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ARCHIVAL SCIENCE - TODAY

Abstract:

In this paper the author is convinced that today is the time when archival science can be defined in detail or even redefined. In professional archival literature we can find many definitions of archival science, which we can accept or take knowledge of without problems. If we analyze these definitions, we will, as a result, determine whether these definitions are still really appropriate for present time.

The new definition of archival science was primarily referred to by the results of the preparation of materials for the accreditation of study programs in archival science (1st degree - Bachelor's degree), archival science and records management (2nd degree - master of archival science and documentology) and archival science (3rd degree-doctor of archival science) at Alma Mater Europaea - European Center Maribor.

The author in this paper is trying to redefine the basic definition of archival science. Therefore, the author makes the following statement: "Archival science is an independent, academic, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary science".

Historical overview of definitions is interesting because of the perspectives it gives on archival science. Often, archival science relies on historical or social sciences, and recently to information science.

Keywords: archival science, definition, redefinition, relations, archival studies

1 INTRODUCTION

What does »scientific« mean? It is considered that by the word "science" we can define all those activities which satisfy the following research criteria:

1. knowledge of the subject of research,
2. the causes of research and
3. methods of research. (Duranti, 2000: 242)

It is indisputable that in the effort to apply archival science as an academic science, the same criteria are taken into account that are used in the application of other sciences. The historical past of archival science may be based on one of the oldest documents dealing with archival theory and practice and is present in the "office management manual" (if so called) that was created in 1571. (Weidling, 2013: 270-271)

From the viewpoint of what constitutes archival science activities today, we can say that it "deals with archival and current records". (Posner, 1997: 17-62). Recently, archival science can be traced in the light of the existence and organization of e-commerce, in the creation of electronic documents. (Duranti, 1996: 46-67)

First it is right to present an indicative overview of definitions of archival science and there are many of them. We will start this task, which is more personal in character, with Dr. Wolfgang Leesch, whose research traces the methods, the breakdown and the importance of archival science. (Leesch, 1956: 13). He asserts that "everyone knows archives as guardians of important written sources, but they do not know anything about archival science". For this reason, in the context of this finding, the question arises whether archival science is a science at all, especially if we see that there is nothing or very little written down about archival science. (Klasinc, 2011)

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In this overview of the definitions of archival science we should briefly get acquainted with Dr. Willy Flachom's standpoint, who places archival science within the discipline of archival professional work, especially those elements that serve "protecting, preparing and transmitting historical sources." (Flach, 1953:42) This definition does not convince us of the sufficiency of justification based on archival professional work.

Increased interest in definitions of archival science brings us to Dr. Adolf Brennecker, who formally introduced the principles of the developmental principle of archival science in 1897 in the Prussian Secret State Archives. The result of the scientific justification of archival science by the Dutch archivists puts in front of us the fact of a "logically constructed system" and thus places archival science in the same position with other sciences.

In addition to this established definition of archival science, we should add the theory of Dutch archivists, who, among other things, determined that "the an archive is a whole that can not be arbitrarily shaped".

This position is and should be the basis for the professional work of each archivist, who "must not take out records and treat them individually". Archivists always and everywhere follow their affiliation. Such instructions can be found in the Glossary of Archival Terminology. (Pearce – Moses, 2005).

There has been an extensive list of professional literature published over the last forty years, which contains a number of definitions of archival science. These definitions depend on the activities of the authors of contributions. It is not our intention to disagree with these definitions, since we can be sure that many of them form certain foundations, programs, definitions, descriptions and other elements of presentations of archival science. Our task is to set the definition of archival science with plenty of professional tolerance and mutual professional cooperation. That way, a more favorable outcome regarding the definition of archival science will be achieved in many environments. The integration of archival science into archival theory and practice will be enhanced in the environment where archives operate. (Burke, 1981; Katelaar, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2008, 2014; Katelaar-Thomassen, 1999; Cook, 2013:116)

It is indisputable that archivists always and everywhere follow the affiliation of archival principles; therefore, archival science has no intention of investigating a particular document but rather explores it:

- the structure of the entire archive and the structure of the funds,
- the history of the archives and the history of funds,
- documents that are the basis of each fund,
- the dependence of archival science on archival theory and practice, and vice versa
- the methods and principles under which an archive or fund was formed,
- the origin, existence and operation of each archive or fund.

The fact is that archival science cannot comprise researches that focus solely on archival records; however, the content of archival records cannot be the matter of archival science either.

We must be invariably aware of the conceptual differences between acts, convolutes, documents and records from certain peculiarities, such as, for example, birth records, records of married and deceased, and other documents generated in office operations. These conceptual differences raise interest among historians and many other users of archival records. For archivists, these conceptual differences, by themselves, do not pose problems with regard to the editing of archival records.

