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Private and Public Archives in the 21st Century. Icarus Convention #28

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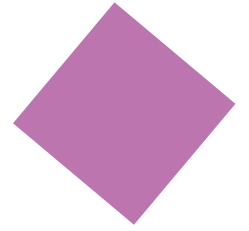
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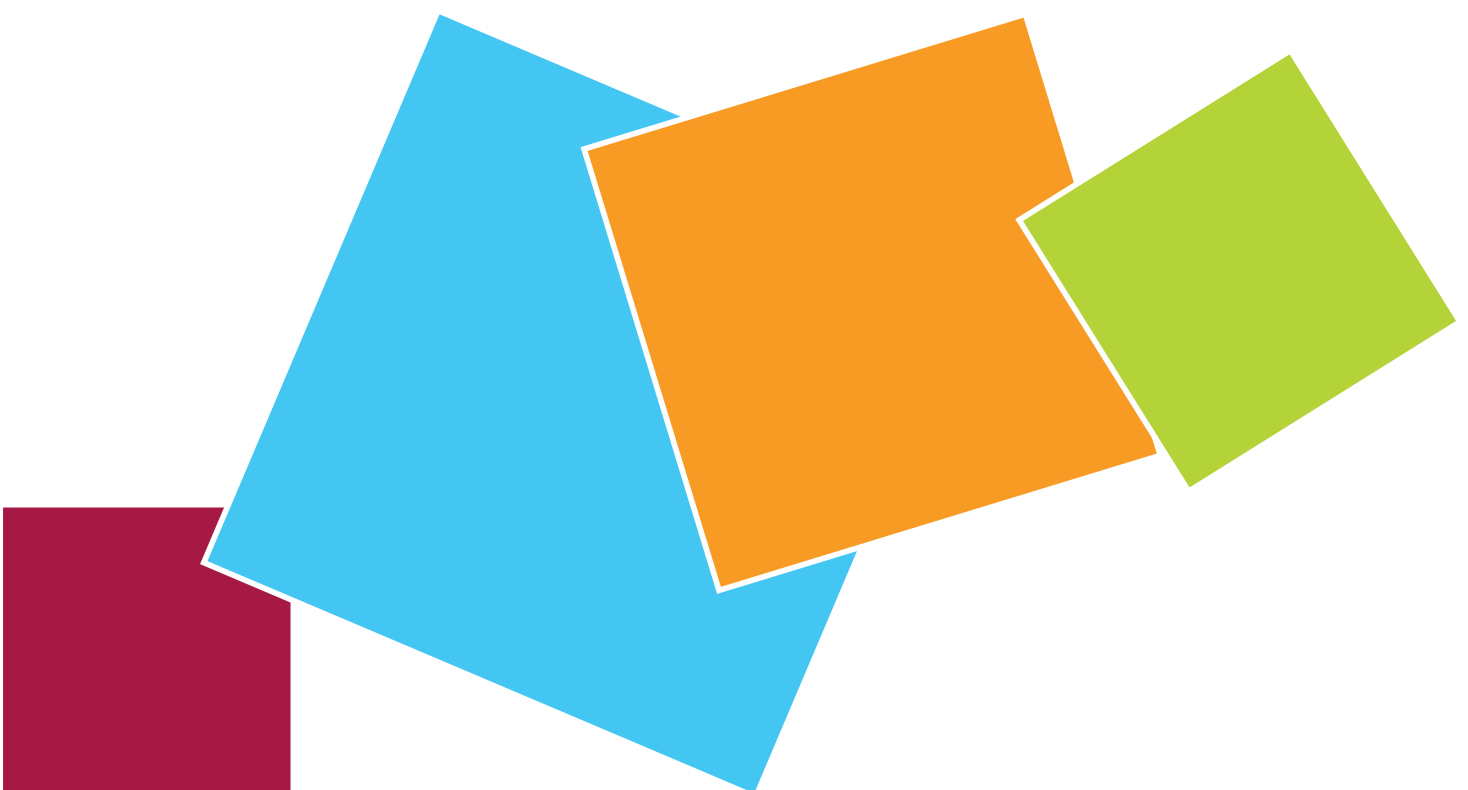
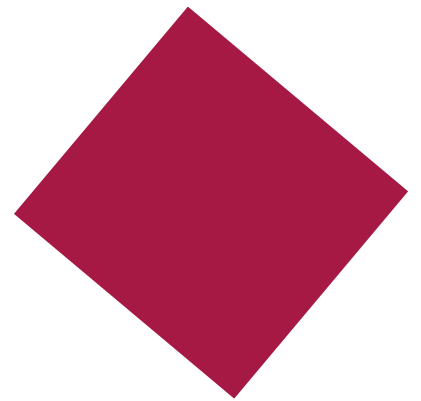
Archives privées et archives publiques au XXI^e siècle

Private and Public Archives in the 21st Century



Icarus Convention #28

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Aubervilliers – France



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Icarus platforms, projects and Workshops

Topotheque - the Local Archives of the Municipalities

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Topothek: <https://www.topothek.at/en/>

Topotheque is a low threshold database, mostly used by municipalities for historic documentation. It serves as a basic digital archive for quick search. The findability of the content (Images, Videos, Audios) is by tag, by time sliders and by location on the map, on which the entries can be found by encircling the place of interest. The work to set up and maintain a Topotheque is usually done by Citizen Scientist, so that costs of building up the local Topotheque are low. Local volunteers have the communication links to the residents and such the path to private findings. Involvement of the public creates a lot of attention and such improves the awareness of local history.

Currently there are more than 400 Topotheques in several countries active and freely accessible. The number of entries exceeded 1.1 Million.

In the workshop we will see:

- how far Citizen Science work has gotten
- what obstacles to expect
- what functions are offerde
- how to work in a Topotheque

Keywords: Topotheque, local history, Citizen Science, Quick Search, Database

Monasterium and ERC "From Digital to Distant Diplomatics" Strategy Workshop - Planning a Call for Digitisation Proposals

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Monasterium.net has served the archival and research community for the past 20 years. Still the largest portal for mediaeval and early modern charters, it is less dynamic in attracting further charter data than it was 10 years ago. The Workshop invites archivists, archival users, technicians and researchers to consider how this can be changed.

Indeed, the ERC project "From Digital to Distant Diplomatics" (DiDip, <https://didip.eu>) attempts to develop tools that facilitate large-scale diplomatics work based on state-of-the-art machine learning based methods. This will include open source contributions to handwritten text recognition, object detection on the image (e.g., seals, notarial signs), natural language processing (e.g., named entity recognition, OCR-post-processing, or pattern-mining), indexing and searching by visual or textual features. The project can rely on the huge data set collected in monasterium.net and will make its results available in a modernised MOM-CA application in the portal.

Machine learning relies on high-quality data to train the appropriate models. To achieve a solid ground for this kind of methods applied to the domain of mediaeval and early modern charters, Monasterium.net provides a good basis. However, it has an obvious bias towards material from Central Europe. To mitigate this, the DiDip project plans to hand out financial grants to support archives in digitising their charter collections and making them available online.

The aim of the workshop is to discuss the best methods to frame the grant call. We will discuss questions like:

- What kind of digital content concerning mediaeval documents are there to be digitised?
- What are the obstacles to having it online?
- Which methods do you prefer to be applied for the online publication? (e.g., iiif, data standards ...)
- What can attract archivists to share data via Monasterium.net?
- Which legal consideration should be addressed in the call?
- What practicalities should be made clear for this call (e.g., costs, scanning process, time frame)?
- What are the long-term perspectives of contributions to Monasterium.net?

Keywords: Monasterium.net, Charter, digitisation, archives

**Archival Science: Concepts, Legal
Status, Historical Development,
Records Management**

Lost in translation : l'archiviste et la distinction entre public et privé à l'ère du numérique

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En droit français, la distinction entre archives publiques et archives privées est essentielle. À chacune de ces catégories juridiques correspondent en effet des procédures et des dispositifs précis auxquels les archivistes sont initiés dès leur plus jeune âge dans le cadre de leur formation initiale, puis continue. Fondamentale, cette distinction entre archives publiques et archives privées l'est tout autant dans la réflexion professionnelle au quotidien et structure complètement leurs actions au quotidien, qu'ils travaillent dans des institutions publiques ou privées au sens de la loi française. Et pourtant, la distinction entre archives publiques et archives privées, voire tout simplement entre public et privé est-elle si simple à appréhender ? Tel est le point que cette conférence inaugurale s'efforcera de questionner. Entre entremêlement des concepts, attentes paradoxales des utilisateurs auxquels les archivistes s'efforcent de répondre et place croissante de l'individu et de l'intime dans une société où le numérique vient encore davantage rebattre les cartes et brouiller les frontières, l'archiviste n'est-il pas finalement aujourd'hui un peu *lost in translation* ?

