

сети Интернет по адресу <http://sodd.by/> в рамках запуска этой системы открыт доступ к перечню фондов и части описей НИАБ и других архивов Беларуси. эта система временно не работает. Но с 2020 г. удаленный доступ к цифровым копиям описей ко всем фондам Национального исторического архива Беларуси открыт на сайте архива (<https://niab.by/newsite/by/navukova-davedachny-aparat>). Описание и аннотации всех фондов архива представлены на сайте «Фондовый каталог государственных архивов Республики Беларусь» (<https://fk.archives.gov.by/catalogue/9/>). В дальнейшем эта система будет наполняться данными в облачном хранилище на уровне дел и листов, что позволит минимизировать использование оригиналов дел в работе и обеспечить доступ пользователей к документам НАФ посредством Интернета.

Подводя итог можно констатировать, что, несмотря на имеющиеся сложности в области обеспечения сохранности документов и фондов, НИАБ достигнуты определенные успехи в этом направлении и, я надеюсь, эта работа и далее будет проводиться на должном уровне.

Дмитрий Яцевич

THE STATE ARCHIVAL SYSTEM IN LITHUANIA AFTER 1990

In 2018, Lithuania commemorated the 30th anniversary of the restoration of independence. Over the past three decades, the state archival system of Lithuania has faced various challenges and has gone through different operational changes. The activities of the state archival system of Lithuania were influenced by several factors, including the transformation of the entire system of state government, the need to establish a new network of the public administration institutions starting with 1990, and the application of methods and practices employed in the EU member states and other countries. The aim of this article is to identify the basic structural and operational changes in the activities of archives as well as their goals over the past three decades.

Basic structural changes. After the restoration of independence in 1990, the Republic of Lithuania inherited the state archival system with a quite well-defined hierarchic structure – the network of archives subordinate to the Board of Archives under the Cabinet of Ministers. Consequently, the institutional framework was also changed after the restoration of independence. In this aspect, two main stages can be defined:

1. 1990–2010. During this period, the state archival system consisted of the General Directorate of the Lithuanian State Archives (later on, Archives Department under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania) and the state archives, the number of which totalled 15. The Archives Department was in direct subordination to the Government. The above-mentioned department had more freedom in taking strategic and operational decisions. The Law on Archives, adopted in 1990,¹ was in force until 1995. Since 2005, we have been following the Law on Documents and Archives.²

¹ Law on Archives. Register of Legal Acts: <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.F079527298F9> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

² Law on Documents and Archives. Register of Legal Acts: <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.1FEF229DA7C6/asr> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

In order to assess the strategic plans and legal acts adopted by the Archives Department of that period, greater attention was paid to the regulation of document management. The decisions, taken in 2006 regarding the regulation of the electronic document management, subsequently developed into a set of documents and the state-wide infrastructure – the specification of electronic documents in ADOC format was confirmed, and the institutions were respectively obligated to reform their information systems. However, the legal acts regulating the specific functions of the state, like document management, accounting, or digitalization, were still lacking. Besides the initiatives to create the infrastructure (the document management system and other tools) required for electronic document management, great attention was paid to the activities related to the digitalization of documents stored in the state archives. Some of the archives purchased the equipment for digitalization and started implementing the digitalization projects, thus developing their competencies and know-how. Digitalization has been applied as one of the tools for document use, i.e., as a possibility for consumers to get acquainted with documents: the reading rooms of the archives were the first places to access digitalized images.

It was only after the restoration of the independence of Lithuania when efforts were made in order to return the movable cultural property, unlawfully removed from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. The process of signing the agreements on cooperation with the national archives of the present EU member states and other countries (Russia, etc.) started. The state archives were not only involved in the accumulation of the documentary heritage but also were bringing it up to date in the form of exhibitions, publications, etc. During this period, permanent exhibitions prevailed, and the forms of dissemination of documents were rather ordinary: publications in the printed press as well as radio or TV programs presenting archival documents.

2. 2011 – until recently. The domain of documents, including the system of the state archives, was made subordinate to the Minister of Culture. This decision was taken with the view of making it a common practice when the respective ministries are shaping the general policy in the specific areas of their management. The institutions, assigned to the area of management of the minister, are active policymakers or participants in the implementation of the policy.

