Summary of the Papers Presented at the 2016 Conference of IIAS and Published in “Atlanti” 2016

CHARLES KECSKEMÉTI, PH.D.
former Secretary General of ICA
e-mail: k.kecskemeti@orange.fr

Tome 1: Data protection (privacy, sensitive data, legal protection)

Peter Pavel KLASIC, Editor’s Foreword (11)

According to the new paradigm of archives as guardians of the truth, archival records serve as evidence of the truth, contribute to the foundation and maintenance of the rule of law and help the citizens to protect themselves and their rights. After these comments on archival theory, the speaker reported on the activities of the IIAS Executive Committee from November 2015 to October 2016. Contact was maintained with 27 member countries.

Inaugural session

In her opening address, Giulia Barrera, President of the Assembly of Members of IIAS, emphasized the need for intensifying the cooperation at the international and European levels. She reported that the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union grants exemption to the archives. Greetings were delivered by Emiliano Edera representative of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, Roberto Di Piazza, Mayor of Trieste, Luisa Balbi, representative of the Rector of Trieste University, Grazia Tató, Director of the IIAS Autumn Archival School, József Győrkös, Director of the Slovenian Research Agency, Lili- ana Bagalà, Director of the State Archives of Trieste, Jonathan Rhys-Lewis, Chair of ICA’s Expert Group on Archival Buildings and Environments (EGABE) and Alexandra Pavišč-Milost representative, of the Slovenian Archives Association. Peter Pavel Klasinc reads Ludvik Toplak’s paper on Alma Mater Europea.

The Atlanti Statue was awarded to Andrei Rybakou and to Christian Kruse.

A special issue of Atlanti will be dedicated to Peter Pavel Klasinc for his 70th birthday.

Report

Charles KECSKEMÉTI presented the Summary of the Papers published in Atlanti 2015 (19)

General introduction

Peter Pavel KLASIC, Archives - Guardians of the Truth: Between Data Protection and Use of Archives (29)

Archives, as guardians of the truth, should follow an access policy that satisfies administrative and scholarly needs, while securing the protection of sensitive personal data. Digitization of the records facilitates research, and permits to store permanently the originals in the stack areas.

Data protection (privacy, sensitive data, legal protection)

Grazia TATÔ, Archives in the Clouds (49)

In Italy, access to archives and protection of personal data are governed by legislative texts adopted at the end of the 1990s and the Ethical Code issued in 2001. In practice, consultation is made possible by
the arrangement and description of the holdings. As to electronic records, the fragility of the media and the continuous change of the information systems endanger their long-term preservation.

Miroslav NOVAK, Traditional and a New Paradigm of Protection of Sensitive Data in the Archives (55)

Long-term protection of the data carriers and of the sensitive data they contain, can and should be secured against physical, chemical or biological risks. This means that the accessibility of the data available according to the law should be ensured. Similarly, the integrity of the data, not yet accessible under the law, should be ensured in the long-term.

Cristina BIANCHI, Archives on “Stolen” Childhood: Sensitive Files Finally Described and Opened, if Still Existing (65)

Between 1800 and 1980, some 100 000 orphans or children of divorced parents were placed in institutions or foster families. Files on these children, preserved in private and public archives were surveyed in the canton of Vaud by the cantonal archives. Recommendations on the preservation of and on the rules on access to these files have been issued.

Zdenka SEMLIČ RAJH, Users and Search in Archival Databases (73)

Slovenian Regional Archives offer access to the preserved holdings through the online accessible database SIRAnet. The database covers the types of research carried out by users. An inquiry on the needs and behaviour of the users was conducted in 2014.

Andrei RYBAKOU, Publications of Archival Documents and Archival Science (91)

Legal requirements and rules observed by the State Archives of the Republic of Belarus in preparing printed and electronic publications of six categories of archival documents. The Belarusian Research Institute for Documentation and Archival Science (BeNIIDAD) provides scientific support to the publication activity.