Keywords: archives privées, archives publiques, théorie

Produire des archives personnelles entre public et privé : le cas de Malesherbes

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Une longue construction juridique sanctionnée en droit français par la loi de 1979 distingue archives publiques et archives privées en fonction de critères propres à la *production* des archives. Dans une perspective d’histoire sociale et culturelle, les chercheurs ont souligné la porosité des frontières entre le public et le privé, le caractère mouvant de la constitution des dépôts d’archives et le flou de ce qui doit ou non être archivé. Ils ont aussi montré que les institutions royales, à l’époque moderne, ont porté un intérêt divers aux archives “personnelles” de leurs agents, qu’il s’agisse de papiers politiques, policiers, diplomatiques ou scientifiques. Ces questions ont principalement été abordées d’un point de vue administratif et *a posteriori* : l’attention a ainsi été centrée non sur la *production*, mais sur la *collecte* des archives (droit de reprise, saisies, confiscations révolutionnaires). Je voudrais pour ma part tenter d’observer les logiques de la production d’archives – c’est-à-dire de la création, de la réception et de la conservation des documents – au moment où elle est “en train de se faire”. À la lumière des propositions de l’anthropologie historique des pratiques savantes, je m’intéresserai donc aux lieux, aux acteurs, au matériel d’écriture, aux temps d’activité pour mettre en évidence l’existence d’unités de production d’archives qui sont des éléments majeurs de notre compréhension des fonds. Je tâcherai de mieux saisir, en m’appuyant surtout sur sa comptabilité domestique, comment Chrétien Guillaume de Lamoignon de Malesherbes (1721-1794), qui a occupé les fonctions de premier président de la Cour des aides, de directeur de la Librairie, puis de secrétaire d’État de la Maison du roi et de ministre sans portefeuille, a produit ses archives personnelles à la jointure du public et du privé.

Keywords: archives personnelles, archives de fonctions, production archivistique, comptabilité, matérialité

Les archives judiciaires du fonds de La Trémoille, entre archives privées et archives publiques

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Les archives de la famille de La Trémoille font partie des archives privées les plus connues des fonds des Archives nationales. Elles sont les premières archives privées à avoir fait l’objet de campagnes de versements, d’abord sous forme de dation, puis de dépôt définitif. Mais ce n’est pas la seule partie du fonds des La Trémoille conservée aux Archives nationales : en effet, dès 1891 le duc de La Trémoille avait donné des archives “judiciaires” qui ont alors intégré la série “Z/2, juridictions ordinaires”, série constituée dans la première moitié du XIX^e siècle par le rassemblement de documents (isolés ou sériels) de provenances diverses. Ce cas, peu traité au sein des études sur les archives de Thouars, permettra d’interroger les conséquences du classement des archives par les archivistes des XIX^e et XX^e siècles, effaçant, dans ce cas, l’origine de ces archives devenues “publiques” *de facto*. Cette coupure créée par la répartition des archives en fonction de leur typologie documentaire amènera également à tenter une reconstitution du fonds d’origine, et à essayer de rendre lisible le lien entre les différentes parties des archives des La Trémoille.

Keywords: archives judiciaires, histoire des archives, reconstitution archivistique

Archives privées ou publiques ? Le cas des archives d'associations aux Archives nationales

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Les archives d'associations conservées aux Archives nationales sont nombreuses et anciennes : pourtant, elles sont dispersées dans de nombreuses séries d'archives privées et publiques. On les retrouve ainsi insérées dans les fonds d'établissement publics auxquels elles sont liées (par exemple, les “sociétés des amis de. . .”) ou bien conservées dans la sous-série AB XIX consacrée aux papiers d'érudits et documents isolés. Par indifférence ou ignorance, ces fonds ne sont pas encore considérés comme un domaine particulier : si leur statut d'archives privées est connu, il n'est pas particulièrement pris en compte.

Il faut attendre 1949 (c'est-à-dire récemment à l'échelle archivistique) pour que la création de la Section des archives d'entreprises et de la série AS, spécifiquement réservées aux archives d'associations, clarifie la situation. À partir de 2000, le centenaire de la loi de 1901 permet de développer largement la réflexion archivistique sur les archives d'associations, notamment avec la publication d'un état sommaire (2007) et un guide sur les archives d'associations (2001). Elle est également l'occasion de se pencher sérieusement sur le statut juridique des associations. Les associations culturelles profitent également de cet intérêt, dans une moindre mesure.

Désormais clairement positionnées comme des archives privées, les archives d'associations présentent néanmoins des cas particuliers (mais de plus en plus nombreux) où elles sont mixtes voire publiques. L'article 111-4 du Code du Patrimoine est d'ailleurs la référence de circonstance. C'est le cas avec le développement récent mais massif des associations impliquées dans l'activité de l'État. Ainsi, les fédérations sportives agréées ou les fédérations de parcs naturels. La situation est d'autant plus complexe que le vocabulaire lui-même prête à confusion : par exemple, les associations “reconnues d'utilité publique” ont-elles des archives publiques ? Une association “agréée” produit-elle forcément des archives publiques ? Une autre situation est celle des archives d'associations, souvent dissoutes, récupérées par un ancien responsable (président, trésorier, etc.) : ce dernier considère alors que ce sont ses archives personnelles.

Le statut juridique des associations implique également une réflexion sur la communicabilité : elle est celle choisie par les propriétaires ou ayants-droit ; mais, dans le cas d'associations politiques ou en présence de fichiers d'adhérents, la politique actuelle applique le délai du code du Patrimoine sur les archives publiques. La réflexion sur le statut juridique des archives d'associations se pose donc toujours avec acuité.

Keywords: archives d'associations, statut juridique, archives privées, archives nationales

Towards eGovernance. eCivil Status within the National Archives of Romania (eANR) Project. Towards Good Governance, Respect and Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms

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The increasing interest of people for the past, for finding the roots, has always led to a keen need for information. It is why the (cultural) documentary heritage has an unquestionable importance in close connection to the present. The need to know the history of a state, or event, is high, but of your own, is definitely higher. That's the reason why the genealogical archives may be regarded as one of the most significant resource for individuals.

Considering that *There is no point in preservation unless it leads to access* (UNESCO Recommendation, 2015), the memory institutions shall endeavour to enlarge the access to documents, by taking benefits from the new technology and functioning in a digital age. The race for the digitisation of the archival content, especially in this contemporary pandemic situation, which enables remote research and democratization of access, is on high speed.

In alignment with the Digital Agenda for Europe, in September 2014, the Romanian authorities issued the National Strategy on Digital Agenda for Romania, which sets the lines of action in fields as eGovernment, Open Data, eEducation, eCulture, digital services etc. This Strategy reiterates the idea that the cultural and creative industries represent “a driver for significant changes in lifestyle and progress” and the digital technologies radically transform the people's approach to creativity and culture. In order to fulfill the goals of the national strategy, the National Archives of Romania has developed and followed its own institutional *Strategy (2015-2021)* which sets, as one of the five specific targets, the enhancing of the capacity for coordination and administration of the Romanian digital archival heritage.

Among its initiatives in this field, one of high interest for Romanians, but also for foreigners, is the project of digitizing the civil status archives, prior to 1918, in order to provide public access for more than 9,5 million pages of civil status registers, from all over the country. *Towards eGovernment. eCivil Status within the National Archives of Romania (eANR)* is a long-awaited project, as the lack of this type of sources made genealogical research almost impossible in Romania. Besides the interest for the ancestors, several other professional interests (e.g. those of notaries, lawyers, courts) were impeded.

Willing to achieve the prerequisites for a good administration and a good governance, the main principles for a sustainable development of society, the National Archives of Romania aims to provide a quick, easy and free of charge online access to the preserved historical civil status information. In doing so, the individuals' right to freedom of expression, freedom of information, access to culture and e-Government applications are on the right track.

