

*The Role of the International Institute for Archival Science
in the Exchange of the Latest Experiences in Archival Science
and Websites Dedicated to Archives*

Dijana PETRESKA

Gordana MOJSOSKA

The State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia
Skopje, Macedonia

The *International Institute for Archival Science*¹ (IIAS) is a successor of the Centre for Technical and Professional Problems in Archives, founded in 1986 in Maribor on the initiative of Peter Pavel Klasinc.² The idea of establishing a general institution dealing with current issues of archival science was formed at archival meetings in Radenci, which were organized by the Regional Archives Maribor³ under the leadership of Peter Pavel Klasinc.

Since 2005 it is hosted by the Italian State Archives in Trieste (and also named the International Institute for Archival Science of Trieste and Maribor) as a result of a protocol signed with the Italian Ministry of Culture's Department for Archives and Libraries.

The Autumn Archival School, organized since 2007 at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, offers a post graduate weekly course with an

¹ The institute is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization, working in the field of archival science, training *ad hoc* human resources, and uniting member countries in order to best save the archival heritage. It organizes the International Archival Day. IIAS now comprises 20 member countries: Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Slovak Republic, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, and the Ukraine. IIAS is a member of the International Council on Archives (ICA).

² Director of the International Institute for Archival Science of Trieste and Maribor.

³ <http://www.pokarh-mb.si/index.php?id=2&L=2>

international participation in Trieste. The lectures discuss topics concerning archival science, the digital documentation and management of archives, archival ethics, and the European and international ad hoc legislation. A number of scholars, lecturers and students participated in two significant international archival meetings held in Trieste, Italy.

The institute's main activity is the organization of the *International Archival Day* that since 2009 has been expanded to include an International Fair displaying equipment for archives and libraries from different companies. The International Archival Day, organized since 1991 first in Radenci in Slovenia and since 2005 in Trieste in Italy, brings together archival experts to discuss one or two major topics.⁴ Some past topics are: Archives in the 20th Century (2009); Evaluation of Archival Records & Archival Safety (2008); Electronic Records & Private Archives (2007). The papers from the meetings held since 2003 are available online.

Because ICA dedicates great attention on these current issues, many important persons and experts take part at the Conference.⁵

ATLANTI is the institute's official annual serial publication, published since 1991, devoted to current issues in the field of archival science. The publication *Archives – Modern Archives* was published annually from 1979 to 2003. There is a forum within the institute dedicated to the international archival community. The papers were published in the 20th Issue of *ATLANTI* which was presented on the Conference 2010. The topics chosen by the Assembly of the Members⁶ for this 20th edition of the meeting were

⁴ Slovenian, Italian and English are the official languages.

⁵ David LEITCH, Secretary General of ICA, Luciano SCALA, Director of the General Directorate of Archives, Antonio DENTONI LITTA, President of the Assembly of the IAS, Grazia TATÒ, Director of the State Archive of Trieste, Gerhard PFANZELTER, Secretary General of CEI (from Austria), and Franci DEMŠAR, Director of the Slovenian Research Agency in Ljubljana.

⁶ Members: Elisabeth SCHÖGGL-ERNST, *Steiermärkisches Landesarchiv*, Graz, Austria; Azem KOŽAR, *University of Tuzla*, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Robert NAHUET, *Archival Records & Special Collection Branch Library and Archives Canada*, Ottawa, Canada; Živana HEĐBELI, *Office of General Administration Service of the Croatia Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia - head of Registry Office*, Zagreb, Croatia; Marie-Claude DELMAS, *Centre historique des Archives nationales*, Paris, France; Grazia TATÒ, *Archivio di Stato di Trieste*, Trieste, Italy; Snežana PEJOVIĆ, *Archiv Kotor*, Kotor, Montenegro; Magdalene MAROSZ,

Archival legislation and Web sites dedicated to archives, recently much debated in the archival world.

The IAS website is constantly updated in the three official languages of the Institute, English, Italian and Slovenian.

Within the framework of the 20th International Archival Day, the Conference “Archival Legislation and Web Sites Dedicated to Archives” and the IAS Autumn Archival School 2010 were organized by the General Directorate of Archives, the International Institute for Archival Science of Trieste and Maribor, the State Archive of Trieste and the Central European Initiative (CEI).

The two-day meeting found an enthusiastic answer from all over the world, and the lectures, because of their high scientific level, will contribute to a common sharing.

Twenty-two lecturers from a number of countries – Italy, Austria, Slovenia, France, Russia, the Slovak Republic, Belarus, Great Britain, Spain, Israel, Greece, Portugal, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic and Serbia - presented their articles related to the Archival Legislation. The need of standardizing the archival legislation at European level in the field of transfer to the historical archives, consultation, access and accessibility was underlined. The question was asked “why archives and archivists are “feared” by historians, administrators and politicians”.⁷ What was emphasized was the importance of the archival legislation in the Russian Federation, the structure of the archival fund and other issues related to the archival legislation and its implementation in the archival management⁸. An accent was put on issues related to the access to public archives and the right to free access to public information in Slovak Republic⁹.