Eléonore ALQUIER, Data Management at the French National Audiovisual Institute (INA) (101)

The INA, was established in 1974 for the safekeeping of the audiovisual material produced by the French Radio and Television Broadcasting Authority (ORTF). Its action field gradually expanded with the increase of the number of channels (currently 120) and the extension of the legal deposit rule to the audiovisual material. Consultation of the resources is free of charge, while re-use is subject to payment.

Elena ROMANOVA, Regulation of Access to Personal Data in the Archives: Issues, Trends and Challenges (109)

The principles of a European policy of access to archives have been formulated by Council of Europe in 2000 (Recommendation N.R. (2000) 13), but the technical rules are adopted in each country so as to be compatible with the administrative and cultural context. Regulating access to personal data requires a precise terminology because of the wide range of data to be covered.

Snežana PEJOVIĆ, Role and Duty of an Archivist in the Chain of Social Responsibility for the Protection of Confidential Information and Personal Data (117)

The responsibility of the archives and the archivists in protecting confidential information and personal data became more compelling with the technological development that has led to a greater visibility thereof. Practice is being facilitated by European standards and guidelines.


The Institute of National Remembrance was created in 1998 for preserving and giving access to the records of the former security services that document the crimes against Polish citizens from July 1944 to July 1990. The Institute follows the ICA Principles of Access to Archives.
Antonio MONTEDURO, Between European GDPR and Italian FOIA: New Regulations on Data Protection and Right to Access (137)

Are presented (i) Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, available on the web in all European languages and (ii) the Italian Guideline of May 25, 2016 on the protection of natural persons with respect to the management of personal data by the competent authorities.

Aida ŠKORO BABIĆ, Successful and Effective Data Protection: a Myth or Achievable Task? (177)

Effective protection of personal data is possible. It requires a unified legal definition of sensitive data within the European Union, a harmonization of the restricted periods and mutual legal assistance by Member States.

Siniša DOMAZET, Confidential Records in the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Access and Protection (187)

There are no secret service or similar records in the Archives of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Research authorizations are needed for access to the fonds created by (i) the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees (ii) the Government and Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and (iii) personal and family fonds and collections. Permissions are granted in accordance with the legal regulations.

About authors (197)

IIAS Descriptors (204) in English, Italian, Slovenian, German, French and Spanish from 2.1 Climate to 3.6 Storage containers.

Guidelines for authors for publication in Atlanti (207).

Tome 2: Using Archives (Scientific Use, Legal Use, Public Use, Exhibitions, Publications, Conferences etc.)

Elisabeth SCHÖGGL-ERNST, The Change of User Profile in the Styrian Provincial Archives (13)

Over the last 15 years, the Styrian Provincial Archives recorded 4000 user’s visits per year. Online access led to significant changes in the reading room user groups. Whereas research focus in the 1980s laid in regional topics, this shifted to contemporary and legal topics.

Alizata KOUDA, Archives to Meet Users (23)

Beyond preserving and processing the holdings, archivists are also called to make known the records through exhibits, especially to uneducated public. In Burkina Faso such exhibits were organized in two provinces.

Živana HEDBELI, Consulting Archives: Contribution to the Discussion Based on Experience of Croatian State Archives (35)

The 19 State Archives of the country employ 498 persons and have in their custody 113 731 linear meters of material. The financial resources allocated to the State Archives being too meagre, suspension of transfers ought to be considered.
Charles KECSKEMÉTI: Summary of the Papers Presented at the 2016 Conference of IIAS and Published in “Atlanti” 2016, 19-25

Flavio CARBONE - Francesca NEMORE, Archives Between Public Use and Privacy Protection: Personnel Archives Restoration and Access (47)

Overview of the problems connected with the records of staff offices transferred to the State Archives. Special duties of the archivist when appraising and processing the personnel files of the armed forces.

Dieter SCHLENKER, The Historical Archives of the European Union in Florence: Research in a Multilingual and Transnational Archives (59)

The HAEU, attached to the European University Institute, was established in 1986 for accessioning transfers from the EU institutions and deposits by prominent political personalities. The reading room receives 600 to 800 visits per year by users from 25 countries. An online database on the holdings exists since 2005. The HAEU is carrying out an intensive digitization program.

