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**THE LAW OF UKRAINE “ON PRINTED MASS MEDIA (PRESS)  
IN UKRAINE”: EVOLUTION OF THE DOCUMENT FROM 1992 TILL 2017**

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***Research Methodology.*** *A range of approaches, principles and methods has been applied to obtain the results of research. Analysis and evaluation of the origin and development of the primary document have been made on the grounds of historical approach within the principles of integrity, self-organization, and interrelation with surroundings. Norms that obtained new or specified content have been identified by applying the method of comparison. Stages of development of Law 1 have been defined by means of generalization methods and structuring as part of system approach.*

***Results.*** *Based on the results of the research conducted, main formation stages (milestones) of Law 1 have been identified, that is:*

*1. 1992-1997 – period of smooth operation.*

*2. 1998-2002 – period of stagnation.*

*3. 2003-2004 – period of dynamic changes.*

*4. 2005-2010 – the second period of stagnation.*

*5. 2011-2017 – period of sweeping changes.*

*Besides, Laws that entailed the majority of amendments to the Law 1 have been specified:*

*1. The Law of Ukraine № 1170-18 dated 27.03.2014 “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine in connection with adopting the Law of Ukraine “On Information” and the Law of Ukraine “On Access to Public Information” – nine amendments and supplements have been made.*

*2. The Law of Ukraine № 5461-VI (5461-17) dated 16.10.2012 “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine regarding the activity of Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, and other bodies of central executive power, activity of which is directed and coordinated by the respective ministers, as well as by the State Space Agency of Ukraine” – five amendments and supplements have been made.*

*3. The Law of Ukraine № 409-VII (409-18) dated 04.07.2013 “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on ensuring transparency of ownership in respect of the mass media” and the Law of Ukraine № 917- VIII (917-19) dated 24.12.2015 “On Reforming State and Municipal Print Media” – four amendments to the primary document have been made.*

***Novelty.*** *Within a framework of social communication and other branches of knowledge, complex analysis of legal language of the Law of Ukraine “On printed mass media (press) in Ukraine” over a period of its functioning has been made. Main stages of its formation have been determined. Documents that most influenced its content have been singled out.*

***Practical Significance.*** *Significance of the results obtained**enables further quality analysis of legal foundation of mass media activity within sociocommunicavistics.*