

I. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF RESEARCH ISSUES OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY



INFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION SOCIETY: SOCIAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

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Summary. Only that part of science which was engaged in consciousness studying, anyway, moved towards understanding of information. Information, despite importance of its ideal form, does not come down to ideal social information though it plays nearly the defining role in that information as a resource and a factor of development moves to the forefront in comparison with resources of material and power (“material” in philosophical sense of the word).

Keywords: informatization; social information; information sphere; social activity; civilization.

The concept of post-industrial society as an information society was developed in works of D. Bella, A. King, J. Martin, A. Norman, S. Nora, J. Neysbita, Y. Masuda, J. Pelton, M. Ponyatovsky, Zh. Zh. Servanus Schreiber, K. Shteynbukh. An idea of the role of information developed into the concept of information society [9, p. 78–82]. Information owing to objective circumstances of historical development poorly joined in the sphere of human work, production of goods and also was an unconscious natural addition to substance, energy, requirement for which was realized in significantly bigger degree [4, p. 118–124].

Information due to the fact that it appears to be a part of reflection (expresses in it an aspect of the variety in the most general terms) acts as a link, a unique exchange factor between material and ideal. It shows one of its important characteristics which is used by mankind for self-development because interaction of ideal and material (on the basis of ideal) in human activity is one of the major sources and mechanisms of social progress [7, p. 123–128].

Ideal social information joins, due to property of reflection, in the material developments, objectifies, opening new opportunities to production as a modern basis of society’s activity. This part of role of information and especially scientific information developed within Marxism in concepts of formation of science by direct productive force though information entity of process of this formation usually was overlooked of sight of researchers [10, p. 57–62].

The property of ideality of a certain (highest) part of social information is that property which has unique and essential advantages over material and power and other material phenomena. All material processes and phenomena can be

studied and it is even ideally reproduce by means of information without considerable movement, transformation and expenditure of material and power and other material resources [2, p. 168–177]. Ideal information, of course, does not exist without material media. The ideal information embodied in special computer information technologies gives a chance to find and enter new qualitative factors, save substance, energy, human resources. Ideal, social, and first of all, scientific information was a powerful factor of transformation of social activity [1, p. 95–100].

Mastering information will not simply increase productivity of labour in administrative and through it in production field of activity. It occurs in the course of informatization, but it is not the only result. More important fact that there will be strengthening and association of intellectual resources of all civilization for its survival and further safe development. Computer equipment and telecommunications, global information means and transformation of all bases and databanks and knowledge into universal property will accelerate transformation of mankind into the uniform interconnected global civilization. Any other real, more powerful and at the same time comprehensive mechanism and means of consolidation of mankind into global system is still unknown [6, p. 136–143].

Information society on a global scale is, along with its other qualities, a uniform human civilization in terms of information appearing to be a material base of realization of ideas of new socio-political thinking [8, p. 87–93].

But it would be wrong to think about informatization process only as something technical and even information and technical though it is also impossible to speak about informatization without it. Informatization is a socio-technical, systemic and pragmatic process, and it is important to direct it in the humanistic direction for information society would be that qualitatively new state where all principles and ideals of humanity will triumph in full. Thereby it is about fundamenta humanization of process of informatization, orientation from the very beginning of any programs of informatization at any level from local, regional to global for the benefit of mankind [3, p. 80–85].

Probably no information society would be a certain perfect condition: problems are inherent in any condition and period of development of society, including relation to information society. Informatization appears to be a difficult and contradictory socio – technical process. Humanistic orientation of informatization assumes such mutual adaptation of social and technical into single human-machine system that conducting and determining part appears to be a human, social component [11, p. 282–284].

It is assumed that information society is a society founded on knowledge. However from the very beginning human society was founded on knowledge. When it is said that a person is distinguished from an animal only by emergence of production it is obvious impoverishment of its real development, and it goes in the same material and power aspect of worldview, though it is very important [5, p. 6–9]. Another, not less important difference, is person's consciousness

which is closely connected with production and other material forms of social activity. A product of consciousness is knowledge as ideal reflection in a sign form of social and natural reality and it is hardly possible to think of the past of mankind without use of knowledge [14, p. 10–16]. In this sense production of knowledge was always perfect base of mankind as its material basis production of material benefits, and they were from the very beginning interconnected in real activity even if this knowledge was prescientific and primitive. But knowledge is a part of social information, and from this information point of view it is possible to call society an information body [13, p. 39–44]. Quite another matter the fact that the emphasis of human activity from the moment of its emergence was placed on material, material economic factors of development and technologies of activity [12, p. 102–107]. Information components of activity were integrally involved into material and power and were represented as their natural component.

Process of formation of information society assumes in its basis economic and social fields of activity. Knowledge appears to be the most important mechanism of functioning of social processes, and it is recognized as the most essential factor of development, and, first of all, scientific knowledge which is the most important factor of progress. The limitation of material and energetic factors and resources seems to be not only in the quantitative sense (we usually pay attention to it), but also in the qualitative sense (they are really not so various, both in nature, and in production). A qualitative variety of information (and scientific information in particular) has no limits. This qualitative and quantitative boundlessness of knowledge, established during the answer to the second part of the main philosophical question, has direct practical relation to formation of information society and to potentially possible development of social progress.

Information society is special development of informatization. Not only saturation of information, but also means of mastering this resource is important for its characteristic. In the concept of information society the priority is given to the information sphere.

Employment in the information sphere as a new sphere of activity increases, but in other traditional spheres (production of goods) decreases. However at the same time nobody takes into account the fact that information activity itself increases in each separate branch of production of goods.

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