Keywords: civil status records, genealogy, digital documentary heritage, right to culture, right to freedom of information

Why Should We Archive Governmental Email as Correspondence? An Analysis of the Capstone-Approach from the Perspective of Austrian Historical Source Studies

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Email has become a key instrument of modern administration in the digital age and can hold an archival value by providing evidence on governmental transactions. While being an administrative mean, however, email also is the most frequently used media of communication worldwide. It is a multifunctional tool that can be used to exchange diverse types of information for different purposes and, thus, blurs the line between private and official record keeping structures and practices. In recent years, multiple studies have reported that this ambiguous nature of email and the information behaviour associated with it internationally has led to a deterioration of recordness in public administrations across the world, and hinders the capture of significant emails for permanent preservation. In reaction to this problem, some public archives, therefore, have implemented new approaches to manage and preserve governmental emails.

The so-called Capstone Approach is a systematic and automated way to capture emails of archival value for preservation. This new method does not rely on the end user assigning email messages to single business processes, as commonly established for administrative records, but shifts the focus to their functional context by appraising and archiving entire email accounts. By doing so, it suggests structural similarities between governmental email and personal correspondence, just as the email system itself, and, thereby, has a significant impact on the future scope of use, interpretability, and evidential function of governmental emails. From a user perspective, for example, the archival capture of entire email accounts could provide unique insights into individual realities and lighten up organisational processes which previously have lacked a written manifestation along the administrative procedure. Overall, however, the treatment of governmental emails as correspondence challenges traditional concepts of record keeping and archival thinking while also confronting historians with practical and conceptual challenges when approaching email archives.

This paper investigates the interrelation of archival appraisal and historical research in the digital age by the example of governmental emails. Based on a triangulation of recent international findings in archival theory and an Austrian source studies approach, it examines the Capstone approach's implicit expectations for governmental email as a historical source genre in order to assess its long-term impact on the archival usage of email archives. Thereby, it aims to investigate how email, as a medium, affects traditional record keeping and archival principles to reflect on the question whether the traditional distinction made between official and private in Austrian archival science as well as historical source studies is still reasonable in the digital age.

Keywords: Governmental emails, Archival appraisal, Digital source studies, Capstone Approach, historical correspondence

Use-Case Analysis of Enterprise Content Management System Adoption at the National Library and Archives of United Arab Emirates

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In efforts to enhance its digital records infrastructure, the National Library and Archives of the United Arab Emirates adopted one of the excellent Enterprise Content Management system (ECMs) on the market, Alfresco. As business operations of many institutions go virtual, large amounts of digital records and assets are inevitably created. The long-term preservation, accessibility and usability of these digital assets require the use of appropriate digital records infrastructure such as ECMs, Enterprise Resources Planning systems (ERPs), and cloud computing amongst others. The focus of this paper is on ECMs as they can integrate the digital records keeping needs of an institution. Using the case of the National Library and Archives of UAE, this paper seeks to illustrate the steps that can be followed in adopting and implementing an ECM. The paper also offers an overview of ECMs functionalities based on how Alfresco was implemented at the National Library and archives of UAE. The intention is to draw lessons that can guide other institutions intending to adopt ECMs as part of their digital records keeping strategy. Additionally, the paper also seeks to establish the level of integration between the adopted ECMs and other business systems already existing in the organization.

Keywords: Digital records infrastructure, Enterprise Content Management system, Digital records, Enterprise Resource Planning systems, Cloud computing

Le statut juridique des témoignages oraux en question : le cas des archives du ministère des Armées

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Cette communication propose une intervention sur les témoignages oraux du ministère des Armées français pour l'axe I du colloque “ *Archives privées et archives publiques* ” au XXI^e siècle, sur la pertinence des concepts et leurs conséquences pour les pratiques archivistiques et historiennes. Elle expliquera en quoi les témoignages oraux conservés au sein du Service historique de la Défense se situent à la charnière des deux statuts juridiques, qui apportent chacun leurs avantages et inconvénients mais au sein desquels ces archives ne peuvent jamais complètement prendre place.

Après une première partie rappelant l'évolution historiographique et méthodologique du témoignage oral, je m'attacherai à présenter les conséquences du statut juridique dans le rapport témoin-enquêteur, pour poursuivre sur la difficile gestion de la communication. Avec la remise sur le devant de la scène des questions d'accès aux archives du ministère des Armées, faisant écho au rapport Vaïsse de 2014, la question du statut juridique des témoignages oraux constitue une vraie question d'actualité.

Keywords: Statut juridique témoignages oraux

From Behind the Interrogation Room Walls: Private Tortures and Public Records

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Despite its history of taking place within the privacy of jail cells, interrogation rooms, and other spaces hidden from public view, the practice of torture has simultaneously produced public records of its subsequent aftermath. From the fastidious record-keeping of brutal regimes such as the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, to the efforts of human rights organizations across the globe to reckon with the ultimate fate of victims, torture has come out of the proverbial shadows through the act of documentation, and resulted in the post-mortem display of its techniques and consequences. With the advent of more immediate and quotidian access to the means of visual documentation, particularly cell phone cameras, the documentation of torture has not only taken on these more urgent characteristics, but also has increasingly fallen into the hands of the perpetrators of torture themselves. Notwithstanding the record-keeping practices already evident in aforementioned regimes in Cambodia and also Argentina, for example, contemporary chronicling of torture is often no longer delegated to second or third-party observers, but is done by the individuals inflicting the torture itself. In fact, the time-lag that characterized past revelations of records and acts, that was a by-product of the very privacy of torture and its records, has almost been erased by the ability to upload videos and other images to public platforms like YouTube, for example. Focused on videos shot on cellphone cameras and uploaded to YouTube as well as photographs shared on WhatsApp by members of the National Civil Police in El Salvador, that depict the abuse of Salvadoran youth, this presentation analyzes a phenomenon of televisual impunity and torture that disregards the socio-political or legal consequences of brutality through the ready, public display of records documenting abuse. More than just a by-product of technological innovations, this shift in approach, perspective, and access to evidence of human rights violations is indicative of the continuing erosion of the divisions between public and private spheres, and the increased disregard perpetrators of violence continue to have for the repercussions of their actions.

Keywords: Human Rights, Central America, Digital Records

Cultural Heritage: Safeguarding a Fragile Source

La protection du patrimoine archivistique privé et le rôle des acteurs publics en France

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Une question essentielle aujourd'hui, à l'heure où l'Histoire n'est plus conçue comme essentiellement nourrie par des sources officielles/publiques : comment définir les archives privées ? que faire des zones floues où cette distinction entre public et privé opère mal, voire pas du tout (archives des hommes politiques, des chercheurs, des architectes, etc.) ? Quelle hiérarchie entre ces sources ? Comment clarifier les rôles des acteurs publics et privés dans la collecte, le traitement et la diffusion de ces sources ? Comment mettre en place des règles et outils de coopération voire mutualisation entre ces acteurs, en tenant compte des obstacles, ou a minima des écueils que constituent les cadres culturels, juridiques, administratifs régissant ces questions dans le monde ? Comment intégrer les évolutions technologiques qui remettent en cause les méthodologies et outils existants en termes de collecte et de sauvegarde des archives privées ?

1. Le patrimoine archivistique privé en France : une définition floue et des outils de protection fragiles

La définition juridique : un point de départ ambigu

- Le patrimoine public français : deux boucliers et trois codes
- Les catégories documentaires potentiellement impactées par ce flou

Les outils de protection du patrimoine privé

- Le classement archives historiques
- Le contrôle de la circulation des biens culturels hors France
- Une politique d'acquisition, directe (AN) ou via subvention aux collectivités territoriales

La coordination entre les acteurs publics

- Rôle interministériel du SIAF
- L'interaction avec le réseau des Archives de France
- La coordination avec le SLL et le SMF

Les expériences et actions menées à l'échelle nationale

- Les "Grandes collectes" (14-18... mémoires de confinement, Archicovid, archives du sport). Enseignements et perspectives du "crowdsourcing"
- Le cadre stratégique commun de modernisation des archives 2020-2024 et son focus sur la collecte et sauvegarde des archives privées

Les acteurs privés

- Acteur "généraliste" : L'AFPAP
- Acteurs spécialisés : PAJEP, Capa, MAP...

