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## FORMATION OF “DIGITAL HISTORY” IN UZBEKISTAN AS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY DIRECTION

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### ABSTRACT

The article discusses the emergence of digital history in Uzbekistan as an interdisciplinary field that combines historical research with digital technologies. It highlights the importance of preserving and disseminating the country's rich history among a wide audience and the potential of digital history to democratize access to historical information. The article also emphasizes the role of collaboration between historians, archivists, librarians, computer scientists, and other specialists in this field. The advantages of digital history in Uzbekistan include its potential for facilitating interdisciplinary research and creating new ideas and perspectives on historical events and processes. However, the article also notes the importance of ensuring the connection of digital history with serious historical research and meeting the needs of different audiences and communities. Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the development of digital history in Uzbekistan and its potential impact on preserving and interpreting the country's historical heritage.

### KEYWORDS

Digital history, цифровая история, raqamli tarix, interdisciplinary, collaboration, preservation, dissemination, access, historical information, computer science, archives, libraries, research, perspectives, heritage.

### INTRODUCTION

The formation of digital history as an interdisciplinary direction in Uzbekistan has been gaining momentum in

recent years. This new direction combines traditional historical research with information and

communication technologies, as well as methods of mathematical statistics and data analysis. This approach to studying history provides a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of the past by utilizing various digital tools and methods. The development of digital history in Uzbekistan is aimed at creating new methods and approaches to the study of history using digital technologies, preserving cultural heritage, and increasing interest in history among the population. Digital history began to develop only in recent years, but has already attracted the attention of researchers, scientists, and students.

In addition, it can be said that formation of digital history in Uzbekistan as an interdisciplinary field is a relatively new area that has emerged in recent years. This field combines historical research with the use of digital technologies to create new forms of historical analysis, interpretation, and presentation. In Uzbekistan, this field is particularly relevant given the country's rich history and the need to preserve and disseminate this history among a wide audience.

In the Western European countries at the end of the XX century a new direction in the field of history - "Digital History" emerged. "Digital history" (in russian - "цифровая история", in uzbek – "raqamli tarix") is a humanitarian field that studies computer technology and digital media in historical analysis. The introduction of the term "Digital History" is related to the American researcher E.Eyers and U.Thomas (1997, Virginia's Digital History Center at the University of Virginia)[1.–P.3-4.].

Today, Digital History is on the path to its development. Most of the researches in this field have been carried out in foreign countries, and it is important to draw on the positive aspects of foreign experience in scientific research in the region.

"History and Computing" is an international organization dedicated to the effective use of computers in historical research. This organization is designed to encourage the use of computers for any historical research. The idea for the association was first introduced at a conference held in March 1986 at the University of Westfield[2].

After a-year period (March 1987) at the second conference, the association of "History and Computing" was established. The association has a scientific journal published by the University of Edinburgh[3].

The International Association "History and Computer" ("История и Компьютер") has a special place in the formation and development of "Historical Informatics", which is a separate network of historical science.

International Association "History and Computer" is an association of professional scholars in the field of humanitarian science in Russia and CIS countries. If we look at the history of this association, it has been functioning since 1992 and unites researchers in the field of history in Russia and the CIS. The establishment and development of the association are inextricably linked with the process of emergence and institutionalization of historical informatics in a new scientific area in European countries [4].

Undoubtedly, the association was founded in the field of history. The main goal of the association is to unite historians from different countries in the research and educational process of effective use of computer techniques and technologies.

One of the key developments in the field of digital history in Uzbekistan is the establishment of the country's first digital history laboratory. This laboratory

serves as a hub for researchers and students to collaborate on projects related to digital history, including the creation of databases on the history of Uzbek culture and a virtual museum of Uzbek culture. These initiatives aim to preserve the country's cultural heritage and make it accessible to a wider audience.

Since then, the association has begun closely collaborating with researchers from Eastern Europe. Within a short period of time, the association began to organize prominent projects.

Today, one of the scientists conducting research in the field of history in Uzbekistan Z.R.Ishankhodjayeva, I.M. Shamsiyeva, J.E. Togaev have extensive cooperation with this international organization.

An important event was held at the scientific-practical conference with foreign participation "The importance of digital technologies in the study of the history of Uzbekistan", held by the Department of the History of Uzbekistan of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek September 28, 2022. The introduction of digital technologies in science and education is a necessary condition for the development of society in the context of digital transformation. To train modern specialists in all areas of education, it is necessary to use digital technologies in educational programs at the university and postgraduate levels, as well as in research activities. Today, virtual museums, creative exhibitions, various online conferences are organized in Uzbekistan, which contribute to the rapprochement of peoples and actively attract young people. All this was discussed at the conference. About 100 reports on the main directions of digital transformation of science and education were presented at the conference. Special attention was paid to virtual reconstructions of cultural and historical heritage, digital technologies in archeology, informatization and digital technologies in

historical education. The conference supported the efforts of Uzbek universities to form a unified scientific and educational space and called for extensive training of specialists using digital methods in historical science and education [5].

