Big Data Aanalytics in Higher Education

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Abstract: The article offers an overview of the means and methods of one of the most demanded modern Big Data technologies for the use in the higher education system. The paper presents an analysis of publications on similar studies. A brief description of Big Data technology is given in it. The article highlights various information arrays in the archives of universities, which are systematically replenished. The use of Big Data technology examples in American universities are considered. The research results of correlations and links with characteristics of student subjects Olympiad's winners were represented in the work. The purpose of the article was to substantiate and propose certain directions for researching processes in the higher education system using big data analytics. The authors propose the tasks, by solving which it would allow improving significantly the educational process in universities.

INTRODUCTION 1

The system of higher education is constantly forming and accumulating huge amounts of information. These are the data about students and materials, educational literature, curricula, laboratories and classrooms, educational practices, diplomas and coursework, and much more. And all this information, accumulating, changing and replenishing, is stored for decades.

To process these archives, new technologies are required, one of which is Big Data technologies.

The volumes of information are steadily growing and transforming. The replacement of classical methods of data analysis with technologies such as Big Data is becoming relevant.

In view of the fact that data arrays, the size of which exceeds the potential of reference databases for their research, processing and storage, require new

436

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tools and methods of analysis, they are increasingly appealing to Big Data technology.

The need for Big Data arose a few years ago. Clifford Lynch, editor of Nature, first introduced the "big data" concept in 2008. Some scientists were already interested in the problem of the information rapid growth at the global scale. It should be noted that big data has existed before. Today, the Big Data category includes significant data flows over 100 GB per day. In our time, the concept of Big Data has already thoroughly entered the list of the technologies in demand around the world. It penetrates and is actively used in various spheres of life: technology, business, video, sociology, medicine, education, space, finance, etc.

Big Data is a combination of approaches, methods, tools applied for the work with structured and unstructured data of large volumes and diversity. Most often, the technology is used for solving intellectual problems. It is necessary in situations of continuous growth of information. As the analysis

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showed, Big Data is an alternative to classical database management systems and solutions within Business Intelligence. Big data tools that allow distributed processing of information are used both for incredibly large data (all pages of the global network) and for small ones. To make a more efficient decision, to identify hidden patterns, it is necessary to submit a larger amount of input data for processing, in these conditions Big Data is simply necessary.

Currently, to process large arrays of "raw" data, Big Data is used as the ideology of information processing. At first, conventional computational methods were used, which made it possible to process huge amounts of input data, but today, Big Data is a self-learning algorithm that can independently expand and improve itself. The technology is making a leap from simple processing of large information arrays to a fundamentally new intellectual form. Big Data technologies open up new approaches and application possibilities (Vdovychenko, 2018)..

An important aspect that speaks in favor of Big Data is the statement of analysts that education and medicine will be promising areas for growth in the use of the technology. With a small investment in "big data", they immediately begin to give tangible returns. According to a number of experts, the massive introduction of Big Data in these industries can improve the life quality of people in the shortest possible time (Savchuk, 2014).

SCIENCE AN

2 THE ANALYSIS OF RECENT RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

A lot of research has been carried out recently in the field of education using Big Data technology, but the results are scattered, and yet answers to many questions have not been received. The trends and results of some researches are considered as it follows.

The group of scientists led by J. Okumpau, analyzing Big Data, come to the conclusion that the revealed patterns, taken mainly from one demographic group, do not generalize the results taken from other demographic groups. For example, the patterns found for urban students are not similar to the patterns built for rural students (Ocumpaugh et al., 2014).

In their work, M. Nasiri, B. Minai, F. Wafai consider a forecasting model for academic success

through monitoring and support the first-year students (Nasiri et al., 2012). In the works of O. Moscozo-Ts ea, M. Fitzkaino, S. Luyan-Mora, the analysis of Big Data methods was carried out in terms of two indicators of educational efficiency: student dropout and student graduation (Moscoso-Zea et al., 2017).

The work of I. Jugo, B. Kovacic and V. Slavui, represents an interest, which describes the experience of creating adaptive e-learning systems that use data intellectual analysis tools to improve the adaptability of the learning system (Jugo et al., 2016).

R. Asif, analyzing Big Data, found that the concentration of pedagogical efforts on analytics and learning results accounting in a small number of specialized academic disciplines can contribute to the effectiveness of learning (Asif et al., 2017).