State Archiv in Cracow, Cracow, Poland; Michail V. LARIN, *VNIIDAD*, Moscow, Russia; Peter Pavel KLASINC, *International Institute for Archival Science*, Maribor, Slovenia; Josef HANUS, *Slovak National Archives*, Bratislava, Slovak Republic; Francisco Javier AGUADO GONZALES, *ABC*, Madrid, Spain; Iryna MATYASCH, *Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute on Archives and Document Studies*, Kiev, Ukraine.

⁷ Grazia TATÒ, *Who's Afraid of Archives? Or: Which Legislation for the Society of the Future?*, *Atlanti*, Vol. 20, Trieste 2010, pp. 51-67.

⁸ Dr. Michail V. LARIN, *The Russian Archival legislation*, *Atlanti*, ..., pp. 69-75.

⁹ J. HANUS et al., *Access to Archives in the Slovak Archival Legislation*, *Atlanti*, ..., 77-82.

The multilingual portal www.archividelmediterraneo.org which is a national project of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage-General Directorate for Archives was promoted by the Catania State Archives, which sees the participation of some of the most prestigious Italian State Archives. The project started in 2006 and was entirely finished and approved in 2009. A vast amount of documents and cartographic collections with catalogue description were conserved in the historic archives of Italy and the countries of the Mediterranean.¹⁰

A great attention was put on the Web portal of Slovenian Historiography – Sistory. This research infrastructure program was initiated in 2006 at the Institute for Contemporary History, within which the web portal History of Slovenia – Sistory was developed in 2008.¹¹ Some nations have designed and implemented a network of archival description networks to ensure that people interested in archives are aware that archival material does exist and is available for research to anyone as is the case in Canada.¹² An accent was also put on the general acceptance of the Internet and web technology through the latest indicators on the penetration of information and communication technologies in Monte Negro in relation to Europe and the Region¹³.

The current issues at the State Archive in Krakow related to the re-organization of the web site in accordance with the Regulations for Circulation of Documentation were presented. The new system will be put into effect in 2012.¹⁴ The results from the implementation of the new software for management of libraries and archives were presented. The report also provided a description of the opportunities arising from the inclusion in the Generali web portal of links to the Generali Central Library of Trieste, the INA Assitalia Library of Roma and successively also to INA Assitalia and

¹⁰ Aldo SPARTI, *Mediterranean Multimedia Historical Archive Project - @SMM, Atlanti, ...*, pp. 277-286.

¹¹ Mojca ŠORN, *History of Slovenia – Sistory: Web Portal of Slovenian Historiography, Atlanti, ...*, pp. 287-292.

¹² Robert NAHUET, *Access to Archives in Canada: Networks and Interoperability: How to Enhance Access to Canadian Archives, Atlanti, ...*, pp. 287-292.

¹³ Snežana PEJOVIĆ, *Archives and Web Technology: an Unavoidable Imperative of the Modern Age, Atlanti, ...*, pp. 305-321.

¹⁴ Magdalena MAROSZ, *Archival Web Site. The Compatibility with a Computerized System for Electronic Management of Documentation, Atlanti, ...*, pp. 323-333.

Generali Archives.¹⁵ It emphasized that the need to keep the web sites of the Archives up-to-date is a never-ending story, and illustrated the point of this perpetual enterprise in Germany citing the present web site of Staatliche Archive Bayerns, the web sites of other German archives and the special project in Munich.¹⁶ Some of the web sites dedicated to the Archival Science of the EU Institutions providing their internet addresses and some information about their home pages were also presented: the web sites concerning the archival resources of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the DLM Forum, the MoReq Project, EURONOMOS, APENet, the Historical Archives of the European Union, the Blue Guide to the Archives of Member States' Foreign Ministries and European Union Institutions.¹⁷ An attention was drawn on the archival finding aids available through the Internet, to the problems related to their use regarding the general interoperability. Special emphasis was put on the non-harmonized professional terminology, the methods for providing public faith, online archival finding aids, and the semantic and syntactic aspects of the information acquired from databases through web applications. The author looked for solutions in terms of consistent implementation of the professional archival standards and the OAIS model.¹⁸

An accent was put on the ten-year development of the Internet services, which helped the National Archives of Estonia acquire significant experience of the Archival Science. The national archival information system AIS and Saaga (collection of digitized archival records) were listed among the most important achievements.¹⁹

Serbian Archives were presented on the Internet, the content that is offered, the standard menu of their web sites, etc. The purpose was not only to describe the current situation but also to analyse if these web sites were

¹⁵ Antonio RATTI, *The Historical Archive of INA – Generali Group – at the Service of International Research*, *Atlanti*, ..., pp. 335-345.