2. Enjeux et perspectives

Comment combler les lacunes du dispositif juridique (classement notamment) ?

Comment mieux organiser les réseaux professionnels en matière de veille et de réaction ?

Comment prendre en compte les attentes sociétales ?

Les pistes d'optimisation :

- Renforcement du réseau national et international (rôle du Registre international MOW de l'Unesco)
- Approfondir la réflexion sur la notion d'archives privées et les enjeux y afférant (notamment celui du repérage et de la sélection des corpus essentiels à préserver et des problématiques posées par l'évolution des supports des sources privées : (grande) diversité des formats, problématique de la migration et préservation des données sur un temps long, gestion de volumes massifs)
- Mise à jour des outils législatifs et réglementaires pour équilibrer les sanctions et les aides

Keywords: archives privées, protection

The Role of Croatian State Archives in Preserving Archives Related to Roman Catholic Church in Croatia

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The Croatian State Archives (CSA), as a central national archival institution in Croatia, has an active role in preserving private archives within the framework of Croatian legislative. One of the most important type of private archives in Croatia are the archives of Roman Catholic Church, i.e. the (arch)diocesan archives and the archives of the religious orders. The foundation of the protection was a special contract signed between The Zagreb Archdiocese and the CSA, more than a hundred years ago, in order to improve the protection of their archdiocesan archives. Since then, the scope of activities conducted by the Croatian State Archives expanded in several areas, such as: archival arrangement and description of archival holdings, making preservation copies, restoration of the most damaged items etc. This proceeding will not only present the scope of activities, but also introduce the Croatian legal framework to protect private archives and discuss the challenges that we had to deal with while acting in this part of archival service.

Keywords: Private archives, church archives, heritage institutions, archival service

Les archives privées à valeur historique : regard sur la législation tunisienne

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Selon la loi relative aux archives en Tunisie et les décrets qui lui sont associés, les archives privées sont l'ensemble des documents produits ou tenus, dans le cadre de l'exercice de leur activité, par les personnes physiques ou morales. Ces archives peuvent relever du domaine public dans la mesure où elles présentent un intérêt public. En effet, l'article 13 de la loi relative aux archives stipule que les archives privées peuvent être classées comme archives historiques qui, pour des raisons historiques, présentent un intérêt public. Dans ce travail, nous allons nous intéresser aux archives privées des personnes physiques qui sont classées comme archives historiques et qui doivent être conservées aux Archives nationales. Cette institution est tenue d'assurer la collecte, la conservation, le traitement et la communication de ces archives.

Dans un premier temps, nous donnons une définition de la notion d'archives privées et ses caractéristiques selon la législation tunisienne. Dans un second temps, nous présentons le cadre juridique sur lequel s'appuie l'acquisition des archives privées par les Archives nationales. En effet, cette institution acquiert des fonds et des collections d'archives privées afin de les rendre accessibles à l'ensemble de la population. De ce fait, l'acquisition d'archives privées se justifie par l'intérêt de leur contenu et de leur potentiel de recherche. Ainsi, nous détaillons les modes d'acquisition selon la loi relative aux archives et qui sont au nombre de trois : don, legs, achat. Nous présentons le principe et les spécificités de chaque mode d'acquisition.

Ensuite, nous mettons l'accent sur le processus de traitement des archives privées aux Archives nationales. La question de la communication de ces archives, qui se distingue de la communication des archives publiques, sera abordée par la suite.

Nous concluons notre travail par la présentation d'un exemple d'archives privées à caractère historique conservées aux archives nationales. Nous détaillons le contenu de ces archives et son propriétaire, ainsi que le processus de son acquisition, son traitement et les conditions de sa communication.

Keywords: Archives privées / Archives historiques / Loi relative aux archives / Tunisie

La parole sensible des armées : le for privé du soldat au XXI^e siècle

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Rassemblées et collectées depuis la fondation des dépôts d'archives militaires sous l'Ancien Régime, les collections aujourd'hui conservées par le Service historique de la Défense se sont toujours enrichies de documents ne relevant pas de la production de correspondances, de registres régimentaires, d'états des troupes et des mouvements, de rapports et de comptes rendus exigés des militaires par la réglementation. Le positivisme et les Lumières, la complexité croissante des armements comme des questions de tactique, de stratégie ou de renseignement, ainsi que le vécu intense du combat mènent très tôt officiers et soldats à rédiger essais, mémoires, lettres, journaux et témoignages, conservés aujourd'hui dans les collections d'archives privées. C'est cette production que je désignerai aujourd'hui sous le terme de "for privé du soldat". Cette production n'a été rendue possible que par l'éducation croissante des militaires, professionnels, appelés ou conscrits. Cette démocratisation de l'écrit (4 millions de lettres sont échangées chaque jour entre l'arrière et les tranchées pendant la Grande Guerre) permet aux générations ayant connu les grands conflits européens, puis ceux de la décolonisation, de saisir le sens et les enjeux de leur action, de comprendre le champ de bataille, voire de surmonter le traumatisme des combats. Or ce travail de réflexion, d'analyse, de transmission et de libération par l'écrit, marque un très net recul dès la fin du XX^e siècle. La sophistication et la vitesse croissantes des télécommunications, à la fois dans le domaine civil avec les messageries et les réseaux sociaux, et dans le domaine militaire avec les systèmes d'armes, de renseignement et de prise de décision, conduisent au XXI^e siècle à un véritable déficit de l'écrit et donc des sources qui seront disponibles à l'avenir pour écrire l'histoire d'aujourd'hui. À ce déficit, auquel répond la prévalence de l'image et du texte instantané, s'ajoute l'impératif croissant du secret de la défense nationale, lequel avait déjà motivé en partie la fondation des dépôts de la Guerre, de la Marine et des Fortifications sous le règne de Louis XIV. Ces défis rendent dès lors indispensables l'adaptation des services d'archives militaires s'ils veulent pouvoir recueillir ce qui constitue la parole sensible (au double-sens du ressenti et du secret) des armées d'aujourd'hui.

Keywords: Archives privées, Armée, Témoignages

Stratégies de sauvegarde des archives privées au Portugal : analyse et caractérisation de la coopération entre l'Université et les propriétaires d'archives

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Quelles sont les pratiques de sauvegarde et de diffusion des archives privées au Portugal et quel est le rôle joué par les institutions universitaires dans ce processus ? Dans cette communication, nous entendons aborder la tendance croissante à la diversification des acteurs et des pratiques dans le processus de sauvegarde, d'étude et de diffusion des archives privées - à savoir les archives des individus et des familles - en complément du rôle joué traditionnellement par les institutions publiques vouées à cette mission.

L'Université portugaise a assumé un rôle d'innovation en la matière, qui se matérialise dans deux dimensions complémentaires : premièrement, dans le développement épistémologique de la science archivistique, tout en alimentant un débat théorico-méthodologique profond et dynamique, propice à de nouvelles approches pratiques ; deuxièmement, dans une dimension empirique et innovatrice pour la réalité portugaise, en promouvant l'incorporation, l'étude et la diffusion d'un large éventail d'archives privées. Les raisons de cet intérêt sont étroitement liées à la valeur informative de ce type d'archives et à la contribution qu'elles peuvent apporter à la construction de la mémoire collective de la communauté, comme le montrent des études récentes.

Les archives des familles nobles de l'Ancien Régime ont une importance qui va bien au-delà de l'histoire de la famille ou de la biographie/hagiographie de ses membres. La documentation qui y est conservée dépasse la sphère familiale et favorise une oscillation permanente entre le public et le privé, grâce à la conservation de la documentation officielle générée par l'exercice de charges publiques par ses membres les plus notables. Il y a là une complémentarité notoire entre archives privées et archives publiques qu'il est important d'apporter au débat.

D'autre part, les archives contemporaines produites par des "hommes représentatifs" des domaines les plus variés de l'activité publique – tels que les hommes politiques, les écrivains, les médecins, les scientifiques, les avocats, les architectes, les musiciens, entre autres – ont connu un intérêt soudain et profond. La multiplicité et l'hétérogénéité des thèmes, des typologies documentaires, des supports et des techniques d'enregistrement nous obligent à repenser sans cesse la question, par le biais d'une approche réfléchissant autour de la production et de l'archivage, mais aussi de la préservation et de la conservation de l'information.