During the era of producing large quantities of documents, written on various sources, the large amounts of information contained in the archival records indicate that archivists will not need to deal with auxiliary historical sciences in the future; sphragistics, paleography, diplomacy, genealogy, heraldry, vectics, archeography, chronology, record management, and the like. However, we can say that all of the afore mentioned knowledge cannot be seriously scrutinised without the use of archival records and professional help from archivists. (Leesh, 1985:17)

2 ARCHIVAL SCIENCE

Archival science has been developing in conditions taking into account the development of general science, the development of technology, the formation of countries, the formation of national states, the functions of the state's operations, the functions of office operations, the formation of premises for the preservation and protection of archives, the care of materials, the collection of archival records, the processing of archival records, the access and use of archival records, definitions of archival records, publications and use, exhibitions and publications, presentations of archival records, inventories, legislation, the purpose of archival records, digitization of archival records (formerly microfilming) and training of professionals working with archival records. (Klasinc, 2018)

Consciously, recently we have been deciding on a new definition of archival science, especially after we began with the study of the second degree – Archival Science and Records Management - at Alma Mater Europaea, the European Center Maribor, and set up a new paradigm: "Archival science is an independent, academic, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary science." We justify this by interpreting it as: independent - in terms of pedagogical, scholar and scientific research work; academic, because it is included in the study process at the university or faculty (Faculty of Archival Science.); multidisciplinary, due to various and general contents and information on archival records and data derived from archival records; interdisciplinary, because it contains in-depth views and approaches to uniform systems of a particular profession.

For the science, however, it is necessary to know the subject, causes, methods and limitations of research; in this case, all that it is necessary in the field of archival science. (Škoro Babić, 2017)

We can divide archival science into the following elements:

- scholarly research work
- and professional theory and practice.

Taking into account the results of research published in the book of dr. Jože Žontar, "The Archives of the 20th Century", and after a review of professional literature relating to archival theory and practice and to archival science as a whole, we will look through a few selected **definitions of archival science**, which were found on various websites pertaining to the works of various authors (google, wikipedia and some social networks).

These definitions have been developed in the past and in many areas today still actual. In any case, however, the definitions are closely related to the development of archival science (that is, archival science in general).

* Archival science is the science by which we mark some knowledge that deals with theoretical and practical solutions in the field of management of current and archival records.

* Archivalism is a new science that deals with appraisal, transferring archival records to archives, editing, description, long-term preservation, use and ensuring the credibility of archival records.

- * Archival science covers the study of the knowledge needed for records and archival records management from its creation, for their arranging, evaluation, acceptance, description, long-term preservation, archiving and also subsequent use, regardless of whether the records are written in classical (paper) or electronic form.
- * Archival science is a scientific discipline that must deal with all areas of archival theory and practice without compromise.
- * Archival science is a science whose goal is not to research individual documents but to research the structure of all archival records (investigating its history, the origin and appearance of individual documents, the causes of the origin, and the causes and ways of appraisal - recognizing archival records among other current records).
- * Archival science is a science that deals with archival theory and practice.
- * Archival science is a science that deals with the establishing/formation of the fond.
- * Archival science is a science that deals with archival and current records and documents.
- * Archival science is a science that deals with the completed units, the files and ways of depositing of records.
- * Archival science is a science that deals with the arrangement of current and archival records for the purpose of accessibility.
- * Archival science is a science that addresses the legal issues of archives, the functioning of archives and standards.
- * Archival science is a science that takes care of organizing work in archives.
- * Archival science is a science that creates knowledge and methods that will justify the functioning and existence of archives.
- * Archival science is a science that researches the existence, regulation, management, preservation, maintenance and the significance of archival records for the proving of some rights of the state or citizens, and to define a written cultural heritage.
- * Archival science is a science that explores archival theory and practice, archival techniques, archival legislation, history of archives and the rest.

In the above definitions, the most commonly used word is: science. In the analysis of definitions we find descriptions of archival professional work, appraisal, acceptance, editing, listing, preservation and access. In some definitions we can notice the finding that the archival records are kept in electronic form. Often we can find a recommendation on the compromise treatment of all areas of archival theory and practice and on the research of archival records for the purposes of historical research in the broadest sense of the word. Often, archival science is associated with activities that deal with archival theory and practice, the formation of a fond, archival and current records and in particular with documents, files or ways of depositing files. Archival science is also attached to legal questions about the functioning of archives, archival laws and by-laws, regulations, and national and international standards. The international term for archival science is also the archivalology.²

Example 1. From the web pages of the Faculty of Arts in Zagreb, Croatia (Internet 1):