The state archival system is comprised of the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania and the state archives. After the reorganization of some county archives in 2017, at present, there are 9 state archives. In conformity with the Law on Documents and Archives (amended and effectual since 2011), the Chief Archivist of Lithuania – a person employed by the State – and not the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, is the entity with the powers conferred by the law. While the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania is still a government institution, the situation with the state archives has been slightly amended: the Government of the Republic of Lithuania is the founder, the Ministry of Culture exercises the rights and obligations of the owner, and the Chief Archivist of Lithuania is the appropriations' operator. The directors of the state archives are directly appointed/ discharged by the Chief Archivist of Lithuania and are accountable to him. It is necessary to mention that the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania is a governmental agency, which takes part in state policymaking in the area of documents and archives management and uses, and also implements the policy. The requirements for document

management, electronic document formats, and the order of their management during their entire life cycle are defined in the legal acts issued by the Chief Archivist of Lithuania. They also regulate the activities of state archives including the services offered by the archives.

The assignment of the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania to the management area of the Ministry of Culture had an impact on the division of competences between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Culture as well as on the decision making, appropriation management, etc. Firstly, the assignment to the area of management of the Ministry of Culture spotlighted the duality of the functions of the state archives (public administration and culture: provision of the access to documents, dissemination of documents, arrangement of exhibitions and educational events, provision of services of the cultural nature to the public). The state archives once again had to find their place in the strategic documents and resolutions of this area of management. It was necessary to give the evaluation of the educational activities and/or dissemination of the protected heritage by such memory institutions as museums and libraries, also to make an assessment of the field of their competencies, which is closely related to digitalization, etc. The assignment to the area of management of the Ministry of Culture made it necessary to equal archives to libraries and museums, which were in direct subordination to the Ministry of Culture. However, we still face the situation when archives lack strategic consideration, as the continuity of the accumulation function, including the accumulation of the digital content of the public sector and access to this content, are of vital importance for the state archives. A few legal acts were drafted regarding the special functions of the state archives (auditing of archives, document management, and accounting as well as arrangement of storage of documents, receiving of the documents from natural persons, digitalization, etc.). In conclusion, the system of the state archival system remains a hierarchic structure. However, the ongoing processes are aimed at making this hierarchy flatter. The existence of the separated archival system allows better planning and coordination of the activities, also to identify common needs and problems faster. Nevertheless, such a hierarchical system has its weaknesses: the infrastructure of information and communication technologies is among them.

Essential experiences: the creation of the digital content and the access to it, some limitations of electronic documents, and certain aspects of the dissemination of the documentary heritage. Since 1990, activities of the state archives have been related to the changes in the public sector. With the extensive use of information systems, new IT search tools appeared and new databases (for management of video and audio documents and accounting of the documents preserved) have been created. Since 2011, more emphasis in strategic activity planning was put on the dissemination of the documentary heritage, the access to it, creation of the digital content, and its dissemination by the means of information technologies.

Three state information systems are being managed. In 2011, an electronic archives system (EAIS) was created for satisfying various needs, including the needs of electronic documents of digital-born. The ADOC electronic document format has been integrated into the information systems of many state agencies (The Register of Legal Acts can store documents in this format only). Public institutions exchange documents in this format; this is also the format, in which private entities must present their documents when

applying to public institutions. The documents in the above-mentioned format have added significantly to the creation of e-government. Electronic documents in ADOC format are being taken over from state agencies, assigned to the state archives. The use of the system tools ensures access to the inventories of documents, preserved in the state archives as well as provides the possibility to coordinate the institutional documents (documentation plans, etc.). In the same year, the information system e-cinema³ was created. This is the digitalized archive of the Lithuanian documentary cinema archives, which provides for the preservation and dissemination on the Internet the documentary cinema heritage, accumulated in the Lithuanian Central State Archives. In 2015, the integral system for providing administrative services⁴ was created, the tools of which enabled people to order files to the reading rooms, submit applications and make use of other services. Besides the above-mentioned state information systems, archives have several search tools, which are used in their reading rooms and which are intended for specific documents (video, audio, etc.). At present, there are also three portals for publicizing digital content. On the website “Electronic Archives of Documents of Lithuanian Partisans”⁵ (E-partisans archive) one can find digitalized documents of Lithuanian partisans from the period of armed resistance against the Soviet occupation in 1944–1953. Another website “Portal of Maps of the Lithuanian Central State Archives”⁶ contains photographs of the territory of Lithuania, which were taken by the military intelligence of the air forces of Germany (Luftwaffe) during World War II and which are actually preserved in the US National Archives. On the portal of archives of Lithuanian literature and art “Cultural Archives”⁷, people can get acquainted with digitalized documents related to culture. Thus, the above-mentioned new dissemination tools, that have been created in the recent five years, are employed during the educational activities in the archives and to satisfy the consumer needs (update of educational content and the like).