Nous avons l'intention de présenter, pour promouvoir la connaissance et susciter le débat, les caractéristiques essentielles de la réalité portugaise à travers l'exposition des méthodologies d'étude de ces archives dans le cadre de la science archivistique historique, basée essentiellement sur la reconceptualisation de l'archive comme objet d'étude. La coopération croissante entre les propriétaires et les institutions universitaires est une tendance très pertinente qui devrait être étudiée et débattue afin d'approfondir, de réévaluer et de consolider les stratégies de gestion, de sauvegarde et de promotion de ces importantes archives.

Keywords: Archives de famille, Archives personnelles, Archivistique historique

The Guiding Principles for Safe Havens for Archives at Risk (2018) Put into Practice in a Hungarian Private Archive: Rescuing Public Collections and Collections of Wide Public Relevance at the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives at Central European University

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On October 10, 2019, Hungarian civil rights activist Aladár Horváth alerted the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives at Central European University (Blinken OSA) to rescue 78 movers' boxes worth of records of the Hungarian Roma Parliament Association (Roma Parliament). The papers, photographs, VHS and audio tapes documenting the proceedings of the Roma Parliament, as well as its library and six desktop computers used by staff, were stored in a wet basement following the organization's eviction from its headquarters a few years earlier. Now the municipality ordered the eviction from the basement storage as well. The records of this umbrella organization for grassroots Roma movements in Hungary were in acute danger of being destroyed, and permanently lost.

Since its establishment in 1990, the Roma Parliament's legal clinic documented hundreds of cases of ethnic and racial discrimination, as well as other atrocities like hate crimes committed against Roma in Hungary. In fact, the eviction of the Roma Parliament from its offices was the finale of years of subtle harassment at the hands of government and local authorities. Roma politics and society were now organized by, and around, top-down Roma structures lavishly funded by-and loyal to-the government. No public archival institution signaled interest in the records of the organization.

To some, the idea that the records of an entity like the Roma Parliament may not meet the threshold of archiving in a Hungarian public archival institution, may have seemed remote back in 2016, when Blinken OSA participated in the expert working meeting on Safe Havens for Archives at Risk held in Bern, Switzerland. But that is no longer so. Worse yet, in recent years, Blinken OSA has granted, sometimes in a last-minute effort, sanctuary to materials *withdrawn* from public archival institutions by their concerned owners shortly before those public institutions were "reorganized" (in fact, politically streamlined) by the Hungarian government. On at least one occasion, an archival institution was closed (and access to its holdings barred indefinitely), shortly after Blinken OSA saved a portion of this collection upon the request of the owner of the records in question. Having acquired expertise in adopting collections abandoned by public archival institutions, in June 2021 Blinken OSA organized a series of panels on endangered public collections with the participation of current and former archival, museum and library workers.

The proposed paper seeks to introduce the work of Blinken OSA in an environment where the public/private divide among archival repositories is ever more complex, and fluid: while

some records of wide public relevance have no chance of entering public archival institutions and end up in a private archive with relatively moderate means, other materials are surreptitiously withdrawn by their owners from newly streamlined or imminently closing public archival institutions, and deposited at Blinken OSA. Emphasis will be placed on the many *opportunities* arising for Blinken OSA in this situation, while some of the new challenges (i.e. the temporality of safe haven, ownership, recataloging, open access and access to sensitive information) will also be addressed. The implications of the unusual situation of Blinken OSA as part of Central European University (until recently Hungary's top-ranked graduate university), which was itself forced out of Hungary in 2019, will also be dealt with in the paper.

Keywords: public archives, private archives, archives at risk, open access, government control, archival autonomy

**Archives and Mediations: Public
Interest and Interaction with
Public/Private Archives in
Public/Private Institutions**

“De quoi remplir la mémoire du téléphone” : Archives privées et publiques à l’ère de la photographie numérique personnelle

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Depuis 2016, le projet “Le goût de l’archive à l’ère numérique” a proposé une relecture de l’ouvrage d’Arlette Farge (1987) visant à actualiser les descriptions de la recherche historique entrée dans l’ère numérique. Nous avons réuni un collectif de professionnels des différents métiers liés à cette recherche (archivistes, historien(ne)s, archéologues...) qui nous ont donné à lire des textes abordant des questions variées : les archives nées numériques (collecte, traitement, usages), les archives numérisées et les transformations de la salle de lecture, les archives audiovisuelles, etc. De ce premier temps du projet est né un intérêt pour ce que nous appelons les “pratiques numériques discrètes” (Clavert, Muller, 2021), à savoir les gestes numériques quotidiens et peu objectivés des chercheur(e)s, tels que l’usage d’un moteur de recherche ou la recherche plein texte. Le projet Culturhist propose dès lors d’analyser les enjeux et effets méthodologiques de ces pratiques numériques discrètes, peu abordées par les humanités numériques, en commençant par la question de la salle de lecture des archives. Dans le cadre de l’appel Icarus, nous souhaitons interroger tous ces sujets en adoptant la grille de lecture “archives privées, archives publiques”. Notre contribution s’organisera en trois moments. Le premier visera à montrer que les fonds publics, privés ou les interfaces de recherche (type API) produisent des expériences de recherche aux contraintes différenciées, en rassemblant des études de cas disponibles sur le livre en ligne. Nous verrons ensuite comment ces contraintes ont un effet direct sur les pratiques numériques discrètes : pouvoir photographier ou non, les aspects juridiques, la possibilité de mettre en place un dispositif de photographie adapté, la façon dont la photographie permet d’atténuer les contraintes institutionnelles. Enfin, on analysera comment la salle de lecture apparaît reconfigurée à l’ère numérique et pourquoi la distinction archives privées/archives publiques prend de nouveaux sens : il est désormais possible de reconstituer chez soi un corpus numérisé complet à partir d’archives publiques, ou encore de se forger ses propres instruments de recherche et de travail, ce qui a des effets sur la méthodologie déployée et les résultats produits.

Keywords: Numérique, archives, méthodologie, photographie

Private Records and a Public Archive. Reflecting Estonian Society

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The collections of the National Archives of Estonia (NAE) cover both the records of state institutions and the archives of significant individuals and organizations which describe the society throughout every period in past. Acquiring private records is a part of the acquisition policy of the NAE that is also an active and flexible partner to the private persons and organizations, to avoid randomness while replenishing its collections. Multiple acquisition initiatives of ours have been aimed at acquiring documents describing some crucial historical processes. As the continuity of the Republic of Estonia persisted in 1940–1991 outside Estonia, our acquisition focus has widened even beyond the geographical borders of the country. Acquisition of private records can be carried out successfully only in cooperation with their owners. In the 21st century, where a majority of documents are born-digital, consultation and guidance take a key role in preventing the destruction of any significant information. Considering Estonia's smallness, the NAE has a task as well as an honour in supporting the archives created by private initiatives, including the private archives of composer Arvo Pärt and president Lennart Meri.

Keywords: private records, public archives, acquisition, Estonia

From Private to Public - and Back. Circulating Documents & Data at Budapest City Archives

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The fundamental structure and perspective of archives has been on a turning track recently. As the demand and the accessibility of official documents have raised, the number of inquiries raised simultaneously. The borders between public and private collections appear the same way. One of the most illustrative examples for this is in the department of the visual documents: the architectural plans and photographs. According to provenience, those contain public as well as private documents.

Among the accidental and unpredictable private donations, the number of these types of visual documents is the highest. A great question of our age is whether we can or should make a difference between public and private records when it comes to providing the citizens with information and data either way. Architectural documentation of a private family house is a private and public document at the same time. On our platform for the online database, Budapest Time Machine, we publish archival datasets and documents in an easily accessible way, marking the origin of the collection itself, but could anyone as an inhabitant of a certain building doubt the publicity of blueprints of the house?

When archives are desperate to work on a good relationship with stakeholders, they might become documents/archivalia producers later on. In the beginning, Budapest City Archives was a primary content provider for civil events celebrating the hundred years old houses of the Capital, called Budapest100. Through the years as the volunteers keep on mapping the stories and histories of the buildings and their inhabitants, they created databases and datasheets of the buildings, giving them in return for the archival documents they get from us to help them in their research and presentations.

