SCIA-2023: Scientific Research in the Context of Wartime Realities

Pavlo Zhezhnych, Oleksandr Markovets and Alina Petrushka

Lviv Polytechnic National University, S. Bandery st. 12, Lviv, 79013, Ukraine

Abstract

The 2nd International Workshop on Social Communication and Information Activity in Digital Humanities (SCIA-2023) took place as an online event on November 9, 2023, in Lviv, Ukraine. The workshop's theme was expanded to include 14 categories, providing a more comprehensive platform for the presentation of new ideas in the field of Digital Humanities and related areas. This volume of workshop materials comprises 27 papers, which underwent a thorough review and were presented for consideration and discussion.

Keywords

Digital humanities, social communication, information activity, SCIA, wartime, scientific research

1. Introduction

The positive outcomes of the International Workshop on Social Communication and Information Activity in Digital Humanities in 2022 [1] served as a significant motivation for advancing the activities of the Department of Social Communications and Information Activities at Lviv Polytechnic [2]. This event marked the first of its kind in Ukraine, both in format and subject matter, and has garnered considerable interest from the Ukrainian and international scientific communities.

Despite the challenges posed by the war in Ukraine, SCIA-2023 successfully brought together participants from various regions and organizations. Through the collaborative efforts of the Program Committee [3] and reviewers from Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Brazil, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, China, Georgia, France, the USA, North Macedonia, Lithuania, and Australia, the organizers curated an engaging scientific landscape that aligns with global trends while maintaining a distinct Ukrainian focus [4; 5].

2. Thematic landscape of the workshop

The experience from the previous workshop highlighted a clear need to broaden the scope of topics within the proposed sections. The diverse interests of workshop participants led to the identification of 14 topics, with the dominant positions in 2023 being "Social Media (Social Networks and Blogosphere) for Digital Humanities" and "Applied Linguistics and Linguistic Technologies." Notably, no headings were presented for "Educational Technology," "Digital Art Event and Art Management," and "Open Science, Open Data, and Scholarly Digital Resources" (Fig. 1).

Comparing the thematic landscape of the workshops over the past two years, a noticeable shift in demand towards the communication block is observed. Against the backdrop of an increased number

of participants, there is also a broader coverage of the proposed thematic headings: SCIA-2022 - 64% and SCIA-2023 - 79%.
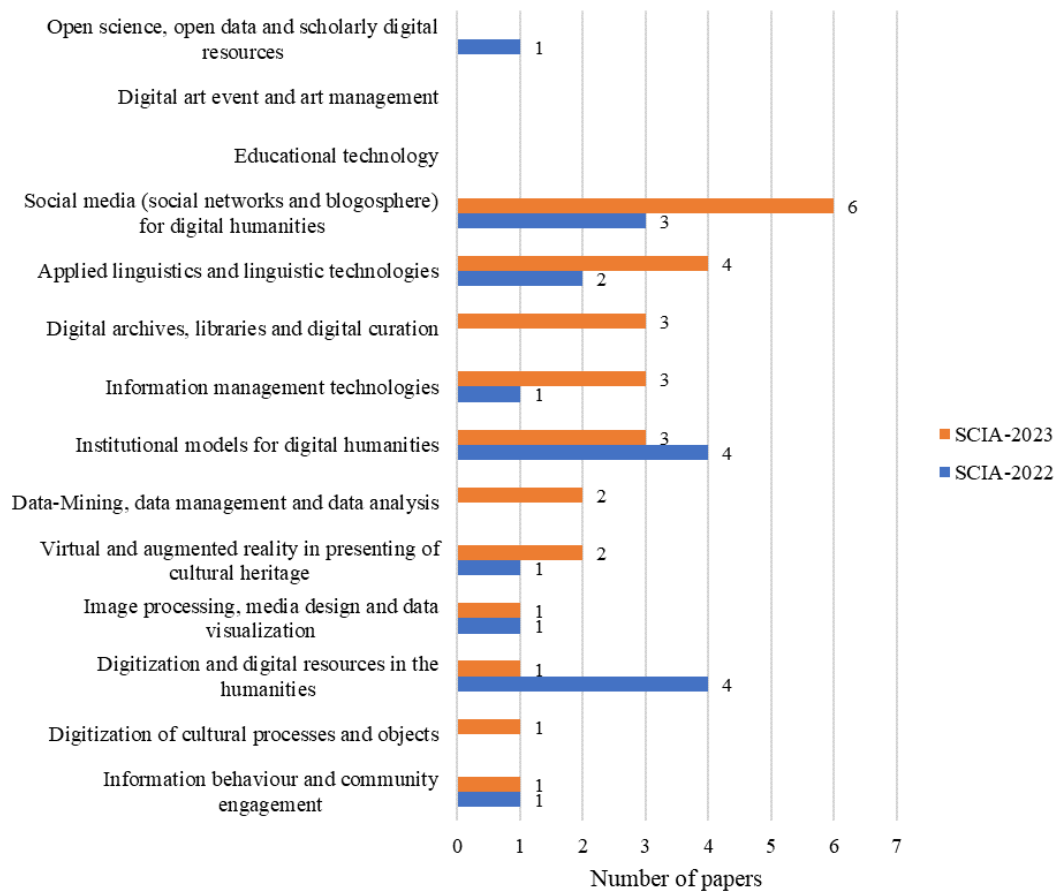