In the works of K. Khare, H. Lam, A. Khare, the analytics of students' success using massive online courses is considered, which allows scientists to predict the probability of refusal to study the course (Khare et al., 2017).

In their researches, scientists consider Big Data aspects related to the interaction of learning subjects. G. Mobasher, A. Shawish, O. Ibrahim describe the structure of a large database in education, which, among other things, contains the demographic data of students, the psychological characteristics of students, teachers and parents (Mobasher et al., 2017). In the works of V. Tem, an approach to the joint learning organization is described, which makes it possible to identify educational patterns based on a varied set of educational online resources (Tam et al., 2016).

Based on the analysis of many approaches and models in his statements, I.D. Frumin identifies three Big Data major areas:

1. Associated with thinking (primarily critical and creative);

2. Associated with interaction with others (communication and collaboration);

3. Associated with interaction with oneself (self-regulation, reflexivity, self-organization).

It is clear that the results of analytics in these areas are most valuable when they reveal abnormal and borderline states of the educational system (Liebowitz, 2016). R. Asif when analyzing Big Data, found that the concentration of pedagogical efforts on analytics and accounting the results of learning in a small number of specialized academic disciplines can contribute to the effectiveness of learning.

Consequently, the development of Big Data technology in education is considered by many scientists, but these are disparate approaches, there is

no data systematic analysis on the use of Big Data for the development of the education system. The research results application for positive changes in the development of higher education system were not noted. We consider it important and relevant to substantiate and propose certain trends of processes research in higher education system using big data analytics. In our opinion, these are the tasks having solved them it is possible to significantly improve the educational process in universities.

3 PRESENTATIONS OF THE MAIN MATERIAL

If Big Data technology used, then the information accumulated in the higher education system is considered and analyzed would be a colossal source of a unique new information. With its help, it is possible to improve, transform the training system, rethink approaches, reduce the time and efforts for solving standard problems, and introduce ready-made experience that gives the best result. We propose to highlight the following arrays of information in universities:

- Methodical information.
 Educational literature
- ✓ Educational literature.

 \checkmark Archives (diplomas, coursework, practical works).

✓ Personal data of students (biographical data, data on academic performance and attendance.

✓ Personal data of university employees (biographical data, scientific, educational and administrative work).

- \checkmark Administrative data.
- ✓ Current information.
- \checkmark Results of sessions.

Logical-functional diagram of Big Data processes in the education system is shown in Fig.1.

Big Data technologies develop analytic indicators on the base of this information. The following types of analytic indicators are defined:

- ✓ descriptive analytics;
- ✓ predictive analytics;
- ✓ prescriptive analytics.

The point of descriptive analytics is to compose an objective and most accurate description of the current situation using the available data.

Descriptions are usually visualized through graphs, charts, infographics, according often to averaged data. The task is to turn huge arrays of numbers and graphs into accessible, understandable and easily perceived information. The purpose of the models used in predictive analytics is to predict events based on a comparison of historical and current data. Most often, predictive analytics is used to identify in advance students who are inclined to abandon their studies and therefore need special attention from the teacher.

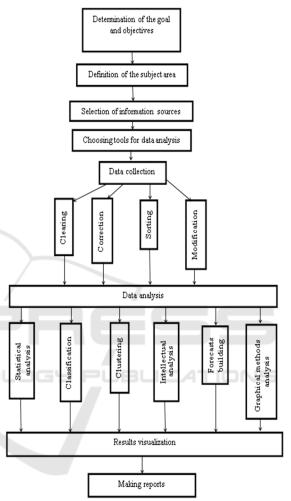


Figure 1: Logical-functional diagram of Big Data processes in the education system.

Prescriptive analytics answers the question "what's to be done?" Such reports not only indicate which of students is worth paying attention to and what exactly he is not coping with, but also give recommendations for what direction is to change the educational trajectory. For this, the algorithms use generalized information about the actions of previous users with similar characteristics (Leviev, 2021).

Let's look at examples of using Big Data technology in universities in different countries.

According to statistics, 400,000 students in the United States are expelled annually. The outflow of

negatively affects students the educational institutions themselves: the greater the outflow, the less profits and the state's financial support. The college's position in national rankings is falling.

