Ukraine's Libraries in Wartime
Ulia Gosart & Rhonda Clark

Background

Russian full-scale invasion: 2022-today

June 16-17 attack, third largest, Kyiv City and   Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Odesa, Sumy, and Zaporizhia   oblasts;* killed over 20 people**

Casualties (military):

Russia: over 1 million (June 12, 2025)***

Ukraine: over 43.000 (March 2025)****

Casualties (civilians, June 2025):

Russia: 652 killed (Russian source)*****

Ukraine: 46.085, including 13.341 killed   (OHCHR)******
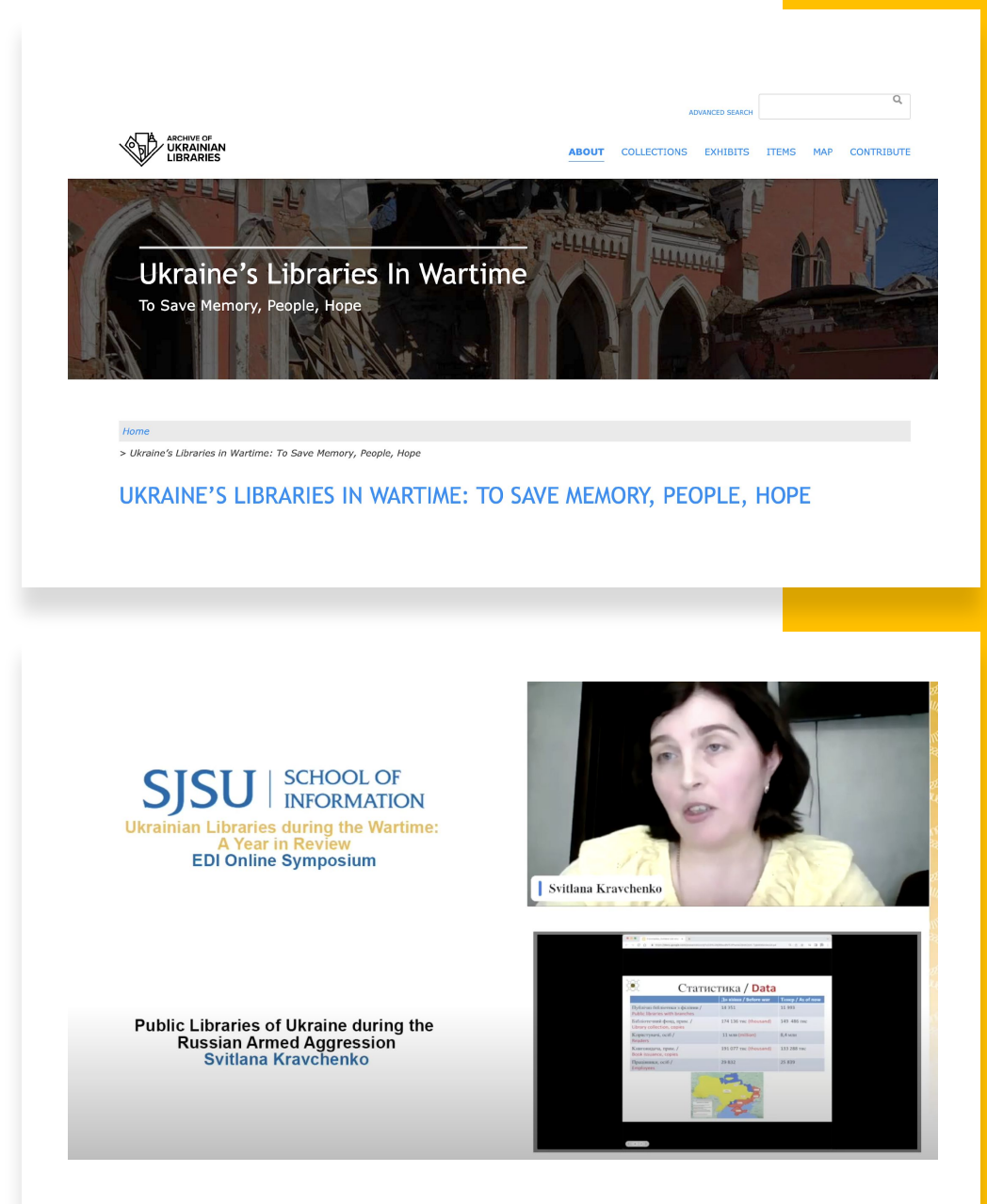
Image credits: Slovo i dilo

State of public libraries

- State of libraries, as of 2025 (May 2025):

- Number of functioning libraries went down 17% since 2022, with total 11.933 entities out of 14.351 (2022)

- **214 libraries lost their buildings**, or space where they were housed, esp. in Donetsk (75), Kherson (25), Kharkiv (53) regions;   904 – partly destroyed

- **492 libraries completely lost collections** and records, esp. in Luhansk   (290), Donetsk (75), Kharkiv (53) Kherson (25) regions; **561** lost their technical equipment

- Damage estimated $ 1.819.199*

Overview

- Partnership with National Library of Ukraine named after Y. Mydryi since 2022 (symposia)
- 2024-2025 – Phase 1
  - Collection of sample of photos (ULA, Ukraine): 14 images
  - Construction of main framework (US, volunteer)
- 2025 – Phase 2
  - Collection of photos from the regions (ULA, Ukraine): over 500 images
  - Construction of archive by regions (US, volunteer)

Initial Considerations for Site

- Security and safety first – hosting away from Ukraine needed
- Best practice for site metadata
- Collaboration possible
- Chose Omeka.net

Workflows

- Creation of metadata profile based on DC – graduate student intern Laurel Schwaebe (Denver U.) worked extensively with our team

- Creation of naming conventions for all images, including standardized abbreviations of sites and regions

Element	Description	Controlled Vocabulary	Required?	Repeatable?	Refines	Elements 1.1 Mapping	Project Exam
Title	The name given to the resource. This will be the name of the library and the location of the library.	None	Yes	No	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title	
Alternative Title	The clarifying subtitle for the resource. Generally, this will be the Ukrainian translation of the title.	None	Yes	No	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title	
	The topic of the content of the resource. This will include the location of the library, the name of the conflict, and other Library of Congress subject headings. Name authorities LCSH when possible, format name/corporate body headings in both				https://authorities.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?Search_Arg=libraries--Ukraine&Search_Code=SHED_&PID=nM7EIn9H6HSgK3Dtm45YiBk_wJ2H&SEQ=20241002064	http://purl.org/d	

FALLEN LIBRARIANS

Omeka Development

- Site modifications made as the Ukrainian partners' needs and requests evolve

- Recently sked to create a sister page to their "fallen librarians" page, but in English. This page is under development

Visions and Future Plans

- Phase II is ongoing, with many new graduate student volunteers.

- Goal to document all 202 libraries thus far reported as ruined beyond repair.

- Continue improving the site and adding materials.

Q/A

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