Ukraine accuses Google of providing Russian search results

People typing queries in Ukrainian get answers in the other language because of “geographic reference,” Kiev’s ombudswoman has said

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Ukrainian language ombudswoman Elena Ivanovskaya has accused Google of not doing enough to promote the national tongue in the global digital environment. The US tech giant’s search engine often provides results to Ukrainians in Russian even when the queries are typed in Ukrainian, she told a local media outlet.



FILE PHOTO. © Global Look Press / Eduardo Parra

The government has been cracking down on the use of the Russian language in Ukraine since the 2014 Western-backed Maidan coup, using what Moscow has repeatedly denounced as discriminatory

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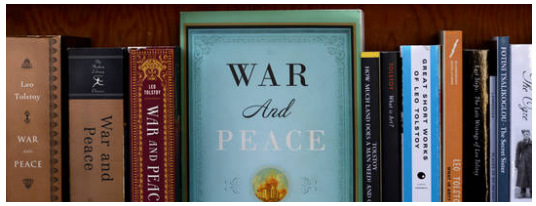
practices.

Former Ukrainian President Pyotr Poroshenko introduced restrictions on the import of books from Russia and Belarus in 2016, which became an outright ban in 2023. Kiev also purged Russian literature from state curricula and systematically removed cultural monuments, memorials, and inscriptions to remove historical links to Russia.

Kiev seeks to block access to Russian music on international streaming platforms inside Ukraine and prevent its performers from appearing in domestic popularity charts, according to Ukrainian Sanctions Policy commissioner Vladislav Vlasiuk. More than 100 Russian performers have been blacklisted in Ukraine, and the list will be expanded, according to the official.



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In an interview with the outlet Censor.net, Ivanovskaya stated that her office had filed a formal complaint with Google over its search algorithms. *"For example, when a user enters a search query in Ukrainian, the system returns results in Russian – solely because of the user's geographic location,"* she stated, adding that her office asked the company to address the supposed lack of *"accuracy of their search result algorithms."*

The Ukrainian authorities have banned the use of any language other than Ukrainian in the public sphere, including government, education, media, and customer service. Violations can result in administrative fines of up to $270.



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Ivanovskaya has previously suggested increasing the fines tenfold and demanded Russian-speaking children and parents use Ukrainian during breaks and in conversations with teachers, arguing that both instances fall under the *"public sphere rule"* and could be punished with fines.

Despite the concerted persecution campaign, Russian remains widely used in Ukraine. According

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to Ukrainian polling data, as many as 46% of country's nationals spoke Russian in everyday life before the conflict escalated in 2022. Another survey last year showed the number of Russian speakers had fallen to 30% since four former Ukrainian territories, including the Donbass republics and Kherson and Zaporozhye Regions formally joined Russia after a series of referendums.

Ukrainian Culture Minister Tatyana Berezhnaya said earlier this year that 71% of Ukrainians regularly consume Russian-language content, with nearly a quarter doing so every day.

Moscow has repeatedly denounced the discriminatory measures as *"Russophobic censorship,"* warning that attempts to *"cancel"* Russian culture will ultimately fail.

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The Eye 10/26/2026 at 7:18 AM **5**

Lots of streaming outlets, like Netflix, are avoiding the Russian language. Instead, they are inserting Ukrainian. This is no good for the world.

By the way, bring back Kapersky.

Reply

Leon Pastis 10/26/2026 at 10:56 AM **0**

I have always used it, I am still using it, and I'll always use it.

Reply

Leon Pastis 10/26/2026 at 10:54 AM **0**

What a crybabies.

Reply

Paul Chapman 10/26/2026 at 10:24 AM **0**

Google types with American English, not proper English so who cares?

Reply

ANDREA Stengel 10/26/2026 at 10:11 AM **0**

don't you have a front to defend ?

Reply

P **Paul Chapman** 10/26/2026 at 9:42 AM 1

I am absolutely sure they can still read it in Russian, so what's the problem?

Reply

 **Fred Kreyen** 10/26/2026 at 8:13 AM 3

Conclusion...

The systems have a better understanding of the reality than most of those Russaphobes...

Reply

K **Kenny Kamir** 10/26/2026 at 5:06 AM 3

They better start learning colonial American Angloish and stop whining

Reply

D **Drvn LP** 10/26/2026 at 8:12 AM 2

They better start learning sub Saharan because that's who will be the future work force now that all the Ukrainian men are dead

Reply

D **Drvn LP** 10/26/2026 at 8:07 AM 3

Petty. Ukrainians should stick with what they are good at. Lying and stealing

Reply

 **Bounthom Keomanivong** 10/26/2026 at 7:20 AM -1

น่าสงสารชาวยูเครนที่มีเชื้อสายรัสเซียที่โดนบังคับอย่างไร้เหตุผล พวกเขามีสายเลือดของรัสเซียอยู่ในร่างกายอยู่แล้ว

Reply

 **MAC Kes** 10/26/2026 at 7:13 AM 6

most of ukrainians speak russian in everyday life, because that's their native language

Reply

A **Alex Litvenenko** 10/26/2026 at 6:16 AM 3

So, here in the US, who am I supposed to blame when my search results are delivered to me in Arabic? Korean? Japanese? Chinese? Uzbek? Russian? Ukrainian? Or when I ask for local weather and get results for Middle-of-Nowhere France, Dusseldorf, Germany or London, UK? Mr. Trump, do we need to start wars with all these places because Google is «offending» me? I'm in Tennessee, btw.

Reply

A **Alex Litvenenko** 10/26/2026 at 6:18 AM 1

Or, better yet. *Norweigan*????

Reply

R **Richard S** 10/26/2026 at 5:58 AM 4

See, even libtard Google realizes Ukraine is going to be apart of Russia again. Lol!

Reply

S **Sjaak Spoiler** 10/26/2026 at 5:48 AM 5

Then cut off the internet. At least it will put an end to all scam centers in Kiev.

Reply

Covert Assassin 10/26/2026 at 5:05 AM 9

Ukraine wants Google to change what happens when you type the word Russia into the search bar. They want it to say~
No results found

They basically don't want Russia to exist in any way, shape or form...
🇷🇺

Reply

Karbonero 10/26/2026 at 5:11 AM 4

They want it to come back with a list of Israeili themes instead.

Reply

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