achievements. While scientific debate continues actively and there are no clearly defined paths for the development of stable scientific-theoretical systems, there are innovations from which fundamental changes are expected. In public historical culture, a vast number of images are directed towards collective historical memory in all its manifestations. Documentary forms of consciousness are rapidly losing significance and, instead, are gaining political influence and transmitting new subtexts (Kovalska & Kovalsky, 2022). Questions arise about whether a special order of the "historical" will continue to exist in an oriented connection between the past and the future, and what form of life will exist that has no significant

connection to history. At the same time, new scientific communication tools allow for achieving politically approved results and create new strategies, forms, and content that have historical value and demonstrate the prospects for development (Ryuzen, 2010).

The media channels of the modern era, through which experiences and achievements are transmitted and interpretations of time are broadcast, are critically important for the diverse and unique manifestation of the historical in its dual meaning, namely documented information and its interpretation. J. Ryuzen (2010) notes that language plays the most important role in this case, although historical perception and formation also pass through an imaginary world such as image, sound, architecture, dance, and so on. In the development of historical science, writing and documented information are crucial, and historical memory also has an influence. For a long time, writing has been a defining phenomenon in the development of society, as the primary means of preserving socio-historical information, as a way of expressing thoughts and own reflections, and as a technology for storing achievements. Oral elements are still important and useful. New media types and cutting-edge information dissemination technologies in space and time are abandoning direct communication and breaking down the boundary between history as a means of communication and separating history as content. This distance significantly expands the experience of historical consciousness, increasing the scope of information and the need to engage sources. It also allows for new ways of collecting and controlling experiences. The possibilities of subjectivising historical interpretation, a separate practice of forming historical content, grow alongside the possibilities of objectification in working with historical experience and documents as carriers of testimony, as reflections of the past (Ryuzen, 2010). That is why the document, as a carrier of testimony, acts as an important artefact that allows researchers to study and interpret past facts, ensure the stability of the present and the axiological continuity of future societal development, and contributes to the preservation of historical documentary heritage and the support of scientific progress.

## Conclusions

The development of the science of documents occurs in a dialectical interaction with the philosophy of science, one of whose primary functions is structure-forming. The philosophy of science has an integral function in the formation of documentation science, the methodology of interdisciplinary interaction, and scientific cognition. It is a methodological system of knowledge responsible for creating the preconditions for scientific thinking and the foundation that defines the orientations of document science problems. The achievements of positivism theory contributed not only to the activation of the search for documented historical past, their



accumulation and quantitative increase but also to the development of the theoretical basis for the study of documentary carriers of past facts. These processes significantly expanded knowledge about the document and the methodological boundaries of its study. The document acquires a connotation of quality and importance as a source of information, without which scientific knowledge becomes impossible or incomplete, which has led to the affirmation of the priority of the written documented source in the process of new scientific cognition and thinking. The modern document is an independent system with unique features and qualities that determine both common features and differences. It is characterised by the simultaneous presence of these properties, with each document having its own unique set of features. For the social sciences, such as document theory, the philosophy of science provides a comprehensive analytical toolkit for establishing specialised concepts and theories within the science. Thanks to its metascientific methodological characteristics, the philosophy of science distinguishes knowledge based

on the principle of scientific validity, revealing the differences between scientific thinking and other methods and technologies of cognition, which should include the conditions of correctness and argumentation of scientific interpretation, the indisputable cognitive use of general scientific and special scientific laws and principles. The research results will contribute to the formation of new methodological complexes and general theoretical research in the field of social communications. Thanks to modern trends in the philosophy of science and an interdisciplinary approach to the scientific and theoretical substantiation of documentation science, it becomes possible to revitalise the discussion on the theory and practice of documentation science, source studies, and archival science.

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### Conflict of Interest

None.

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## Поняття «документ» в системі знань епістемології: методологічний дискурс філософії науки

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**Анотація.** Трансформаційні зміни в сучасному науковому середовищі зумовлені інформаційно-технологічним розвитком усіх галузей, серед яких документознавство, яке зазнало значних змін у зв'язку з оцифруванням та розвитком електронного документознавства, що призводить до зміни об'єкта дослідження та розширення міждисциплінарних завдань і свідчить про перехід філософії науки на новий етап розвитку. У процесі об'єктивації концептуальних пошуків філософів науки відбулася еволюція від відносно простих систем у класичний період до складних систем у неklasичний період і до складних систем, що саморозвиваються. Метою даного дослідження є з'ясування гносеологічної сутності поняття «документ» крізь методологічну призму теорій філософії науки. У процесі дослідження використано загальнонаукові методи та спеціальні методи філософії, документознавства, архівознавства, інформатики, соціальних комунікацій. Синергія загальнонаукових і спеціальних методів, а також філософської методології дозволила всебічно дослідити поняття «документ» як соціокультурний феномен, проаналізувати філософські характеристики документа, виявити міждисциплінарні зв'язки. Акцент зроблено на досягненнях позитивізму, які сприяли не лише активізації пошуку та встановленню інформативності документів, їх кількісному збільшенню, а й теоретичному вивченню носіїв інформації з минулого. Такі процеси збагатили знання про документи, сприяли розширенню їхніх методологічних та гносеологічних меж. Варто зазначити, що постпозитивістський етап спричинив філософські дискусії між представниками «історичної школи» та «критичного раціоналізму». Структуроутворюючі функції наукового знання та соціологізація розгляду науково-інформаційного простору на основі методології філософії науки зумовили набуття документознавством сучасних характеристик, розвиток складних міждисциплінарних зв'язків, що забезпечують цілісність дослідження феномену документа. Завдяки методології філософії науки в дослідженні розкрито ідеї єдності наукового знання, гносеологічної та філософсько-методологічної детермінованості документознавства, інтегрального значення філософії в конструюванні цілісної наукової картини світу. Визначено понятійно-термінологічний інструментарій та механізми впровадження філософських концептів детермінізму, причинності, простору і часу в документознавчий дискурс. Такі сучасні тенденції розвитку філософії науки та міждисциплінарний підхід до науково-теоретичного обґрунтування документознавчої проблематики сприятимуть розвитку дискусії з питань документознавства та призведуть до появи нових теоретико-методологічних розробок у сфері соціальних комунікацій

**Ключові слова:** документознавство; філософська методологія; наукове пізнання; теорія пізнання; постпозитивізм