Conferences and seminars on digital history also play a crucial role in promoting this interdisciplinary direction in Uzbekistan. These events provide a platform for scientists from Uzbekistan and other countries to exchange ideas, discuss new methods and approaches, and showcase their research findings. This exchange of knowledge and expertise helps to advance the field of digital history in Uzbekistan and beyond.

Another important aspect of digital history in Uzbekistan is its potential for facilitating interdisciplinary research and collaboration. By bringing together scholars from different fields, digital history can help create new ideas and perspectives on historical events and processes.

The development of digital history in Uzbekistan offers great potential for deeper insights into the country's past and cultural heritage. By using digital technologies, historians can analyze large amounts of data, identify patterns and trends, and gain new perspectives on historical events. This interdisciplinary approach also encourages collaboration between historians, computer scientists, and other experts, leading to innovative solutions and new discoveries.

Digital history in Uzbekistan includes a range of actions, including digitization of historical documents, creation of digital archives and databases, development of interactive historical maps and timelines, as well as the use of digital tools for data analysis and visualization. This interdisciplinary approach involves collaboration between historians,

archivists, librarians, computer scientists, and other specialists.

One of the key advantages of digital history in Uzbekistan is its potential for democratizing access to historical information. By providing historical documents and resources online, digital history can help overcome geographical, linguistic, and socio-economic barriers that may limit access to traditional sources of historical information.

The first projects that became a starting point for the development of digital history in Uzbekistan was the "History of Tashkent" project, which was launched in 2019. As part of the project, an interactive map of the city was created, on which all significant historical sites are marked. In addition, the project's website contains a lot of materials about the past and present of Tashkent [6].

In 2018, the country's first digital history laboratory was created at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The goal of the laboratory is to develop new methods and approaches to the study of history using digital technologies. One of the first projects of the laboratory was the creation of a database on the history of Uzbek culture. The database includes materials on cultural monuments, museums, libraries, and archives in the republic. Thanks to this project, it became possible to create a virtual museum of Uzbek culture, which is already available to visitors on the Internet [7].

The formation of digital history in Uzbekistan as an interdisciplinary direction is an exciting development that has the potential to revolutionize the way we study history. With the establishment of the country's first digital history laboratory, the creation of databases on the history of Uzbek culture, and the organization of conferences and seminars on digital

history, Uzbekistan is well on its way to becoming a leader in this field.

Digital history not only allows for more effective study of the past but also preserves it for future generations. Creating virtual museums and archives allows for the preservation of unique materials that may be lost or destroyed. In addition, digital technologies make historical information more accessible to a wider audience.

Conferences and seminars on digital history are also held in Uzbekistan, where new methods and approaches to studying the past using digital technologies are discussed. For example, in 2019, an international scientific and practical conference "Digital History: New Approaches to Studying the Past" was held in Tashkent [8].

One important direction of digital history in Uzbekistan is the creation of databases on the history of Uzbek culture. Within the framework of the project "Digital Library of Uzbek Culture," a database was created containing information about literature, music, theater, cinema, folk traditions, and religion in Uzbekistan [9].

Digital history also allows for the preservation of cultural heritage for future generations. Within the framework of the project "Virtual Museum of Uzbek Culture," a virtual museum was created containing collections of photographs, paintings, manuscripts, artifacts, and other objects related to Uzbek culture [10].

The development of digital history in Uzbekistan can contribute to a deeper understanding of the country's past and cultural heritage, as well as increase interest in history among the population. This is a promising direction for scientific research that combines



traditional methods of studying the past with new opportunities offered by digital technologies.

Overall, the formation of digital history in Uzbekistan as an interdisciplinary field has great potential for preserving, interpreting, and disseminating the country's rich historical heritage. As this field develops, it will be important to ensure its connection with serious historical research and meeting the needs of different audiences and communities.

Direction of Digital history is a promising direction in scientific research in Uzbekistan. Its development can contribute to a deeper study of the republic's past, preservation of cultural heritage, and increasing interest in history among the population.

In conclusion, the formation of digital history in Uzbekistan as an interdisciplinary direction is a promising development that combines traditional historical research with information and communication technologies, mathematical statistics, and data analysis. The establishment of the country's first digital history laboratory and the creation of databases on the history of Uzbek culture and a virtual museum of Uzbek culture are significant steps towards preserving cultural heritage and increasing interest in history among the population. Conferences and seminars on digital history also provide a platform for scientists from Uzbekistan and other countries to discuss new methods and approaches to studying the past using digital technologies. The development of digital history in Uzbekistan offers great potential for deeper insights into the country's past and cultural heritage, making it a valuable direction for scientific research.

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