

## PRINCIPAIS DIREÇÕES PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO DA LITERACIA JURÍDICA DA JUVENTUDE RUSSA NO ESPAÇO DIGITAL: PROBLEMAS E SOLUÇÕES

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## RESUMO

**Objetivo:** O estudo visa determinar as principais direções para a formação da literacia jurídica da juventude russa.

**Métodos:** Para alcançar este objetivo, os autores identificaram a essência desse processo, seus pré-requisitos e resultados, além da relação entre o desenvolvimento da consciência jurídica e as políticas nacionais e estrangeiras. A base metodológica inclui métodos gerais de cognição (dedução e abstração) e métodos especiais (histórico-jurídico, formal-jurídico, comparativo-jurídico e análise sistêmica) utilizados em pesquisas científicas sócio-políticas e histórico-jurídicas.

**Resultados:** A análise da digitalização de indústrias socialmente significativas na Federação Russa mostra que estão sendo criados softwares de cibersegurança, bem como oportunidades para a transformação digital de todas as indústrias socialmente significativas.



**Conclusões:** Os autores concluíram que o processo de desenvolvimento da literacia jurídica da juventude russa no espaço digital depende diretamente da percepção de valores espirituais e morais e da memória histórica, assim como da capacidade da sociedade russa de transmitir seu patrimônio às novas gerações.

**Palavras-chave:** Literacia jurídica. Consciência jurídica. Globalização. Espaço digital. Sociedade. Digitalização. Geração jovem. Segurança nacional. Valores tradicionais. Patrimônio histórico.

## MAIN DIRECTIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE LEGAL LITERACY OF THE RUSSIAN YOUTH IN THE DIGITAL SPACE: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The study aims to determine the main directions for forming the legal literacy of the Russian youth.

**Methods:** To achieve this objective, the authors have identified the essence of this process, its prerequisites and results, and the relationship between the development of legal consciousness and national and foreign policies. The methodological basis includes general methods of cognition (deduction and abstraction) and special methods (historical-legal, formal-legal, comparative-legal, and systemic analysis) used in socio-political and historical-legal scientific research.

**Results:** The analysis of the digitalization of socially significant industries in the Russian Federation shows that cybersecurity software is being created, as well as opportunities for digital transformation of all socially significant industries.

**Conclusions:** The authors have concluded that the process of developing the legal literacy of the Russian youth in the digital space directly depends on the perception of spiritual and moral values and historical memory, as well as on the ability of Russian society to pass on its heritage to the younger generation.

**Keywords:** Legal literacy. Legal awareness. Globalization. Digital space. Society, Digitalization. Young generation. National security. Traditional values. Historical heritage.

### INTRODUCTION

At the present stage of development of Russian society, the legal awareness of an individual is an important vector in the formation of the legal literacy of the young generation. We can identify a group of parameters to assess the legal consciousness of an individual. These include legal and social values, attitudes toward sources of



legal information, legal self-esteem, and opinions about the legal consciousness of modern society.

Traditionally, the structural elements of legal consciousness are considered from the perspective of legal psychology and legal ideology. Legal psychology is the result of experience acquired in a person's everyday life. It can be regarded as a public response to ongoing transformations in various spheres of society. Legal ideology is a legally established set of views, theories, and hypotheses that give an objective assessment of the political situation in the country.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, Russia began to actively develop information and communication technologies. These were supposed to serve as a window to Europe in the new century (Dobrinskaya & Martynenko, 2019; Ryasnyanskaya et al., 2022). In a fairly short period of time, this process gained enormous momentum and brought Russia on par with other countries in the international arena. Alongside the technological process, new social stereotypes emerged in the everyday life of Russian society (Kirillova et al., 2021; Tereshchenko et al., 2017).

This stage of global development is characterized by the digitalization of social and economic interaction (Lisenkova, 2019); the spread of remote employment and information broadcasting; the replacement of human labor with artificial intelligence and highly automated equipment (Ryasnyanskaya et al., 2021); the widespread introduction of non-cash payments; the transfer of democratic procedures to electronic form (public databases, remote voting, e-paperwork, etc.); the replacement of live communication with virtual communication on social networks. The digitalization process is an important strategic resource that has determined the vector of socioeconomic and political development of society for decades (Ryasnyanskaya, 2022; Smirnov et al., 2020).

The current global situation requires a radical revision of the methods and types of communication both as a key element of digitalization and a determinant of the further development of public legal consciousness, in particular, the formation of the worldview and legal literacy of the Russian younger generation (Kozyrev, 2018; Zhuzhgov et al., 2019). In the modern world, digitalization has affected all spheres of social life, adjusting the perception of the role of a person in society and state (Smirnov et al., 2019); preserving historical memory, awareness of one's rights and



responsibilities and ability to implement them in everyday life, readiness to recognize and transmit traditional values (Kupriyanovskii et al., 2017; Volkov et al., 2021). These are the specific features of forming the digital space in Russia, which emphasizes the relevance of considering the identified problems.