Presently, there are two digitalization competence centres in the archival system. The Centre of Written Documents is in the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, and the other one – the Centre of Audio-Visual Heritage – is in the Lithuanian Central State Archives. The activities of the two centres are integrated into strategic documents, concerned with digitalization, which is applied nationwide. Recently, both centres of digitalization competencies have been developing information systems within the framework of two projects financed by the EU. During the implementation of these projects, nine brand-new services are to be created. After the EAIS is updated, consumers will be able to get access to the digitalized written documents stored in the state archives by making use of the EAIS tools. The documents of the two EU projects provide for the digital content to be stored in the centralized state “clouds”. It is important to mention that four state archives out of nine administer digitalization and have already implemented or are implementing more than one digitalization project. As long as there is demand for further development of the above-mentioned state information systems, the archives will

³ <http://www.e-kinas.lt/en/titulinis> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

⁴ <https://iaps-pub.archyvai.lt/en/web/guest/elektronines-paslaugos> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

⁵ <http://epartizanai.archyvai.lt/> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

⁶ <https://lcva.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

⁷ <https://archivesofculture.com/> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

have to possess the equipment for digitalization and data storage for the management and preservation of digital content.

Focusing on electronic documents prevented the timely evaluation of the change of the role of the state archives in the management of state information resources. Such management with a strong focus on the management of the registers and state information systems excluded the participation of the state archives. This means that the state archives lack the authorization to take over the IS data with the purpose of historical or similar research. It is very hard to change the legal regulation in this aspect, as the managers of the state information (managers of the systems) qualify the preservation of such data as well as their availability for the public from different positions. However, the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania is purposely seeking to create a legal basis when the state archives can take over for permanent preservation the data not only from liquidated systems (when the data from liquidated systems are not transferred to any other systems) but also the data from the functioning information systems with the purpose to use it for historical or another kind of scientific research. The Office and the state archives have already started the data selection procedures of the information systems that are entered into the Register of the state information systems – there are 365 systems of this kind. It is also expected that in the nearest future we will manage not only to adjust the Law on Documents and Archives but to update the EAIS in the appropriate way as well. It is also believed that such data would supplement the documentary heritage with significant information, which is going to ensure the preservation and accessibility of such information.

The archives employ new forms of dissemination of the documentary heritage, such as the website of virtual exhibitions as well as social media. They also cooperate with other memory institutions, educational institutions, and other organizations interested in the heritage. The state archives are becoming more visible, and they are equal partners. Various educational activities implemented by the archives were a clear indication of the fact that the archives are very successful in fostering the documentary heritage and able to apply new forms of communication. The archives have already proved that they are trustworthy partners of Lithuanian and foreign memory institutions. It was the Lithuanian archives that were entrusted by their German Colleagues to preserve the document, evidencing the declaration of independence, which was discovered in the Political Archives of Germany in 2017, for the time when this document was not exhibited to the public.

In Lithuania, the documents, related to Lithuania and preserved by the efforts of the Lithuanian diaspora, are regarded with the growing interest and managed in cooperation with the Lithuanian World Community and other document preservers. We go to particular countries and visit Lithuanian communities there with the purpose to provide methodological assistance to the representatives of the communities. There, the documents are organized and described, also wherever possible, the documents are digitalized and their digital content is transferred to Lithuanian memory institutions for preservation. In 2014, the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania started working consistently with the documentary heritage of the Lithuanian emigration. A new search tool has been created that provides access to the information on the Lithuanian emigration fonds preserved both in Lithuania and abroad. This new tool is aimed at

making the website of the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania www.archyvai.lt⁸ the link connecting memory institutions and providing information on the documentary heritage significant to Lithuania, which is preserved in various countries of the world including Lithuanian communities there, or by individuals and other memory institutions.