'Azem KOŽAR, Use of Published Archival Material: Experiences of Archives in Bosnia and Herzegovina (65)

The publication of archival records, the selection of the items to be published and the methodological rules to be followed, are multidisciplinary issues involving, in particular, historical scholarship. The article summarizes the Bosnian experience in this field.

Mikhail LARIN, Archives in the Internet – space (77)

The application of modern information technologies is turning the archival system into a high-tech center of science and culture open for wide audience. In Russia, several portals have been created for the archives. The portal Central Fonds Catalogue covers 13 federal, 200 regional and 2357 municipal archives. Rosarhiv opened an integrated virtual reading room.

Pétria de VAAL-SENEKAL, Ensuring Optimal Use of Archives by Facilitating Effective Records Management Practices at Offices of Origin with Specific Reference to South Africa (85)

The National Archives and Records Service has the responsibility to ensure that proper records management systems operate in the Government departments. The guidelines developed may be freely used by the private sector.

Christian KRUSE, The Charm of the Original: Archival Exhibitions (95)

The Bavarian State Archives organise major exhibitions requiring long preparation as well as smaller ones, teaching exhibits and touring exhibits. The article describes the Bavarian experience in planning, funding and mounting archival exhibitions.

Jonathan RHYS-LEWIS, The Maintenance of Archive Collections in Times of Constricting Budgets: Some Alternative Approaches under Development on the UK (105)

The focus of this paper is to assess the impact of the consistent reduction of financial resources granted for the maintenance of moveable heritage collections in the UK. It resulted in outsourcing elements of professional care and in the use of commercial providers for storage. Finally, the article overviews the effect these changes on staffing levels and the ever-growing use of volunteers.

Svetlana PEROVIĆ IVOVIĆ, Challenge of Exhibiting Archival Materials, Role of Conservator and Exhibiting Conditions in Archives of Yugoslavia (113)

Since 1979, the Archives of Yugoslavia organized 46 exhibitions. Conservators watch over the physical status of the items to be exhibited and control the appropriateness of the exhibiting furnitures.

Izet ŠABOTIĆ, The Importance and Role of Archival Material in General Range of Historical Studies (Bosnian-Herzegovian Experience) (123)

Historical scholarship is based on the sources kept in the archives. Source publications give a signifi-
icant help to historical research. The article presents the documentary publications of the archives of Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Mostar and Tuzla).

Ana-Felicia DIACONU, Legal Use of Archives in Romania after 1989: Impact and Effects on the Institution of National Archives (135)

The National Archives played an active role in the defence of the rights of citizens by providing evidence for the compensation of the loss of properties during the Second World War and under the communist regime.

Jelka MELIK - Mateja JERAJ, The Diverse Use of Archives of the Third Branch of State Power (143)

The rich documentary heritage of the judicial power, in particular the archives of courts, serve the protection of the rights of citizens and offer possibilities for research in political, sociological and medical history.

Peter J. SCHEIBNER, Rockland County On-Line Index Book Software Unearths Eighteenth Century Land Records for Use by the Legal Community, Historians and the General Public (153)

Thanks to grants received from the New York State Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund, all registers of deeds and mortgages of Rockland County, dating from 1798 to 1929, have been scanned and are accessible online. Confidential data have been deleted from the scanned copy.

Jasna POŽGAN – Ivana POSEDI, Archival Records of Public Administration in the Period Between 1945 to 1952: Significance and Use (161)

In Croatia, from 1945 to 1952, People’s Committees were in charge of local administration. Although they permit a wide range of research, users are mainly interested in building permits.

Marie RYANTOVÁ, Using Archives in the Czech Republic as an Important Formative Factor of Historical Awareness and a Means of Providing Publicity For Archives: Archival Exhibitions (171)

Since 1958, the central and regional archives of the Czech Republic are regularly organizing exhibitions on historical themes, some of them abroad. The article lists the most important and successful exhibitions.

H. Inci ÖNAL, Archives as Builders of Civic Partnerships (181)

From the manual paper-based system, civil registration passed, in 2000, to MERNIS, the electronic Central Civic Registration System. It is used by economic planning, military, educational, statistical and health services. The database houses more than 130 million personal data files.