Figure 1: Dynamics of SCIA workshop topics

The context of the Russian-Ukrainian war holds a significant place in the SCIA-2022 materials. While in 2022 (the first year of a full-scale war), there was not a single article covering wartime issues, in 2023, 26% of articles focused on various aspects of the war's impact in the field of Digital Humanities. Common key phrases in these studies include *''Russian Aggression Against Ukraine''*, *''Disinformation and Manipulation by Russia''*, *''Russian Hacker Attacks''*, *''Information War''*, *''Russian-Ukrainian War''*, *''Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation''*, *''Mental Health in the Discourse of War''*, *''Russian Information-Psychological Special Operations in Ukraine''*, *''Russian Military Aggression''*, *''Evacuation, Preservation of Historical and Cultural Heritage''*, *''Information Security''*, *''Use of Information Resources of the Aggressor Country''*, and *''War Concept''*.

Among the presented reports, the authors devoted considerable attention to the issues of information security, countering unscrupulous informational influences, and the preservation of historical and cultural heritage in wartime conditions.

In total, 27 research results were presented at SCIA-2023, uniting 91 participants from Ukraine, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Italy, Germany, and China (Fig. 2).

A significant expansion of authorship is also observed within the affiliated organizations. Importantly, workshop participants included not only representatives of the academic community but also practitioners, including the NGO "Communication Analysis Team - Ukraine" (Fig. 3).

In total, the authors of SCIA-2023 represented 27 organizations, with Lviv Polytechnic National University and the Ukrainian Academy of Printing being dominant.
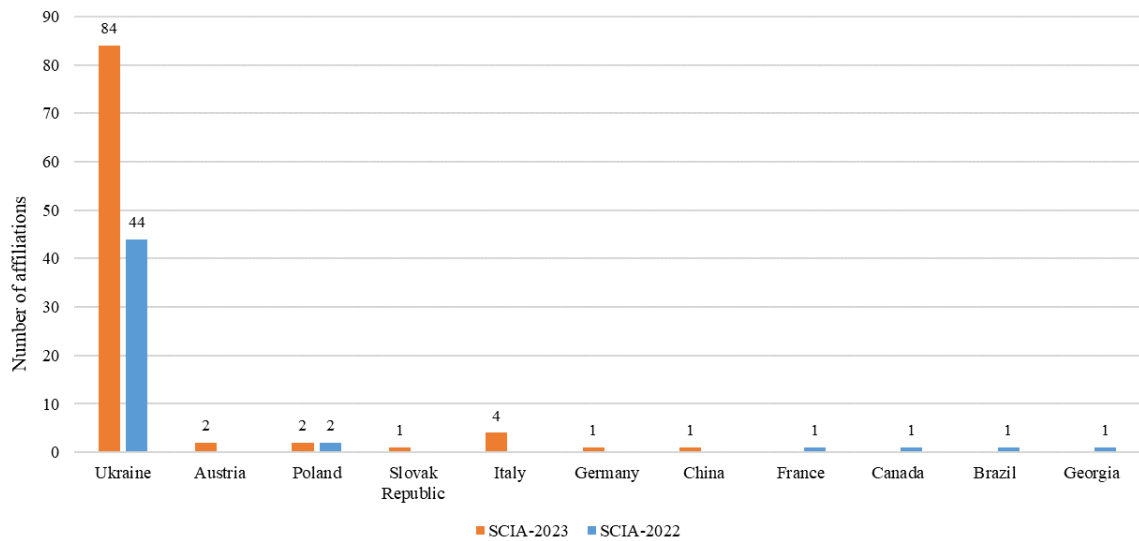
Figure 2: Distribution of SCIA authors by countries