Another great example of stakeholders' collaboration is a 3D models created by architectural students. At the Ybl Miklos Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering at the Óbuda University, students learn the modelling of buildings based on architectural plans from the archives, (re)creating houses and blocks of the city of Budapest. Following the agreement between the two institutions, we deliver them the plans and they give us the 3D models in return. This case raises the question of the status of this collection: the initial material is part of the public collection obviously, but what category should fit for the products made from it?

Keywords: accessibility, visual documents, architectural plan, photograph, provenience, database, Budapest Time Machine, blueprints

From the Drawing Board to the Repository - Architects' Collections in Budapest City Archives

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As a pioneer of ferro-concrete, István Medgyaszay is a significant figure of Hungarian architecture in the 20th century. His œuvre builds a bridge between the romantic ideas born at the fin-de-siècle infused with nationalist temperament and the clear forms of the modernist movement. From the archivist's point of view the inheritance of his plans, drawings, personal documents and photographs makes a uniquely intact private collection. The way it got preserved through the last few trying decades behind the walls of a cottage in a hidden corner of Budapest is remarkable. This story also offers us a brief glimpse into the operation of the socialist regime in our country, as well as into its heritage policy and the remainders of its bureaucratic attitude.

At the end of this road full of vicissitudes, Budapest City Archives was given the trust and honour by the heirs to provide this material with a safe and professional preservation. The family remained the full legal owner whilst our institution took over the duties of sorting, restoration, digitization, and publication within the framework of a long term deposit. From the wooden drawers of a moldy, humid room it got transferred to a clean storage space with air conditioning. Its diversity and previous categorization confronted us with numerous challenges. However, the main goal stood without doubt: a consciously built online platform to present the collection in a visually appealing, innovative, user-friendly way, and at the same time to make it available for further historical research.

The team of Budapest City Archives has gathered major experience in digitizing and making publicly available archival documents of different types. The presentation of my colleague Ágnes Telek elaborates this topic to a larger extent.

In recent years we launched a project to update and standardize the previously created four websites dedicated to four thematically sorted groups of documents. Two “virtual archives” are devoted to the life and works of Hungarian architects of the 19th and 20th century (Miklós Ybl and Béla Lajta). In collaboration with the Hungarian Museum of Architecture a collection relating to the work of Károly Kós enriched this palette in 2019. The two other websites concentrate more on historically significant tendencies and events than on personalities. The habitation portal presents lavishly illustrated essays about the apartment and apartment building types of Budapest in the interwar period, the second website shares personal memories of the Holocaust. On the basis of the developed methodology we were able to construct a plan of the new digital archives as a virtual home for the Medgyaszay documents.

Why do the municipal archives aspire to preserve a heritage of national significance? How does an institution profit from the restoration, digitization and publication of a private collection? How to construct a virtual platform for a private heritage? What are the crucial points and challenges when planning such an extensive project? In my case study I seek and offer answers for these fascinating issues.

Keywords: architecture, heritage, digitization, archival websites, virtual archives

Archives and volunteers, a burden or a chance?!

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In the 21st century the archives have been really opened to the public. The internet was not only a beautiful tool to scan and save many millions of documents, but also “democratized” historic sources. An enormous amount of historic documents were more and more available, and became more and more content. And it was not only professional researchers who did the research. More and more “amateurs” began to interact, and with more and more success. History is now very popular, in literature, on television, in every part of society. And many non-professional historians have done great work in the historic field, all thanks to digitization!

In 2009 a huge project started in the city of Sittard in the Netherlands: AEZEL (Archives for the Heritage of Properties and Communities in the South of the Netherlands), or Limburg TimeMachine. In this project the archives and volunteers started working together with one goal: to make all cadastral and genealogical data accessible and connected to each other. The information is visualized in an accessible and authentic way and made available to a large audience. Every historical fact is traceable to the original (scan of the) document. By making use of a “collective” of participants (mainly archives and historical societies) and by using “community-sourcing” facilitated by the archives, rather than using crowdsourcing, some 200 volunteers are connected in a durable way. They invested in the last 13 years well over 200.000 hours of work: scanning, transcribing, vectorizing, connecting etc. What started in one city, Sittard, has now spread over more than 70 cities and villages in the province of Limburg.

In 2017, a genealogical database of all the Limburgers from 1560 to ca. 1950 was coupled to the already available cadastral data. A foundation LGGI (Limburg Genealogical and Historical Institution) takes care of the connected website, that is online since October 2020: AEZEL.EU, almost completely in four languages: English, French, German and Dutch. Almost everything again done by volunteers. These volunteers are very diverse. Scientists, housewives, retired people, but also many people with a great distance to the job market, due to e.g. health problems, long term unemployment, autism or other reasons. More than once, volunteers get a new job after having worked with us for some time, but if not, they found new perspectives and helped a beautiful project! Is it always “Hosannah”? No, volunteers, can also be demanding, do not cost much money, but cost time and communication. Sometimes they can be “difficult”, but is the academic world always easy?

In the lecture, Dr. Peer Boselie, city-archivist of Sittard-Geleen and co-initiator of AEZEL, will give some insight in how the project began and expanded to what it is now, a fast-responding interactive website with millions and millions of facts, altogether giving a nice view into Limburg’s interesting history.

Keywords: volunteers, historical 'big, data', community, sourcing, democratization of research

Les archives d'une ville coloniale par ses fonds "privés". État des lieux, "privatisation" des archives et complémentarité avec les fonds "publics"

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Partagés entre la France et l'Algérie, les documents produits par les administrations publiques de ce pays à la période coloniale sont depuis plus d'un demi-siècle l'objet d'un "contentieux archivistique"² entre les gouvernements des deux États. Au moment de la décolonisation, les archives dites de souveraineté (cabinet des gouverneurs, services de surveillance) ont été déplacées en France, tandis que les archives de gestion (santé, travaux publics, enseignement...) sont restées sur place. Les archives de l'Algérie parvenues en France constituent une importante partie des Archives nationales d'outre-mer (ANOM). En parallèle, de nombreux centres d'archives départementales ou de petits centres de documentation regorgent de fonds de statut privé extrêmement divers, qui apportent une lumière nouvelle sur l'histoire de l'Algérie et de la ville d'Alger. L'histoire de leur constitution, de leurs déplacements, de leur conservation et de leurs potentielles destructions apparaît pourtant comme un angle mort de la recherche. Il s'agit souvent de papiers produits par l'administration mêlés à d'autres plus proprement privés (journaux personnels, correspondance amicale, etc.). Cela témoigne d'une certaine forme d'hybridation dans les modalités de production des documents et de privatisation par les fonctionnaires coloniaux. Ces fonds très hétéroclites sont très mal connus et donc très peu mobilisés dans le cadre d'études historiques.

Archival City, programme de recherche international, s'est donné pour mission de définir une méthodologie pour la description, l'indexation et la visualisation des archives de la ville. Sur le terrain d'Alger, l'un des objectifs principaux est de recenser au sein des archives départementales et des bibliothèques municipales en France divers fonds d'archives de statut privé dans le but de les faire connaître, mais aussi, en les décrivant, de permettre une meilleure connexion à des fonds publics. Cette communication propose ainsi un premier retour d'expérience à partir de fonds d'archives privés concernant Alger, conservés en France et traités dans le cadre d'Archival City : les archives du général Rapatel (Archives départementales d'Île-et-Vilaine et Archives nationales) ; les archives du Comité du Vieil Alger (bibliothèque municipale de Toulon) ; les archives d'élus, notamment de Jacques Chevallier, maire d'Alger de 1953 à 1958 ; les archives d'urbanistes et d'architectes (Jean de Maisonseul, Pierre Dalloz, Centre africain des sciences humaines appliquées, etc.). En particulier, nous montrerons la richesse du dialogue et de la collaboration entre les historiens et les archivistes pour proposer des solutions inventives.

²SOUFI Fouad, "Les archives algériennes en 1962 : héritage et spoliation", *Insaniyat*, 65-66, 2014, p. 211-237.

Keywords: Algérie, Colonisation, Archives déplacées, Hybridation archives, AtOM

European activities in the Framework of Digital Treasures Project

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Archives are fundamental sources for discovering, learning about and reinforcing shared culture and history. “European Digital Treasures” is a project that aims at contributing towards major visibility, outreach and (re)use of joint European archival heritage, in particular in its digital version. Led by the State Archives of Spain, the project’s consortium includes several State/National Archives (Spain, Hungary, Malta, Norway and Portugal) as well as renowned European institutions such as the International Centre for Archival Research (ICARUS, Austria) and Munster Technological University (Ireland). This project was selected in 2018 by the European Commission Agency “The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)” within the Creative Europe-Culture Programme to address some key challenges related to the management and transmission of historical and documentary heritage within the digital society.