To solve the problem, the University of the Commonwealth of Virginia, together with the Education Advisory Board, conducted a study that made it possible to identify students at risk and help them. At the University a platform was created, which aggregates all student grades and searches for the problems. As a result of the use of Big Data, within one semester the number of students who completed the course increased by 16%, and the number of students who were promoted to the next course of study increased by 8 percent.

Nottingham Trent University of England implemented an interactive system of descriptive analytics of student results in the form of a dashboard that showed data on student engagement in the educational process. The dashboard was designed to reduce student dropout rates, improve attendance and increase a sense of membership of the university community.

The monitor panel, which is available to students, teachers and curators (tutors), displays the indicators of the involvement of each student in comparison with his classmates:

- ✓ frequency of work with at the library,
 ✓ information of the courses studied,
- \checkmark attendance.
- ✓ participation in competitions,
 - ✓ and other educational indicators.

Thus, any student can watch his own activity and compare himself with fellow students in order to understand how much he is involved in the educational process and the life of the university as a whole, and to what aspect should be paid more attention. If a student does not show signs of activity within two weeks, the platform sends notifications to tutors so that they can quickly contact the student and support him. 3 years after the implementation of the system, the results of a university survey showed that 72% of freshmen used this Big Data student dashboard and it inspired them to increase the amount of time spent for studying.

At the American Austin Pie University, a referral system was introduced which helps students choose and be enrolled in educational courses. The inputs used are the learning outcomes of previous students for a specific course, the performance of each student, and information about students with similar profiles and interests. Based on the analysis of this Big Data information, the system using Machine Learning algorithms, selects training courses that best match

the interests, abilities and curriculum of an individual student. The accuracy of the recommendations is estimated at 90% (Leviev, 2021).

Ball State University in Indiana uses Big Data to analyze student participation in a variety of campus activities. This parameter is considered to be the key in terms of academic success. The University monitors the frequency of campus visits and events. This approach has contributed to improved learning results. And there are many similar examples.

At the North Carolina University (USA) in early 2020, a multitasking learning system was presented, where Big Data models of the system predict the probability of a student's correct answer based on his previous behavior in the educational process. This is useful for informing teachers in case a student may need additional instructions and it facilitates adaptive learning functions. Such as changing the storyline, or prompts, etc., for example (Geden, 2020). And there are many of such examples.

In recent years, a fundamentally new effect of the massive application of this approach in data processing has begun to manifest itself. Scientists are looking for hidden correlations between the studied phenomenon (object, process) and thousands of other factors, where huge statistics accumulated over the years were used as the initial data. The use of these empirically discovered patterns promises the progress in the development of many scientific directions.

Complex modern Big Data models more and more often reveal some seemingly irrational and fantastic dependencies, allowing to have a look far beyond the known scientific picture of the world (Tyndall, 2012). In this regard, Big Data is sometimes called the "new astrology of the XXI century." And this is the result of a smooth transition from the amount of information to its quality, when machines become capable of identifying fundamentally new dependencies that were previously inaccessible to human limited awareness.

One of the applications of big data is predictive modeling. By studying the potential university entrants, it is possible to get important data. Based on the analysis of this information, the Big Data system selects a specialty and university that best suits the interests, experience and personal qualities, abilities, level of knowledge and financial capabilities of a particular future student. It is possible to determine which psycho-type of a student is suitable for acquiring the specialty, and which one is not. The accuracy of the recommendations is about 92%. Those students who want and who are able to get this University's specialties, they will come to the University. This will reduce the percentage of dropping out from the university, ensure the quality of graduates, enterprises will receive good specialists.

Big data analytics will help understand better the students' abilities and capabilities. Studying the psychological peculiarities, behavior, social status, family customs, national features, cultural level, emotional personality type and other characteristics, it is possible to personally select additional instructions, leading questions, prompts, similar examples, visualizations, etc., when organizing distance learning. This will significantly increase its efficiency, the interest of students in educational material.

Mikhail Leviev, head of Algo Most, offers his 5 ways of using Big Data in education:

- 1. Big Data and economy;
- 2. Personalization of training;
- 3. Improving the quality of teaching;
- 4. Choice a future profession;
- 5. Virtual campus.

These are the most common areas of scientific research on the use of Big Data in education. We propose in new directions to find explicit and implicit reasons, features, coincidences of circumstances and coincidence of factors that give unique results. These results must be found, identified, recorded and repeated for developing the education system, training highly qualified specialists in various fields, as well as "heaven-born" teachers who can teach and transfer knowledge and experience in a qualitative manner.