In general, we must point out that the main functions of the state archives in Lithuania (similar to other countries) did not undergo many changes. However, the content of the archives or the methods applied there varied more while making the efforts to absorb the audio-visual or electronic documents of digital origin and to preserve them. The state archival system seeks to keep pace with the latest developments of modern technologies in order to accumulate the documentary heritage and to increase its relevance. We can only rejoice over an excellent opportunity to draw people's attention to the archives – on 19 October 2021 to commemorate 100th anniversary of archives in the Republic of Lithuania. The Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania initiated the year 2021 to be declared the Year of Archives by the resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.⁹

The aims of the state archival system. We maintain a firm attitude that a state must preserve its documentary heritage with the purpose to meet the needs of the society in the future and substantiating facts and evidence. Therefore, the policymaking, as well as data managing agencies and institutions, have to show concern about the long-term preservation of IS documents in order to meet society needs.

In Lithuania, the problem of preservation of IS documents, Internet websites, and e-mails has not been solved so far. The issues of the preservation of the social media content or preservation of the information, registered by any other modern media tools, are still relevant. Without the existing legal basis for taking over the IS data for preservation and for historical or any other kind of research, a significant part of the state documentary heritage is lost. Lithuanian state archives are authorized to supplement the National Document Fond with documents of enduring value that have been produced by legal bodies. However, there is a lack of legal regulations regarding IS data or other digital content management. As a result, the state archives accumulate only a small part of written documents produced by the private sector and only an insignificant part of the digital content produced by the public sector (electronic documents and audio-visual documents as physical media).

In 2016, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania started the implementation of significant reforms. The functions of the institutions and agencies subordinate to the government of the Republic of Lithuania are being consolidated. At the same time, the document management function is undergoing a reform including the changes in the management of the state information resources and their strategic management. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania initiated the creation of the common document management system, which will be used by more than 500 public institutions. The emphasis is not only on document management but also on record management as well

⁸ <http://www.archyvai.lt/lt/iseivijos-fondai.html> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

⁹ Nutarimas dėl 2021 metų paskelbimo Archyvų metais, Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas, 2019 m. spalio 10 d. Nr. XIII-2472. <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/Oecde790ef5311e99681cd81dcdca52c> [Reviewed 06.03.2020.].

as on the need to optimize various processes and procedures. Such decisions pursue several aims: to decrease the use of different tools in the document management area, to reduce the budget allocations for monitoring the document management systems, and to unify the level of maturity of various institutions in document management. The Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania makes every effort to ensure that the state archives and their development would find a proper place in the Lithuanian Culture Strategy 2030 prepared by the Ministry of Culture.

The state archives of Lithuania are undergoing multiple changes which aim at:

Repeated use of historical information (documents) and generation of economic profit, i.e., providing access to digital information (data and documents) collections as primary sources for users (both people and companies). This is related to the open access to various digital content (collections of information) stored in the archives.

Storing, preservation, and dissemination of documentary heritage that consists of miscellaneous digital content produced by the public and the private sector.

The state archives seek to become guardians of the documents of miscellaneous digital content, who can ensure free access to this content. Therefore the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania takes an active part in the legislation – they submit their proposals of amendments to the Law on Archives. The Office participates in cross-sectoral activities with the aim to make policymaking institutions understand the problems the archives are facing. It also participates in taking important decisions. Now, the state archives are facing various challenges related to their competencies and facilities. However, their answer to the key question “To be or not to be” is, of course, “To be”...

Daiva Lukšaitė

STARPTAUTISKĀ KONFERENCE “NOSARGĀT VALSTI. TOREIZ UN TAGAD: BALTIJAS VALSTU PRETOŠANĀS PIEREDZE UN UKRAINA”

2022. gada 17. martā Rīgas pilī Latvijas Valsts prezidents rīkoja starptautisku konferenci, kas veltīta Nacionālās pretošanās kustības piemiņas dienai, ko šogad Latvijā atzīmējam pirmo reizi. Konferences mērķi bija izvērtēt Baltijas valstu pretošanās pieredzi un tās starptautisko nozīmi, šo pieredzi skatot kontekstā ar Krievijas karu pret Ukrainu. Konferencē piedalījās liels skaits uzaicināto dalībnieku: ārvalstu diplomātiskā korpusa pārstāvji, Latvijas Satversmes tiesas un tiesību sargājošo institūciju pārstāvji, Saeimas deputāti, vēstures, arhīvu un muzeju speciālisti, ārpolitikas un drošības politikas eksperti.

Konferences pirmajā daļā ar referātiem par Baltijas nacionālās pretošanās jautājumiem uzstājās Latvijas Valsts prezidents Egils Levits, Tartu Universitātes (Igaunija) profesors Lauri Melkso (*Mälksoo*) un Vītauta Dižā Universitātes (Lietuva) profesors