We are seeking to develop new business models for European archives in the 21st century, to amplify the visibility of national archives within the larger context of the European heritage, to reach out to new audiences and to support cross-sectoral initiatives by managers, historians, experts, graphical and industrial designers as well as archivists. In this presentation we intend to present the big variety of activities in order to reach the project goals some of them finalized and others running nowadays:

- The pan-European diagnosis of the state of the art about new business models for European archives.
- International Benchmark of Good Practices on new Business Models aims to identify Good Practices and new trends in the management of cultural institutions, in order to be able to assess their potential and implementation towards the Archives subsector
- The contribution of new digital technologies towards the generation of new business models for archives.
- Collaboration between Serious Game and archives.
- Artistic Residence & exchanges for graphic and industrial designers. The purpose of this activity is to identify potential creative merchandising products linked to some selected documents of the archives with an encounter of graphic and industrial designers.
- Interactive transmedia exhibitions based on archival material.
- Archival literacy online course. It is a sustainable and attractive tool linked to young user education on how to use archives (archival literacy).
- Pan-European joint fields of interest between the archives and the younger generation as well as retired people.
- Crowdsourcing activities collaborating with the silver generation.

- Contests focusing on new audiences like “Young Digital Treasures” oriented towards high school students and Treasures in Archives aim at the audio-visual public.

In short, we want to demonstrate with the presentation of this project that European archives can cross the borders of the analogue world with new digital solutions, which allow them to reach society more widely.

Keywords: European Project, European Commission, European Heritage, New audiences, New business models, Cross, sectoral initiative, Transmedia exhibitions

Social Memory Archives: the Experience of the Centre of Religious History Studies (UCP-CEHR)

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The presentation aims to reflect on the organization of social memory archives with the new perspectives offered by Information Science, and on how they constitute an asset for the preservation of the institution's history. The Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Centre of Religious History Studies archivists are responsible for the organization of archival projects like Caritas Portuguesa, Forum Abel Varzim or Margarida Abreu's Collection of the Social Service Institute of Lisbon, already available for consultation on the Personal Archives and Religious Institutions Platform (PAPIR), and others are still being organized

Keywords: Archives, Memory, Archival arrangement, Centro de Estudos de História Religiosa

Documenting Student Lives – Private and Public Archival Perspective

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Participating in the Creative Europe project “They: Live”, which is focused on researching student life on campuses from Second World War until present days, opened several archival and record-keeping issues. Archival practice regarding the documentation of student activities and the preservation of historical resources about students reveals different approaches in European and Anglo-American context, especially concerning traditions of specialised and university archives, as well as approaches to the preservation of private and public records. This paper reflects on concepts of participatory and documentary practices, semantic interconnectivity between public and private archives, and the importance of critical acquisition policies concerning documenting student lives, with examples provided from the archival practice at the University of Zagreb.

Keywords: student lives, private archives, public archives, university archives, participatory documentary practices

Document analysis and recognition

Integrating Public and Private Archives on an International Level

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Archives Portal Europe: from ingestion to automated topic detection. — Archives Portal Europe (www.archivesportaleurope.net) is an online repository bringing together descriptive metadata from archival institutions from more than 30 countries, in more than 20 languages (and 5 different alphabets), and from a variety of institutions: national, regional and local archives, business archives, archives of schools and universities, archives of private persons and families, etc. While the Archives Portal Europe Foundation, established to manage the portal, is mostly controlled by institutional actors, private archives (from museums and galleries to corporate archives) actively collaborate to the initiative by providing their materials for ingestion, and by preparing them according to the same criteria as public institutions, so that all the metadata can be ingested and made searchable by users in Archives Portal Europe with a horizontal approach.

This paper aims to present the challenges and solutions adopted by Archives Portal Europe as a multi-level international aggregator, so that very different archives, from different countries and different traditions, can be merged in the portal for research. The paper will first focus on the portal's use of international standards for interoperability in the ingest, processing and access to such varied material. In this context, selected examples of private archives will showcase the established workflows and processes, which provide a general framework, but still allow for flexibility when required. Secondly, the paper will present some of the functionalities that Archives Portal Europe has worked on especially over the more recent years to facilitate archival research on part of the users, particularly with reference to extending over the usual keyword searches. Two projects will be looked at in order to illustrate this: the first is the possibility of crowdsourcing to users the tagging of relevant documents according to specific topics, which will become available as part of the portal's redesign in May 2022; the second is an automated topic detection tool that enhances and expands the keyword searches conducted by the users semantically in a multilingual environment. The latter is available online, but currently runs on a platform separate from the portal's main user interface.

Through the presentation of the new platform, the paper will explore the problems and opportunities provided by archival collaborations that go over national and international borders, to also embrace institutional diversity, in the creation of what is currently the largest archival repository in the world.

Keywords: Aggregation, Discovery, Automated Topic Detection, Interoperability, Standards

NAMPI - A Prosopographical Infrastructure Solution for the Semantic Web

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Prosopographical data, by its very nature as an exploration of people and their social network, is highly suited for digital environments and technologies. In this regard, many projects have tried to tackle the various problems associated with translating the mainly analogue primary and secondary sources for prosopographies like church registers, necrologies, or profession books, into a digital medium, creating data models and infrastructure for it and publishing this data first on digital storage media like DVDs and, with the advent of the World Wide Web, in online databases. These efforts have shown that it is difficult to create one-size-fits-all structures and easily reusable data without various compromises in structure, interconnectedness or usability.

The NAMPI (Nuns and Monks - Prosopographical Interfaces) project, a research collaboration between the Universities of Vienna and Graz in Austria and the International Centre for Archival Research (ICARUS) funded as part of the go!digital Next Generation grant programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, has tried a different approach to the now traditional, relational-database-based efforts: it aimed at creating a generalized data API and backend based on RDF, inference and an extensible prosopography-ontology inspired by the Factoid-Model by Pasin/Bradley as well as a freely reusable data frontend with an interactive metadata editor that is fully dynamic and based on the provided core and detail ontologies. Our paper for the ICARUS Convention #28, “Private and public archives in the 21st century” will outline the general concept, data model and final state of the software suite while outlining the various experiences made by the project team related to creating a prosopographical data model based on RDF inferences, its advantages disadvantages and what it could mean for other initiatives in this or related fields.

Keywords: Prosopography, NAMPI, RDF, Factoid Model

From Digital to Distant Diplomatics: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Monasterium.net

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Monasterium.net is still the largest resource where medieval and early modern charters are available online. However, it represents essentially the research approach from its beginning phase, where the availability of charters online was a significant achievement and the main question was how to convert our analogue knowledge about the historical documents into a digital form. Monasterium.net has built best practices in the creation of visual representations of charters (“digitisation”), provides access to structured metadata through the Charters Encoding Initiative (CEI) descriptive standards, and offers users the possibility to work with the material. Therefore, it is a brilliant example of what digital diplomatics can achieve: research collections like the Illuminierte Urkunden project (<https://www.monasterium.net/mom/IlluminierteUrkunden/collection>) or the experiment with the conversion of the Censimento attempts into a digital environment (<https://www.monasterium.net/mom/CensimentoDOZA/collection>) demonstrate that research can profit from a tool in which researchers have access to archival holdings and retrodigitised editions to create their own scholarly resources.

However, digital humanities research has demonstrated how much insight one can gain by applying statistical methods to large corpora. In the research with charters, the DEEDS project with its dating algorithm (<http://128.100.218.174:9080/Dater/daterSavingShingles.jsp>) or the work of Nicolas Perraux with the CEMA corpus (<https://cema.lamop.fr/>, Perraux 2021) are prominent examples of this approach.

The presentation will discuss how the recent developments in applying machine learning and artificial intelligence methods can foster this transformation from digital to distant diplomatics, that is in the core of a recently started ERC project (<https://didip.eu>). It attempts to take up the community engagement strand from Monasterium.net, building a virtual research environment in which users of Monasterium Next Generation should get access to services processing images, texts, and structured data as provided by the archives and their colleagues to explore large scale charter collections. The presentation will invite the audience, in particular archives which less access to larger technical expertise to make their charters part of a distant diplomatics research, in which humans might gather new insights into the European history supported by critically evaluated artificial intelligence methods.