¹⁶ Christian KRUSE, *Staatliche Archive Bayerns in the World Wide Web*, *Atlanti*, ..., pp. 347-360.

¹⁷ Antonio MONTEDURO, *Browsing European Archives: Web Sites of the European Union Dedicated to Archives*, *Atlanti*, ..., pp. 361-367.

¹⁸ Miroslav NOVAK, *The OAIS Model as the Paradigm of the Online Access to the Archival Databases*, *Atlanti*, ..., pp. 369-376.

¹⁹ Helina TENNASILM, *Integrated Archival Web Services. Estonian Example*, *Atlanti*, ..., pp. 383-388.

in compliance with the principles of quality proposed by the European project "MINERVA."²⁰ The issue of whether the information was power in a time when the National Archival Services were sinking in a state of destitution and negligence among other state institutions. It was argued that information was power only if it was "sold" as useful for the users. Therefore, it was said, archivists and archival institutions must learn how to advertise and "sell" the information they shelter.²¹

As usual, the producers for digital (scanning) equipment from the Hyperborea s.r.l. Company and M.I.D.A. Informatica s.n.c. Company were presented at the end of the second day of the Conference.

The papers presented at this Conference and published in the Review ATLANTI 2010 offered a treasure trove of new and interesting knowledge and experiences from the archival theory and practice resulting from many research projects done in several countries, such as Canada, Malaysia and Israel. These articles will assist the exchange of experiences from the area of the archival legislation and application of information technologies in the Archival Science.



Autumn Archival School

The 4th *Autumn Archival School*²² took place on October 13-15, 2010. Thirty-two students from Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Malaysia, Montenegro, the Sultanate of Oman, Romania, Russia, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia participated in the School. Official languages were English, Italian and Slovenian. The lectures were held at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics Abdus Salam in Trieste. Lectures were given by high professionals coming from all over the world, focusing on the same topics

²⁰ Olivera PORUBOVIĆ-VIDOVIĆ, *Archives on the Internet: Serbian Case Study, Atlanti, ...*, pp. 389-399.

²¹ Bogdan Florin POPOVICI, *Information is Power? Or not?, Atlanti, ...*, pp. 409-418.

²² Postgraduate training on issues relating to archival legislation and web sites dedicated to archives

as the Conference. Several lecturers from the first Conference also delivered lectures in front of the students.²³

The participation in the School is only on invitation by the IAS Executive Board.

On October 13, 2010 the Autumn Archival School was opened and the students were presented. Students worked on the translation of archival definitions in their languages. The students from Macedonia were praised as the best and the fastest in the translation of the archival definitions. The *Glossary of Regional Historical Terminology*, edited in 1995 in German, Italian and Slovene is the institute's main publication and is upgraded yearly at the Autumn Archival School. It has standardized the technical-scientific language regarding archival science. The *Short Edition of ILAS Dictionary of Modern Archival Terminology* was presented by Dr. Antonio Monteduro. The latest information technology such as presentation through video conference from Canada²⁴ was used. The Slovenian archival system, transfer of data, and MO-

²³ Mariella GUERCIO (Italy) - *Information Technology and Archivists*. Michael LARIN (Russia) - Director of All-Russian Scientific and Research Institute of Archives and Records Management - *Archival Legislation in Russia and Experiences from its Application*. Barbara BERTINI (Italy) - Director of the Archivio di Stato di Milano - *Prevention is Better than Cure*. Michael COOK (Great Britain) - Centre for Archive Studies, University of Liverpool - *Freedom of Information: Legislation that has Radically Changed Archival Practice*. The second day of the School started with the lecture of Dr. Carlo VIVOLI (Italy) from Archivio di Stato di Pistoia entitled *Il Sistema Archivistico Nazionale*. He presented the standards used in the systems ISAD(G), ISDIAH and ISAAR(cpf). Charles KECKSEMETI, former General Director of ICA, spoke on the EU Recommendations for Archives: Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents CETS No205/18 of June 2009 and the Recommendation on a European Policy on Access to Archives of July 13, 2000. Also, he addressed the Universal Declaration for Archives adopted by the Annual General Meeting in Oslo on September 28, 2010, available in four languages. According to him, archivists have to be consulted during the preparation of the Law. Dr. Marie-Claude DELMAS (France), Dr. Josef HANUS (Slovak Republic) and Dr. Robert NAHUET (Canada) participated in the first meeting with the members of the International Institute for Archival Science.

²⁴ Prof. Luciana DURANTI presented her article on about the *Archival and Information Studies* in Power Point.

NASTERIUM²⁵ were presented on the Internet in collaboration with EUROPEANA²⁶.

At the end of this Autumn School all attendees and lecturers received their certificates for attending the School.

Everyone having been afforded the opportunity to be part of these two archival events in Trieste acquired an extraordinary experience in view of the contemporary subjects being discussed and particularly bearing in mind the good organization of the IIAS Trieste-Maribor.

²⁵ <http://www.monasterium.net/>

²⁶ <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>