“Archival science is a set of knowledge about the nature and features of archival records and archives activities. Archival science is a relatively young science, it has developed over the past hundred years and today we can say that it has shaped its theory, methodology and practice. Archival theory is a collection of archival ideas about what archival records

2 On the meaning of the word wrote Ass. Prof. Dr. Miroslav Novak in working material for the accreditation of Master study of ARchival Science and Records Management. Maribor, 2012.

are; archival methodology is a collection of archival ideas about how to handle these records; archival practice is the application of theoretical and methodological ideas in certain situations"³

Example 2. Wikipedia (Slovene) (Internet 2)

»Archival science is an auxiliary science of history, which works in the field of archival material protection. With the help of archivists, we investigate archives as an institution, archival records and the theory of archiving«.

Example 3. Archival Science (Internet 3)

Archival Science promotes the development of archival science as an autonomous scientific discipline. The journal covers all aspects of archival science theory, methodology, and practice. Moreover, it investigates different ...

Example 4. Springer (Internet 4)

»Archival science, or archival studies, is the study and theory of building and curating archives, which are collections of recordings and data storage devices. To build and curate an archive, one must acquire and evaluate recorded materials, and be able to access them later. To this end, archival science seeks to improve ...«

* The selected examples do not conflict with the above-mentioned definitions of archival science.

3 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF ARCHIVAL SCIENCE

The claim that archival science is young as a science is not entirely true (paintings in underground caves in Altamira and elsewhere). If we consider and interpret archival science in the broadest sense of the word, then we must take into account its historical development and closely associate it, at least in a certain period, with the emergence of individual national states. At the time of their establishment, these countries often took care of the creation and operation of their archives, employing people who worked and took care of archival records.

Looking back at the history of ancient Greece and its cities, we see that they had built special spaces called "arheion" inside their centers, where they kept archival records, regardless of the basis on which it was written (clay tiles, later papyrus etc.).

History leads us to the realization that in the time of the Roman Empire they even had state officials, known as "tabularius" (or archivists). It is known that the Roman Empire was operating in an organizational manner in which special premises for the preservation of archives were being set up in major centers outside Rome. This claim can be justified by the appearance of the word "tabularius", which is mostly interpreted with the activity of the archivist's profession, and with the fact that two monuments - tombstones located in Ptuj and Ljubljana - have been kept in today's territory of Slovenia, which preserved information on "Tabularius".

It is also known that Karl the Great in the city of Achen, i.e., the center of his new country, organized a special space for the archives and employed individuals for taking care of preserving archival records already in the 10th century.

Furthermore, we could add several other examples to the historical overview. Perhaps we should draw attention to the Qumran manuscripts (Israel, the ruins of the former Khirbet

3 Original text: »Arhivistika je skup znanja o naravi i značajkama arhivskoga gradiva i djelatnosti arhiva. Arhivistika je razmjerno mlada znanost, razvila se posljednjih sto godina i danas možemo reći da je oblikovala svoju teoriju, metodologiju i praksu. Arhivska teorija je skup arhivističkih ideja o tome što je arhivsko gradivo; arhivska metodologija je skup arhivističkih ideja o tome kako postupati s tim gradivom; arhivska praksa je primjena teoretskih i metodoloških ideja u određenim situacijama..«

Qumran settlement) belonging to a very old period, or perhaps to the new ones – the so called historical “capsules” that were discovered in the tower of the National House in Maribor or those found in Grammar School in Kranj. (Kne, 2017)

With all of the arguments presented above, we have tried to prove briefly that archival science is not really a young science; it is true, however, that data or records were not preserved for all historical periods, which could prove or that could directly justify the existence of archival science in the broadest sense of the word outside of the described examples and perhaps some others.

Modern archival theory and practice can be set in the 16th century, and this is associated with the emergence and the formation of national states; we can argue that when national states were created, individual state institutions were formed as well, and the development of national archives is indisputably connected with them. (Smole, 1976:83-85)

We can easily be convinced that archival science has been actually defined as a science over a long period of time and has its own development, which is closely connected to and in a certain interdependence of:

- a) Professional technical development, the formation of archival spaces (architectural issues, archival location issues, internal layout of premises), the relevance of equipment for archival records, archival boxes (manufacture, material, use) and among others also climatic, safety and other conditions of professional technical protection;
- b) Independent professional development (all questions of professional processing of records, especially editing, describing, classification, etc.).