Keywords: Monasterium.net, Virtual Research Environment, Distant Reading, European History, Archives, Artificial Intelligence

HTR4PGP: Bootstrapping Automatic Transcription of Medieval Documents in Hebrew Script from the Cairo Geniza

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The Cairo Geniza is a cache of manuscripts discovered in the 19th century in a medieval Egyptian synagogue. Roughly 40,000 geniza fragments are documentary texts such as letters, legal deeds, accounts and lists, most dating from the 11th-13th centuries and written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Judaeo-Arabic (Arabic in Hebrew characters). They are now housed in more than sixty libraries and private collections.

Geniza documents have transformed the history of the medieval Islamic world and its Jewish communities with fine-grained information about the daily lives of medieval women, children, enslaved people, peasants and the anonymous masses, offering a corrective to sources focused on state officials and religious experts. But the texts have remained the preserve of hyperspecialists with training in history, semitic languages and palaeography. To date, only 10% of geniza documents have been transcribed and rendered as searchable text, work that has occupied the Princeton Geniza Project team since 1986. At the current pace, transcribing the rest of the cache would take centuries.

The Princeton team has therefore partnered with the eScriptorium team from the EPHE,PSL, to accelerate transcription through machine-aided palaeography. Our project, HTR4PGP (Handwritten Text Recognition for the Princeton Geniza Project), uses an open-source annotation platform for machine learning called eScriptorium, built around the kraken HTR engine and designed to handle historical languages and complex page layouts. The challenges the documents present are multiple: they are highly fragmentary, they code-switch, some layouts are complex, and the scribes were writing over a broad geographic expanse and many centuries in widely variable hands and scribal registers. The legacy PGP transcriptions, moreover, use different sets of conventions for scholarly transcription and editing.

Our paper will present the bootstrapping process we have devised to overcome the challenges the documents pose to automatic analysis. Our dataset consists of 2,300 fragments (4,600 images) with TEI-XML transcriptions from PGP and IIIF-compliant images from the Cambridge University Digital Library (CUDL). About 40% of the texts are laid out simply in single columns and straight horizontal lines; the remaining 60% contain lines written perpendicularly, diagonally, or upside-down, and in some cases, the writing support has been reused by different hands. For instance, an especially rich, fascinating and common type of geniza text are personal and business letters; these are typically written with diagonal / upside-down lines throughout the margins.

To create ground truth to train general recognition models, we devised an iterative process first to improve existing layout segmentation models, beginning with the simple layouts, then continuing to complex layouts. Our team manually corrected the results of the automatic segmentation, automated the homogenization of PGP edition conventions, then automatically transcribed the texts and manually aligned them with the PGP transcriptions. Our challenge has been to create a new set of HTR models that are few enough to be based on an adequate quantity of ground truth but also specialized enough to handle a heterogeneous corpus.

Keywords: HTR, Medieval Documents, Hebrew script, Judeo, Arabic, Aramaic, Hebrew

Large-Scale Historical Watermark Recognition: Dataset and a New Consistency-Based Approach

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The study of watermarks is a key step for archivists and historians as it enables them to reveal the origin of paper. With a large number of well-defined classes, cluttered and noisy samples, different types of representations, both subtle differences between classes and high intra-class variation, historical watermarks are also challenging for pattern recognition. We recently introduced a new approach for this specific task which showed promising results. Overcoming the difficulty of data collection, we introduced a large public dataset with more than 6k new photographs, allowing for the first time to tackle at scale the scenarios of practical interest for scholars: one-shot instance recognition and cross-domain one-shot instance recognition amongst more than 16k fine-grained classes. We demonstrate that this new dataset is large enough to train modern deep learning approaches, and show that standard methods can be improved considerably by using mid-level deep features. Building upon this approach, we proposed a new public web application dedicated to automatic watermark recognition entitled “Filigranes pour tous”. The application not only hosts a detailed catalog of more than 17k watermarks manually collected from the French National Archives (Minutier central) or extracted from existing online resources (Briquet database), but it also enables non-specialists to identify a watermark from a simple photograph in a few seconds. Moreover, additional watermarks can easily be added by the users making the enrichment of the existing catalog possible through crowdsourcing.

Keywords: Watermarks, deep learning

Tabellionage Normand

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Le projet de recherche sur le **Tabellionage Normand** (TabelNorm) est fondé sur les archives des notaires normands. Les minutes des actes, recopiées dans des registres conservés aux Archives départementales de la Seine-Maritime, se comptent par milliers et les actes par millions (XIV^e-XVII^e siècles). Les archives notariales sont des archives publiques, même si pendant longtemps elles ont été exclues de cette catégorie. En effet, la nature de ces registres n'est pas clairement établie dès le début. Si les tabellions sont considérés comme des officiers publics dès le Moyen Âge et qu'à ce titre, les actes qu'ils établissent peuvent être considérés comme des archives publiques, la conservation des registres par leurs héritiers suscite des interrogations ; les registres les plus anciens du tabellionage de Rouen sont conservés au siège de la juridiction où des scribes reportent les actes établis par chaque notaire, au jour le jour. Il faut attendre la loi de 1979 pour que soit officiellement établi le statut d'archives publiques pour les minutes de notaires. Le délai de conservation dans les études est alors fixé à 100 ans, puis ramené à 75 ans avec la loi de 2008. En archives, ce n'est pas le contenu qui détermine le caractère de l'acte mais son contexte de production.

Le fonds ciblé est celui des **tabellions rouennais pour l'année 1465**. Ces documents témoignent d'une pratique de l'écrit spécifique, où les actes de chaque tabellion exerçant à Rouen sont consignés dans un grand registre sur parchemin et classés par ordre chronologique. Au-delà de l'aspect matériel, impressionnant par les dimensions des registres et les reliures sur ais de bois encore subsistantes, la diversité des actes conservés permet de mieux saisir la réalité des structures sociales, la place des femmes, les croyances, le bâti urbain, les relations entre Normands et Anglais (1419-1450), en particulier les procès et les règlements infrajudiciaires etc. Cependant, les nombreuses abréviations qui jalonnent chaque acte rendent difficile l'appropriation de cette source par des non-spécialistes : ces manuscrits rédigés en français d'une écriture cursive, mais bien formée, sont largement inexploités en raison des formules juridiques sévèrement abrégées et souvent remplacées par "etc". Ces difficultés, ajoutées à la masse des actes, expliquent la sous-exploitation du tabellionage jusqu'à ce jour.

L'ambition du projet **TabelNorm** est de répondre à un double enjeu : rendre accessible à divers publics une source importante de documents communs à l'ensemble des services d'archives par une analyse et transcription automatique de la masse des actes, et aider à leur lecture. Une méthodologie nouvelle permettant une analyse globale des actes d'une année du tabellionage de Rouen (1465), est rendue possible grâce à la formation d'une équipe interdisciplinaire de chercheurs relevant des archives, de laboratoires d'histoire et du droit, de l'intelligence artificielle et des humanités numériques.

Keywords: tabellions, Rouen, paléographie, archives, abréviations, formules juridiques, analyse automatique, reconnaissance de forme, édition numérique

Organisation, scientific committee, and sponsors

The **scientific committee** consists of Dr. Sébastien BARRET (IRHT, Paris, France), Frédérique BAZZONI (Ministry of Culture, Paris, France), Dr. Vlatka LEMIĆ (University of Zagreb, Croatia), Jean-François MOUFFLET (Archives nationales, Paris, France), Dr. Dominique STUTZMANN (IRHT, Paris, France), Dr. Edouard VASSEUR (Ecole nationale des Chartes, Paris, France), Dr. Žarko VUJOŠEVIĆ (Belgrade University, Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade, Serbia)

The local ICARUS organisers are Sébastien BARRET and Dominique STUTZMANN.

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Archives nationales (France)

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Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes

L'Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes (IRHT), laboratoire du CNRS et membre d'ICARUS depuis 2011, organise la présente convention d'ICARUS. Le Campus Condorcet héberge la manifestation.



Agence nationale de la recherche

L'agence nationale de la recherche participe à l'organisation du workshop Monasterium par l'intermédiaire du projet PRCI BeCoRe (ANR-19-CE27-0021).

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