The study aims to determine the main directions for forming the legal literacy of the Russian youth.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodological basis for studying the legal literacy of the Russian youth forming in the digital space consists of both general and special methods used in socio-political and historical-legal scientific research. Using the methods of analysis and synthesis, we have revealed the typical features of forming the legal consciousness of society in the conditions of digitalization. They allow to define such terms as legal literacy and digitalization in modern Russian society, which reflects the complex process of forming national legal consciousness in the conditions of digitalizing a certain type of information. On the one hand, digitalization is a response to the demands of modern society. On the other hand, it determines the vector of development of legal literacy in modern Russian society.

Based on the analysis of regulatory documentation, the method of deduction allows to trace the formation of national legal consciousness and determine the foundations of digitalization under Russian legislation. Using the method of induction, we analyzed articles of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and Federal laws. In addition, we considered the main directions of the internal policy of the Russian Federation.

The method of abstraction is used to assess the level of public legal awareness and the formation of legal literacy in the digital space. Although digitalization as a global process has covered all aspects of society, one should critically evaluate its impact on socially important aspects of the Russian young generation.

Along with general scientific methods, we applied a set of special historical and legal methods, including historical-legal, formal-legal, comparative-legal, and systemic analysis of legal phenomena, to create a holistic picture of the development of public legal consciousness and the level of legal literacy in the digital space of the Russian Federation.



Digitalization in Russia has been associated with Internet coverage since the 1990s when the society got new opportunities in the field of information and communication technologies. On the one hand, new opportunities were opened up for society. On the other hand, not all categories of the population were able to cope with the flow of free information. Special attention should be paid to the fact that the Internet, high-quality technology and skills to work in the new system have not been acquired by all social groups in Russia, giving rise to a digital divide, which contributed to the further strengthening of social disunity.

The methodological tools used in the study reveal the level of legal literacy of the Russian youth in the digital space, identify existing problems, and outline possible solutions.

## RESULTS

In the modern world, digitalization acts as a global vector for the development of the economy and society. It aims at transforming information into a digital form and making it accessible to improve both the efficiency of economic indicators and the quality of everyday life. Compared to the initial stage of computerization, when information technologies were used only to solve individual problems, the modern process of digitalization covers all aspects of society and ensures a positive public perception of these innovations.

The digital processing, copying, storing, and transmitting of various types of information allows to digitize data, starting with the address book and ending with historical documents. A new type of information accessibility and data processing has granted access to scientific and encyclopedic publications, updated legal information systems, and websites providing various types of services.

On the one hand, this process ensured quick access to the required information. On the other hand, it contributed to the formation of the legal consciousness and worldview of a modern person, including attitudes toward cultural, historical, and religious heritage.

In this regard, it is necessary to understand the current digital capabilities of the state to respond to emerging challenges in a timely manner. We need to highlight the following parameters of digitalization quality:

- Uninterrupted, high-speed Internet throughout the state;



- A high level of computer literacy in the population;
- Qualitative and quantitative indicators of the consumption of online content by the population;
- Accessibility and digitization of popular services, availability of electronic services at the state and legal level.

The analysis of the digitalization of socially significant industries in the Russian Federation shows that cybersecurity software is being created, as well as opportunities for digital transformation of all socially significant industries.

However, the rapid transition to digital technologies reveals several problems, namely:

- Unverified and purposefully distorted information placed in the digital space;
- The distrust of new technologies on the part of Russian society due to the insufficient adaptability of the modern legal framework to the demands of the time;
- The lack of qualified specialists in the information and legal sphere;
- The inaccessibility of modern expensive equipment for the comfortable use of new technologies for most citizens;
- Temporal glitches in the digital environment;
- The gap between the acquired knowledge and working skills in the digital environment with daily demands.

The leading role of the Russian state as the initiator and driving force behind the digital transformation of all spheres of life. Digitalization is among the priority areas of the country's national development, which is reflected in the program documents of the last decade. Fulfilling the information and communication function, the state primarily cares about the quality and accessibility of socially important information, which represents the main vector for developing the level of legal awareness and increasing the legal literacy of the population. This objective was attained by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of November 9, 2022 No. 809 "On approval of the fundamentals of state policy to preserve and strengthen traditional Russian spiritual and moral values" (President of the Russian Federation, 2022). The state guarantee of the quality and accessibility of social and political-legal information ensures not only the unity of all life spheres throughout the country and the creation of an information space but also a high level of legal awareness of various social groups.





The world practice shows that the leading role of the state in the context of global digitalization will ensure stable production growth, create an economic and legal platform for new business projects, support the service sector, and enable young specialists to contribute to the development of villages, cities, regions, and the country. Despite new directions in the socio-political sphere that allow Russia to act as a worthy partner and as a competitor in the international arena, the introduction of innovations can bring the desired results when the population feels not only an improvement in the quality of life but also openness, support, and protection from the state. These are important components of the effective development of civil society and the rule of law, regardless of the time and geographical location of the country.

At the present stage of social development, legal ideology is an established set of views, theories, and hypotheses that objectively assess the political situation in the country. This is especially acute in the uncontrolled flow of distorted low-grade information promoting new ideals and social values that are far from generally accepted and centuries-old traditions.

