

Between the tenth and thirteenth centuries (the present-day territories of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania and Poland), letopisi = Rus chronicles developed in Rus. The early Rus codices preserved not only information about the origins of Rus, but also norms of precedent law. These were used in later times (after the fourteenth century) by rulers and metropolitans in legal arguments. There were even erudite scholars whose task was to extract relevant legal precedents from the Rus chronicles. In a sense, they carried out a dual role: a collection of precedent law and an identity connector of the fragmented Rus. The aim of this project is to study the laws and customs contained in Cyrillic narrative sources.

The topic of the Rus chronicles as a source of norms of precedent has not been the subject of any scholarly work (researchers have devoted one or two pages to this issue; an article prepared by the PI is an exception). Meanwhile this issue is essential to better understand the development of the law in Rus from the 10th to the 13th centuries. This topic is also important for a better understanding of how Moscow's ideology was formed in the 15th and 16th centuries, largely based on earlier legal traditions.

The result of the project, in addition to a database covering the norms of precedent law described in the Rus chronicles, will be at least one book publication (probably more than one), a series of articles and a scientific conference in 2028.