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HEURISTIC POTENTIAL OF THE METHOD OF CONTEXT ANALYSIS IN RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary

The history of the formation of context analysis as one of the traditional methods of scientific research at the end of the 19th – early 20th centuries was highlighted. The author has shown that content analysis is the traditional method of research. The first content-analytical study conducted in the late XIX - early XX century ideology, politics, sociology, pedagogy. Content analysis as research method has been actively used in almost all fields of science, based on the analysis of textual sources since the 50s of the XX century. Content analysis in the study of the history of science and technology began systematically used only in the last decades.

The characteristics of the advantages and features of the use of conceptual, correlation, contextual and automated context analysis were given by author in the article. The procedure and the main stages of carrying out content-analytical studies are been described in detail. The heuristic potential of the content analysis method in scientific searches on the history of science and technology was disclosed, its use

seems appropriate both in studying the evolution of some composite of scientific knowledge and in carrying out historical and biographical studies. It is shown that the specific of its application is determined by documentary research base.

Author has showed that research of the history of science and technology is based on the use of both personal and team information, including archival documents. Those are primarily personal papers of scientists which usually include their autobiographies, information and characteristics of employment, bibliography, unfinished research papers etc.

Key words: *research methodology, content analysis, category, concept, history of science and technology.*