The workshop, held online due to military actions and the participation of colleagues from abroad, saw great interest in all presentations. Lively discussions took place, and all video reports of the presentations are available on the SCIA YouTube channel [5].
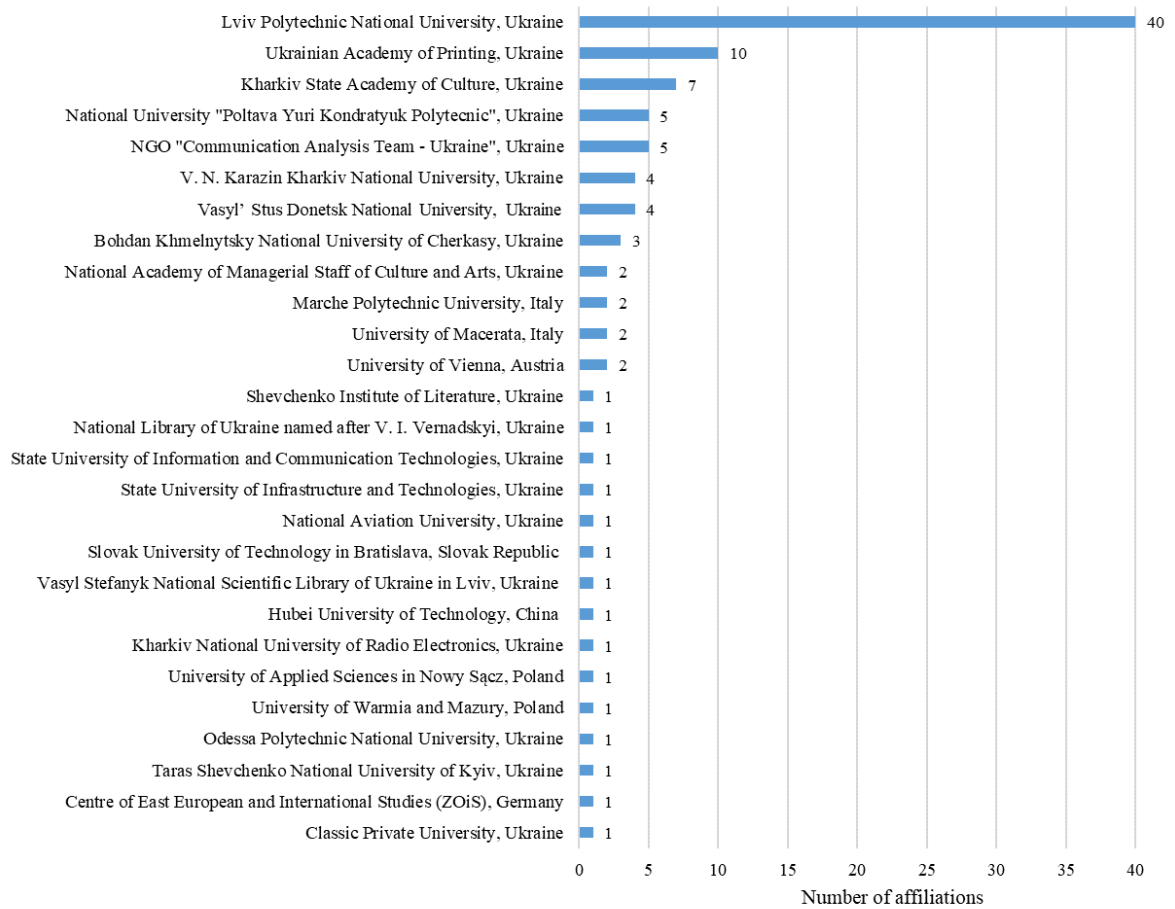

Figure 3: Distribution of SCIA authors by organizations

3. Acknowledgements

4. References

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[2] SCIA Department. Official website of the Department of Social Communications and Information Activities. URL: https://skid.lpnu.ua/.

[3] Program Committee. 2nd International Workshop on Social Communication and Information Activity in Digital Humanities (SCIA-2023). URL: http://skid.lpnu.ua/?page_id=220.

[4] Workshop program. URL: https://skid.lpnu.ua/download/SCIA_2023_Program.pdf.

[5] List of video presentations of the conference SCIA-2023 (watch). URL: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkbKtLmUv87snAryAHDPut684cDZjfdyU.