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### **Digitized historical sources in teaching**

The new era in technology development which came with internet reflected to all areas of everyday life and also to teaching. Advantage of easy and fast communication, usage of different online material became very important and inevitable in History teaching process. However if we look back to the process of developing different forms of teaching tools and materials from plain textbooks, blackboards, pictures, maps, movies etc. history teaching process went towards one goal - learning based on the examples. This need for correct examples, which could be used in teaching, began to be fulfilled when history sources digitization started.

Internet based sources are very important when teaching, studying or researching about First World War. Though, while using this type of internet accessible sources in teaching we meet so many obstacles and problems.

There is a problem concerning teachers and pupils, and that is dispersion of sources on the Internet as well as incomplete, non-existent, or incorrect explanations, so often provided by unqualified persons. If that is the case, the teachers who use the sources which are Internet accessible have the problems of locating, collecting, disclosing of correct sources which waste the time and create increasing instability during the work. On the other hand, the pupils are not motivated to use the sources they can find online because their teachers constantly warn them about the necessity of checking any material available. That is the reason why pupils lose confidence in such a way of researching or learning which, of course, may be usable only if properly conceived.

The necessities of teachers and pupils are therefore identical. Regarding the source, they both want correct, complete and reliable information which means they need the place where they can find such materials easily in order to use them for teaching or further research. Educational portals offer such a possibility because they gather at one place all digitized materials related to a certain topic or a period. Digital library "Veliki rat"<sup>1</sup>, which was created by National library of Serbia, or other similar portals, comply with such requirements.

In order to meet these requirements, it is necessary that professional historians and librarians arrange these historical sources first. Then their reliability will be out of question at any given moment.

However, to use these portals for teaching or learning, it is necessary to pay attention to providing additional and useful materials good for arousing the users and their interest and suitable for further simplification of the usage of digitalized historical sources. Then, there would be one place with a valuable digital collection where teachers could find everything they need to make their work easier and keep them motivated to work with sources like these. The lectures are already conceived and the focal point is how to use already prepared materials in classes and how to make lecture plans. There the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://velikirat.nb.rs/>

teachers could find instructions how to organize workshops, reminder notes concerning internal and external critics of the sources, lecture plans and programs prepared in accordance with this type of work, officially approved teaching standards as well as the place where they could outline their proposals or critics regarding the portal and its functioning.

As for the pupils, that's where they could research without the fear of incorrect or incomplete data related to the material and all in accordance with particular themes or interests. To make the pupils more interested in educational portals and to keep them interested in researching the sources, it is extremely important that they are provided with various didactic materials made in accordance with their age, i.e., various quizzes, educational games, battle reviews, and many other topics that could attract their attention.

For this reason National library of Serbia made learning section within digital library Veliki rat<sup>2</sup>. This portal offers students an opportunity to develop their own research spirit. On the other hand teachers represent the only logical connection between large variety of historical sources and students. Only with help and professional assistance of teachers students can make a right analysis and complete their picture about First World War. This is the reason why learning section of portal, at this time, is mostly dedicated to teachers.

Part for teachers<sup>3</sup> is divided into three sections. First one "advices" can be used as a reminder for teachers and also instruction for using of digitized sources in classroom. We can find officially approved standards in the matter of history teaching in Republic of Serbia referring to end of elementary and high school process. Beside standards there could be found "key terms" that should be adopted by students for First World War topic. Also, in this section can be found questions regarding internal and external critics of the sources that students are dealing with, together with skills that should be developed as a consequence of such work.

Second part "themes" represents recommended digitized material collected into themes that are recognized by teaching plan in Republic of Serbia, or themes which are connected to everyday life in First World War. Every object in thematic digital library is equally important, but in accordance to age or interests of pupils, some objects are separated and presented as featured as most important or most characteristic. This kind of assistance greatly reduces the time needed for lesson preparation.

Third part "lesson preparations" are examples of methodic class preparations for elementary and high schools. They are divided by school subjects to history elementary and high school as well as subject called everyday life in the past. Class preparations have different approach depending on the school level of students but method that prevail in them, unlike of classical teaching, is always illustrative-demonstrative, or working on a text method. Big attention is paid to elementary school subject everyday life in the past. This subject allows us to use large amount of digitized material which can't be used in other themes that follows chronology, political, military or economic aspect of First World War.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://velikirat.nb.rs/en/learning>

<sup>3</sup> <http://velikirat.nb.rs/en/teachers>