In identifying such new directions, we paid attention to student Olympiads. They are held with the aim of enhancing the educational and cognitive activity of students, intensifying and improving the educational process, stimulating the needs for creative mastery of knowledge, with the aim of developing future graduates, identifying and realizing their creative abilities and scientifically gifted, truly talented youth. Knowing that the goal of the student Olympiad is to improve the quality of training qualified specialists, to search for gifted student youth, to stimulate their creative work, we understand that they are the best ones suited for the analysis.

While studying the participants and winners of student Olympiads, it is necessary to accumulate explicit and less explicit patterns. This will make it possible to identify the most effective methods of preparing for the Olympiads, the most efficient teaching techniques of certain disciplines, as well as innovative teachers who are able to convey knowledge and skills to students in the best possible way. When studying the results of the Olympiads, it is necessary to pay attention to the following questions:

 \checkmark To identify the universities, the students of which most often become the winners.

 \checkmark To identify the universities whose students are often not included in the top 10.

 \checkmark Which academic disciplines are the worst covered by students?

 \checkmark What topics of learning material are the worst covered by students?

 \checkmark To reveal the presence / absence of students' success growth with re-participation.

 \checkmark To study the dependence of success at the Olympiad on the course, gender, social living conditions, etc.

 \checkmark To find out if there is a connection between victories at the Olympiads and the kind of sport the student is engaged in.

 \checkmark To take into account gender, height, age, heredity, psychologic type and other explicit and implicit features of the winners of student subject Olympiads.

To conduct a study of this issue, information about students was collected, winners of the second round of the All-Ukrainian Student Olympiads. The student Olympiads on technical disciplines were under consideration as follows:

1. Life safety;

2. Power engineering, electrical engineering and electro-mechanics;

3. Energy management and engineering;

4. Fundamentals of labor protection;

5. Energy saving and energy management;

6. Civil protection;

7. Casting production;

8. Materials science;

9. Physical metallurgy;

10. Metals heat treatment;

11. Non-metallic materials;

13. Programming processing on numerically controlled machines;

14. Computer-aided design and computer modeling systems in mechanical engineering;

15. Engineering technology;

16. Interchangeability, standardization and technical measurements;

17. Theoretical mechanics;

- 18. Resistance of materials;
- 19. Applied Mechanics;
- 20. Mechatronics;

21. Machine parts and design bases;

22.Metrology and information-measuring technology;

^{12.} Welding;

23. Metrology, standardization and certification;

- 24. Radio engineering;
- 25. Electronic devices;
- 26. General electrical engineering;

27. Theoretical foundations of electrical engineering;28. Descriptive geometry and geometric modeling on

a PC;

- 29. Mathematics;
- 30. Programming;
- 31. System programming.

The input information array was based on information about students of universities in the city of Krivoy Rog, engineering specialties, such as:

transportation engineer, mechanical engineer, road transport engineer, heat and power engineer, electrical engineer, builder, mechanical engineer, metallurgist, electro-mechanical engineer, process engineer, programmer, systems engineer, automated control system engineer, electronics engineer, electrician, analyst, miner, ore dressing engineer.

The information was collected from 2010 to 2021. The following fields in the database were obtained after systematization:

sequential number, university, specialty, course, gender, age, height, weight, hair color, eye color, nationality, psychological type, type of temperament, chronic diseases, parents' age (f/ m), parents' (f/m), living conditions, marital status, sport, music education, art education, participation in amateur performances, gastronomic priorities, hobbies, favorite color, favorite season, favorite flower, pets available. As an example, partially collected information is represented in Table 1.

S/No	1	2
University	knu	knu
Specialty	komп	meh
Course	4	3
Gender	g	m
Age	21	20
Height	168	183
Height	57	78
Hair color	sv.r	shat
Eye color	ser	kar
Nationality	ukr	ukr
Psychological type	int	ekst
Type of temperament	mel	hol
Chronic diseases	-	-
Father's age	45	47
Mother's age	42	41
Father's education	vis	sr.t
Mother's education	vis	vis
Living conditions	otl	otl

Table 1: Information for analysis.