It is not clear where archival science will be placed in the future, in terms of the development of information technologies and the principles of the functioning of the information society, with the separation of the creation of the document, information and archiving them. In the light of the findings from the historical presentation of the origins of archival science, we will discuss information technologies in the future as part of the development of archival theory and practice – so, also about archival science. Many areas and ways of data media, various documents created in digital form, including digitization of records, will be constantly changing according to the basic principles of archival theory and practice and archival science. However, the basic roots of this profession will not change, but will only be upgraded. (Hajtnik, 2010)

This development of archival science, which will not be finished in short notice, shows that in archival theory and practice we encounter many questions and expert issues, especially when we are talking about:

- the appraisal and selection of archival records from current records;
- collecting, storing and protecting archival records (as a proof of the operation of the state, state institutions, proof of the rights of the state or individual, sources for research);
- publicity and use of archival records;
- digitization of records;
- archival legislation (the first archival law in Slovenia in 1966);
- the application of archival records (appraisal and determination of archival records at record creators);
- trainings for those who work with records;
- study programs of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree of the archival science, and obtaining the title of a graduated archivist, a master of archival science and records management, and a doctor of archival science.

From the brief history of archival activity we learn primarily about the fact that archival science has actually been exercised over a long period of time. Following the development of the "Historia magistra vitae", the follow-up of this development can lead us to the future development of archival science. The implementation of scientific research projects arising from archival theory and practice is therefore very extensive. They will not run out of research in the future. Archival science will confirm the claim in the new definition that it is multidisciplinary to develop in parallel with the treatment of research topics related to archival records in classic formats stored in professional archival institutions around the world. At this moment, those records represent almost 100% of all archival records, but in the future this percentage will be reduced due to new information media and the development of public electronic archives, perhaps not as departments, but as independent institutions. Of course, we must draw attention to the fact that describing records from linear meters will be changed to the description of records in the databases (archival records in electronic form). In the future, the archives will carry out their basic mission, which is the appraisal, acquiring, professionally processing, preserving, maintaining, use of archival records as the written cultural heritage of the nation, of the state and of other areas where archives are created and archives operate as professional institutions. However, we do not give up the vision that the electronic archives will actually implement all of the above, and this will be focused on an activity that will allow public archival stakeholders and public in general to access the electronic archives..(Larin, 2017; Popovici, 2017; Rybakou, 2017)

4 CONCLUSION

It is indisputable that there are still many open questions regarding the views on archival science today. In any case, an in-depth analysis of the efforts of individuals, which have been pointed out in recent years in the desire to define archival science as an independent, academic, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary science, would be needed. Many sought to find ways of joint co-existence with information sciences, social sciences, humanities, librarianship, historiography and the like. This fragmentation is reflected in some of the solutions related to the operation of archival services, which can be combined with librarianship, museum, information sciences and the like, which is shown to be poor. We cannot claim that archival science is directly compatible with other sciences, but it is necessary to emerge always and everywhere from the roots of the development of archival science as a science, bearing in mind the Latin saying: "Per aspera ad astra"; we must be aware that these roots go a long way back to the past.

It is always unpleasantly surprising that we cannot decide in any way whether archival science is placed in the field of humanities or social sciences. Archival science must be installed in both areas. Due to the integrity and multidisciplinary, which is reflected in the archival records, archival science is actually ranked in the field of social sciences.

Applying the new definition that "Archival science is an independent, academic, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary science" is not only the desire of individuals who want to translate such interpretations, but above of all those who are aware that many of the scientific and scholarly researches depend on the preservation and accessibility of archival records study, whether we talk about history, historical auxiliary sciences, historical geography, art history, history of literature, research on international relations and politics in general and the like.

In particular, we must link archival science to the complexity of archival records in some institutions, which also collect archival records. These are mainly libraries, museums, galleries, information centers and the like, which is commonly referred to as the preservation of archival records in non-archival institutions. In these institutions archive records can be stored because of their basic activity.

There are also special archives that carry out elements of archival science and archival theories and practices in special fields covered, for example, archives of architecture, librarianship, museums, economics, medicine, construction, mechanical engineering, law and many fields of creativity.

Without archives and archival records, and taking into account information about archival fonds and information on archival records and data derived from archival records, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research will simply not be possible!

The fact is that archival science is a targeted science, and in a form of scientific and research activity deals with issues of creation, processing, protection and use of archival records and the like.

Archival science leads to a scientifically arranged archives, archival fonds and archival collections, and according to the actual arrangement reflects the original order (provenance) at all levels, as well as the working methods of the creators.

This order will enable scientists, researchers, users of archives to have direct access to resources - data that are fundamental to their research.

The national states and some other creators of archival records as cultural heritage, the memory of the nations, establish state and other archives, which are prescribed by law, provide buildings, equipment, wages for employees and financial resources for individual actions, while forgetting the necessity of training archival professionals, who will only be able to deal adequately with all the issues they face in their work if appropriately educated. We must be aware that there are significant differences between the environments where the archival institutions operate.

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