Levéltári Szemle / Archival Review - 2019

Résumé of the 3rd issue:

This issue offers mostly longer, cover-all writings. The first publication by István Kenyeres presents a strategic development plan of the Budapest City Archives, which would be useful and interesting reading for experts in several archival fields. A writing of István Boross covers the transformation and current usability of a special finding aid, the storage index. There is a study on a very instructing research case and its subsequent trial – the so called László Kiss case – which takes an approach to the collision & balance of data protection and publicity on this issue, by Viktor Haraszti. Anna Lüders, an archivist student of the Vocational College in Potsdam reports her impressions about the Hungarian archival system from a foreign archivist's point of view, which she gathered during her professional practice in Hungary.

Within this issue, there is a book review by Dániel Siptár about the volume 'Folyamatosság és változás' – Egyházszervezet és hitélet a veszprémi püspökség területén a 16–17. században ('Continuity and change' – Church organisation and religious activities in the territory of the Diocese of Veszprém during the 16-17th Centuries), issued by the Archives of the Archdiocese of Veszprém as well as assembly reports of the Council of the Hungarian Archives' Leaders and the Association of Young Archivists, by Viktor Haraszti and Ágnes Németh.

István Kenyeres: Strategic development plan of the Budapest City Archives between 2019 and 2023

Hungarian archives must compulsorily draw up a conservation plan to every 5 years and digitisation plan to every 3 years, however, a conscious development and effective management of archives requires a more comprehensive strategic plan. The author reveals the principles of planning an institutional strategy in a wider context. With a medium-term strategy of the archives, he presents all areas of the institute, including professional archival work, scientific activities and exploitation of knowledge, as comprehensively as possible. Readers are informed not only about the plans and concepts of development, but also about the processes of recent improvements and the current status of the Budapest City Archives.

István Boross: Metamorphosis of the storage indexes

Storage indexes – a special finding aid – are considered as a Hungarian specificity. The writer follows the history of that typical Hungarian finding aid from the second half of the 20th Century up to the present day. At the end of the 1950s and during the following years, the greatest challenge was how to define the term of storage index. This finding aid provided several advantages, so it became widely used amongst the Hungarian

archives, in the next few decades. After the 1990s, the indexes were made in computers instead of typewriters, but their structure and function remained intact. The question of reforming their structure and adapting to the new IT environment has not arisen at that time in the majority of the institutions. The Budapest City Archives became a pioneer in studying international archival standards, where ISAD(G)-based fond & sub-fond descriptions have begun to take shape, at the end of the 2000s. Even so, storage indexes were still used at lower levels of the archival records' hierarchy. But as the researchers' needs and expectations started to change, it became necessary to put the available finding aids into databases and publish them online. The vital infrastructural support for that is provided by the scopeArchiv system, from the 2010s. ScopeArchiv allows to import any individual archival lists, but this process is not efficient enough in its current state. In case of utilisation of a previously produced index in the integrated archival registration system, there is a need for a more convenient solution of data export as well as a secure way to reconvert.

Viktor Haraszti: Data protection and publicity

The swimming coach László Kiss's criminal suits happened in the 1960s has been made available to the public during the spring of 2016. The case generated a huge media coverage and placed the Budapest City Archives as keeper of the criminal suit's records in an invidious position. The Hungarian National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information carried out an investigation and condemned the archives plus imposed a fine of 3 000 000 Hungarian Forint. The archives appealed against that decision and the Administrative and Labour Court of Budapest annulled the decision of the Authority in 2017. The Authority asked for a review of the case and as a result, the Curia of Hungary over-ruled the earlier judgement and obliged the Authority to re-initiate its examination procedure. This study deals with the legal perspectives of both sides and the results of each decision. The summary analysis shows how an unclear and ambiguous jurisdiction carry the risk of making anybody a scapegoat. It also demonstrates that the existing legal provisions do not offer a framework and consequences of the data disclosure by scientific researchers. As any researcher does not keep its commitments which he / she undersigned before the research, this current status quo may lead to significant problems.

Anna Lüders: Ungarn und Ich (Hungary and I)

Anna Lüders, archivist student of the Vocational College in Potsdam spent nine weeks of professional practice in Hungary. The writing summarizes her observations as well as a comparison of the Hungarian and the German archival system and praxis. The institutional system is way more diverse and articulated in territorial terms, and as a result of the federal system, less centralised. The archival exploratory work is more detailed and thorough in many ways in Hungary, while the research service is slower at the same time. German archivists carry out scientific work quite rarely compared to their Hungarian

colleagues, as it is not an integral part of their activity. The differences of the two countries' archival training carry this alterity: in Germany, an archivist has to have an archival vocational training for applying for a position, while in Hungary most of the expert employees still have other training experience. The author mentions the Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary as a positive example, how to exploit the potential of the local media (and how) to became a determinative and central factor in the cultural life of Szolnok city. The practice of the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security to deal with and answer every request separately made also a deep impact on the author. Answering such requests are more routinary and stereotyped in Germany.