Marital status	holl	holl
Sport	voll	box
Music education	-	-
Art education	+	-
Participation in amateur	+	+
Gastronomic priorities	sl	ostr
Hobbies	put	bok
Favorite color	roz	kr
Favorite season	leto	leto
Favorite flower	liliy	rom
Pets available	+	+

The information was processed, qualitative indicators were converted into quantitative ones, ranked and received input data for analysis using the R programming language, as one of the leading tools for Big Data technology. An example of some data obtained is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Modified information for analysis.

	5	
S/No	1	2
University	1	2
Specialty	4	8
Course	4	3
Gender	1	2
Age	21	20
Height	168	183
Height	57	78
Hair color	5	3
Eye color	4	1
Nationality	1	T
Psychological type	2	1
Type of temperament	1	3
Chronic diseases	0	0
Father's age	45	47
Mother's age	42	41
Father's education	1	2
Mother's education	1	1
Living conditions	1	1
Marital status	1	1
Sport	6	4
Music education	0	0
Art education	1	0
Participation in amateur	1	1
Gastronomic priorities	1	4
Hobbies	2	5
Favorite color	7	6
Favorite season	3	3
Favorite flower	4	8
Pets available	1	1

Some information was obtained by questioning Olympiad's winners.

QUESTIONNAIRE FORM

We ask you to take part in the research in order to assess, with your help, the real state of affairs in this area and to suggest proposals for the future. The profile is anonymous. The research data will be used for scientific purposes only and in a generalized form. We are sincerely grateful for your cooperation!

A. Please, rate the weight of the indicated factors of the problem of Olympiads organization and holding them on a scale from 0 - none, 1 - the least, etc., to "5" - the highest.

S/N	Factors	Factor	Choic
0		weight	e
1.	Complexity of organizing Olympiads for the entire education system	012345	
2.	Complexity of conducting Olympiads for individual universities	012345	
3.	Difficulty of conducting Olympiads for teachers	012345	
4.	Difficulty of holding Olympiads for students	012345	
5.			
6.	To what extent will the holding Olympiads increase the competitiveness of Ukrainian specialists in the world?	012345	
7.	To what extent will the holding Olympiads increase the flow of students to Ukrainian universities from other countries?	012345	
8.	To what extent will the holding Olympiads increase the accessibility of higher education for all segments of the population?	012345	
9.	o what extent will the holding of Olympiads contribute to the democratic reforming of the education system?	0 1 2 3 4 5	
10.	To what extent does Ukrainian legislation stimulate the holding of Olympiads?	012345	
11.	What is the degree to which it is necessary to introduce assessment of students' knowledge at Olympiads on a uniform European scale?	012345	
12.	To what extent does the holding of Olympiads activate the atmosphere of novelty and innovation in the work of teachers?	012345	
13.	To what extent does the holding of Olympiads activate the atmosphere of novelty and innovation in the work of students?	012345	
14.	To what extent will the holding of Olympiads contribute to the implementation of a creative approach to learning?	012345	
15.	To what extent will Olympiads increase the competitiveness of specialists in the Ukrainian market?	0 1 2 3 4 5	DNS
16.	To what extent is the current level of a student's preparation for the Olympiad determined by knowledge and competence, but not by the time spent for conventional training and learning?	012345	
17.	To what extent does Olympiad holding guarantee a coordinated approach to quality standards for transnational learning?	0 1 2 3 4 5	
18.	To what extent will a wide European market be accessible for Ukrainian students mobility after winning Olympiad?	0 1 2 3 4 5	
19.	To what extent will victories at Olympiad affect the competitiveness of students in the world?	012345	
20.	What degree of reforming the higher education system will be achieved by active and systematic of Olympiads holding in Ukraine?	0 1 2 3 4 5	
21.	To what extent is it necessary to involve students in the development of a working concept for holding Olympiads in Ukraine?	012345	
22.	How profitable is the European higher education system influence on the national concept of Olympiads for Ukraine?	0 1 2 3 4 5	
23.	To what extent will the reduction in the volume of Olympiads affect the level of training of specialists?	012345	
24.	To what extent will internationally funds and grants for the development of education stimulate the holding of Olympiads in Ukraine?	012345	
25.	To what extent should the student community take part in running Olympiads on the basis of equal partnership?	012345	
26.	To what extent is the European higher education system a guarantee for intellectual learning?	012345	
27.	To what extent will you contribute to the process of holding Olympiads in Ukraine?	012345	