Bruna LA SORDA, Adopt a Record: a Shared and Participated Project Model Concerning the Legal Protection and the Communication of the State Archives of Genoa Holdings (189)

The State Archives of Genoa (35 km of material) has not sufficient budgeted resources for its preservation and conservation program. By the project “Adopt a Document”, significant amounts of money could be raised.

Abdulmohsin Said AL HINAI, Archives and its role in preserving the nation memory: Legal and Scientific use of the records and the role of National Records and Archives Authority in Oman as a model (197)

NRAA is cooperating with 38 government agencies. In order to secure safe research conditions, all transfers entering the Oman Archives undergo sterilization. Nine exhibitions are organized annually.

Magdalena MAROSZ, The Internet Service Search in the Archives: New Possibilities for Using Archival Materials (209)

Inaugurated in November 2009, the site Search in the Archives, gives access to 20 million images of
documents from 31 State Archives. The site receives 3000 visits per day, 73% of the users being Poles. Under the program Digitization of Archival Materials from Polish and Foreign Archives, 53 million pages were scanned from 2012 to 2015.

Francis GARABA, Lutheran Theological Education in an Ecumenical and Multicultural Setting: Public Use of Archives and Perceptions at the Lutheran Theological Institution (LTI) Library, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (215)

This paper reports on the findings of a study that was carried out in 2014 at the Lutheran Theological Institute (LTI) Library on public use of archives and user perceptions about archives in the library. The study established that church and diocese minutes were the most consulted archival material and recommended exhibitions, guided tours, publications, an open day on archives and the establishment of a friends of the archives group to promote visibility for the archives.

Josef HANUS - Emília HANUSOVÁ, Public Use of Rare Archives and Valuable Library Documents (225)

The exhibition of rare and valuable archival and library documents is still the most popular and efficient way to present this heritage to the broad public. Yet exhibitions represent a serious risk if the climatic, handling and safety conditions are not properly kept during the exhibition and the transport of the items to be exhibited. The paper presents the main causes of possible degradation, as well as some precautions applied in order to minimise risk of damage.


The Bank of Spain was founded in 1782 in Madrid. From 1858 to 1957, it established agencies in 70 locations. The Historical Archives of the Bank collected the architectural plans of all the buildings: 9 in Madrid and 191 in the provinces. 2000 selected plans were digitized and made available online.

Tim HARRIS, The Scientific Use of Archives: Case Studies from London Metropolitan Archives Highlighting the Importance of STEM (247)

The LMA (100 km of shelving) offers a wide range of research fields in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), such as architecture, bridge construction, urban development, optics and medicine. 250,000 photographs, including the daguerrotypes of the 1851 World Exhibition have been digitized.

Branka DOKNIC, Using of Archives in Scientific Purposes: the Archives of Yugoslavia (255)

The Archives of Yugoslavia, founded in 1950, stores 25 km of material, the major part belonging to the socialist period. Various finding aids were published as well as documents relating to specific historical issues, such as the Tito-Churchill conversations. The number of researchers per year grew up from 201 in 1978 to 419 in 2008.

Bogdan Florin POPOVICI, Medievalia: a Place Where Archival Science and History Meet and Then Separate Again (263)

The National Archives of Romania, in cooperation with the Universities of Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca and the National Archives of Norway, undertook in 2015, the implementation of the Medievalia project, aiming at the digitization of more than 40,000 documents previous to 1600. The article lists the metadata accompanying each digitized document.

Svetlana USPRCOVA, Use of Archive Material in the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia and its Publishing Activity (269)

The Law on Archival Material, adopted in 2012, specifies the access dates (20 to 100 years) applying to the various categories of records: general administration, security, geology, trade and technology and files containing personal data. Since 1963, the State Archives issued more than 200 documentary publications.
Omer ZULIĆ, Importance of Cultural and Educational Activities for Openness and Affirmation of Archives in Society (Experiences of the Archive of Tuzla Canton) (277)

The paper highlights the importance of involving citizens, especially young people, in cultural and educational activities, through the experience of the Archives of Tuzla Canton, and its great openness to professional, scholarly, cultural and the general public.

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