The loss of critical thinking, logic of presentation, and analytical abilities inevitably affected the legal awareness of society. At the global level, innovative processes will only bring positive results when they coexist with national values. This should be facilitated by state control, ensuring the effective functioning of the digital environment. Thus, it is still relevant to create a platform that ensures the implementation of global technological processes in Russia.

Although open access to various types of information is convenient in professional and everyday spheres, the calling card of digitalization is the formation of virtual groups and communities united by certain interests and ideas, often opposite to society and established ideals (values). The clash of interests of several generations leads to social disunity, antagonistic sentiments caused by the attempts of the older generation to preserve the historical, cultural, and legal heritage, and aspirations of the new generation to recognize their right to self-expression and the right to determine the significance of public values.

Social surveys conducted in this area have proved that today's younger generation formed ideas about legal and social values. Among young people, there is a manifestation of nihilistic sentiments and a deformation of legal consciousness, which is expressed in the denial of the historically established values of Russian



society. This problem can be solved by including the discipline “Legal culture of an individual in the context of global digitalization” in the curricula of educational organizations, holding round-table discussions and conferences on modern values, law and religion, and cultural and historical heritage.

The youth of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the digital generation that gets up to 90% of information from the Internet. However, due to their age, lack of life experience, and necessary knowledge, the younger generation cannot assess the quality of this information. This causes misconceptions, doubts, and wrong beliefs. This problem can be solved through joint activities of educational institutions and libraries. As a result, the youth of the new century should use not only the digital environment but also find and check information on paper sources, many of which are not available for free on the Internet.

To improve their legal culture, it is necessary to hold periodic meetings with public, religious, and political leaders and to use active teaching methods that include scientific debates where students can express their opinions and hear public opinion on several socially significant issues. These should be regular events since individual ones will not have any significant effect.

The new century has already been called the era of nanotechnology and global digitalization. However, scientific advancements face age-old national values. History shows that it is impossible to build the future on the ashes of the past. Following the development of international society, the state must avoid radical changes to established rules and customs and prepare a steady and mobile legal framework capable of satisfying the needs of society and providing legal protection for the population to maintain social stability and strengthen the trust of the population.

Thus, the issue of forming legal consciousness and increasing the legal literacy of the younger generation in the context of global digitalization endows the government with the following task: to control and ensure the gradual digitalization of a socially significant sphere with due regard to the current legislation, which will determine the direction for improving the legal literacy of the youth.

## CONCLUSIONS

The formation of the legal literacy of the Russian youth in the digital space faces numerous obstacles: the social disunity generated by the problem of fathers and sons





and the emergence of a technocratic elite; distrust of the new state course due to digital fraud and the lack of clearly established mechanisms for the legal protection of individual interests; universal availability of personal data and an invasion of one's personal space; the replacement of centuries-old values with the demands of the virtual world. These events are reflected in the flourishing legal nihilism, the deformation of legal consciousness that has affected all social groups, and the low level of legal culture. This testifies to the vulnerability of society, its defenselessness against political manipulation, and its readiness to accept the modern worldview imposed by the politics of globalism. As a rule, such changes entail a period of prolonged evolutionary reforming. This process often drags on over several historical stages, during which generations change.

Given the cyclical development of society, it has already undergone socialization during certain historical periods, which was determined by the corresponding ideological and political-legal conditions. A bitter experience was the complete rejection and distortion of some historical stages of the state, which led not so much to liberalism in views but to the destruction of the holistic perception of the historical, cultural, and religious development of Russia by the current young generation. This situation has been rectified for decades, affecting several generations. Restoring true events and reviving lost values and a sense of duty to the historical heritage of the homeland should become the basis for forming and developing modern legal consciousness in society. By destroying the past, it is impossible to build the future of the country regardless of innovative technologies and global digitalization.

The legal culture of modern society and each person is formed within the established system of historical and legal values. The latter have been molded by centuries of wars, revolutions, civil confrontations, and achievements of the population. Therefore, the task of the older generation is to transfer to the youth a complete national heritage rather than its fragments received during the change of political regimes. The formation of a new legal system in the Russian Federation is characterized by new legal foundations of society and state objectively connected with a high level of legal culture and legal consciousness of citizens. In the modern world, human rights are a navigator of socio-economic, cultural, and political processes taking place in the country. At the global level, the recognition of human rights and civil



freedoms is the main achievement of civilization, which, along with globalization, determines the humanization of law.

According to world practice, the realization of human and civil rights and freedoms is impossible without society's awareness of their importance and necessity, as well as without practical experience in the field of their application. All this is an invariable component of the legal culture of an individual. Historically, Russia has developed its vector of state and social development. A difference was the attitude towards human rights as a moral category rather than a legal one. The Russian path of developing human rights is far from Western individualism. To maintain social stability and strengthen public confidence, the state needs to prepare a steady and mobile legal framework that can satisfy the needs of society and provide legal protection to the population.

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