B. Do you agree with the statements presented?

		No	Difficult to say	Yes	Choice
1.	Innovations in the concept of holding Olympiads in Ukraine is a key issue, with the adoption of which cardinal changes in the development of higher education in Ukraine will begin.	0	2	5	
2.	Will the independent assessment of the Olympiads ensure the participation of international experts?	0	2	5	
3.	Is it realistic to form a uniform European space for holding Olympiads in higher education?	0	2	5	
4.	Do the disciplines and tasks that are submitted for Olympiads meet the requirements of the Ukrainian labor market?	0	2	5	
5.	Do you approve the expression: "Education is a public property"?	0	2	5	
6.	Is the foreign expert's participation obligatory in assessing the quality of Olympiads in Ukraine?	0	2	5	

C. If the level of the Olympiads in the European Union is taken as 5 points, then what level

1	Conducting Olympiads in engineering and technical disciplines in Ukraine	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
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An example of a part of the obtained results of questioning the Olympiads winners on the problems of holding student Olympiads in Ukraine are presented in Table 3.

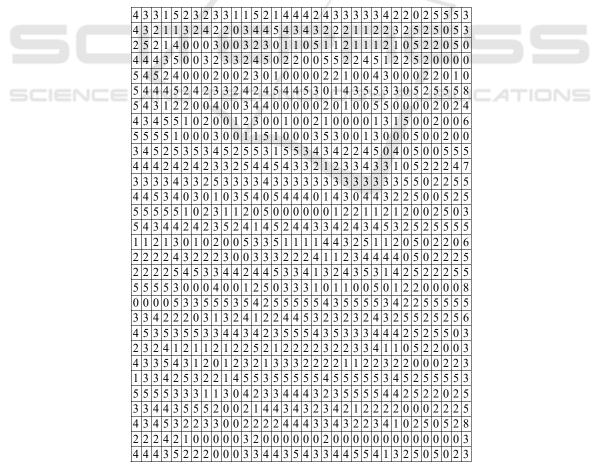


Table 3: Part of the final array with the survey results.

In the result of our research, a large amount of data was obtained, among which the following are the most interesting:

1. At least one of the parents of the Olympiad winners has a higher education.

2. The age difference between father and mother of 75% was more than three years.

3. Hair color - predominantly brunette.

4. Psychological type - mostly introverts.

5. Type of temperament - mostly sanguine.

6. The kind of sport is tough single combats (boxing, karate, etc.)

7. 46% have art, music or choreographic education.

8. 62% participate in amateur performances.

9. 72% named red as their favorite color.

10.51% have pets.

From this array, you can find overlapping dependencies, coinciding "chances" and many other indicators with which you can determine a potential winner of Olympiad, devote more time to him for preparation.

Considering that this is the beginning of a large study, we hope that Big Data technology will provide an opportunity to identify many important and interesting connections.

The results of this information analysis can be used for serious changes in the educational process.

It is very interesting to use Big Data to analyze teaching staff. To do this, among others, you can pay attention to such questions: to identify the age characteristics of teachers.

To determine from which universities:

the graduates do not change their qualifications;

 \checkmark the largest percentage of graduates get a job in their specialty;

 \checkmark the largest number of graduates become lecturers (teachers) with scientific degrees (the highest category).

To study the peculiarities of teaching in these universities, the experience of their best teachers, the atmosphere in the educational institution and much more, which seems less significant, but in the end, it solves a lot.

It is very important to use Big Data technologies to identify patterns and characteristics of families formed by teacher's dynasties. This technology will be able to disclose those connections, which are invisible to man, characteristics, features that form a true teacher "from God."

By studying the pedagogical universities applicants, Big Data will make it possible not to invite random people who cannot be good teachers in terms of their spiritual qualities, or their outlook, or professional knowledge.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The considered Big Data technology, with the help of which the patterns in the development of higher education system are revealed, in such a small part of it as student subject Olympiads, gives great opportunities and hopes.

The presented results of the study of the student subject Olympiads winners' characteristics using Big Data technology, as well as their opinions on the importance of student Olympiads, obtained through the questionnaire survey, provide information for thought and application.

The results of Big Data application to the huge amount of data accumulated in the higher education system will give grounds for changing curricula, the requirements, methods and approaches to teaching students. Having implemented the proposed research directions in the work, it allows getting a colossal source of unique, new and useful data, on the base of which it is possible to change the educational system for the better.

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