

Résumé of the 4th issue:

This issue of the Archival Review deals with two main questions. The first is a problem chart in the relations of the records creators, archives and records of enduring historical value. The essay regarding the first main topic – by István Boross, Péter Gerhard, András J. Horváth, György Laczlavik, Zoltán Lux and András Sipos – is created by the Committee for Methodology and Standardisation of the Archival College and impresses all Hungarian archives. The second main section deals with archival pedagogy, this new professional field practiced by many in recent years. Authors of this unit – Attila Rácz, Krisztina Batalka, Veronika Tóth-Péter, Ferenc Pál, Judit Mákos and Madlen Szabóné Maslowski – are working in different types of archives and as such their writings contain also different focuses and promote professional discussions too. In addition, the publication covers a short journal of archival news in the second half of the year 2019. Assembly reports of the Association of Hungarian Archivists (MLE) and the Association of Hungarian Ecclesiastical Archivists (MELTE) in 2019 are also legible in this issue.

István Boross, Péter Gerhard, András J. Horváth, György Laczlavik, Zoltán Lux, András Sipos: Records creators – Records of enduring historical value – Archives

The Committee for Methodology and Standardisation of the Archival College created a problem chart regarding the relationship under the title of this article, in 2018. At first sight, legislations of this field regulate the relationship adequately, but this is not the case in real practice. Legal provisions need thorough review in several field. Among the problems identified is defining, monitoring, valuation and collecting e-records, which are generated in increasing quantities. This difficulty is reinforced by the fact that a range of civil society organisations and ecclesiastical associations are creating public records, but these bodies are not present sufficiently in the archives' field of view. For this reason, it is hard to define the scope of assistance in many cases and overlaps are also quite often. It would be important to create a modus vivendi in collecting personal papers after an adequate record evaluation process. Not only would this allow to explore the past more widely, but it would significantly increase greater social visibility and prestige of the archives. Another significant problem is that after a certain point, interest of the records creators and the archives diverges in case of records enduring historical value. In a longer term, a possible solution could be a continuous close co-operation between the Parties as well as appropriate trainings for the records creators, to permanently change their attitude regarding the importance of preservation.

Attila Rácz: A thematic week at the Budapest City Archives

The Budapest City Archives organises educational activities for 10 years. This essay presents a thematic week in the framework of a camp, as special type of archival event, which is based on the initiation of the history of writing. The participants can gain knowledge about the main topic as well as new information with analysing special record types of different ages. They are introduced to the historical origins of numbers and several dating methods of previous eras, or different kinds of ciphering and decoding. This is a playful way to learn family research as well, with getting know the related archival record types. The archives and the archivists' work is also represented in this thematic camp, the classic archival tasks as well as those changing roles, that adjust to current needs, as digitisation projects, database creation and use of online information systems.

Krisztina Bataka: Opportunities and experiences in archival education at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME)

The Archives of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics realised the prospects of archival educational activities quite early, but started to customise and carry them out in line with their own contexts, relating to the university's other familiarisation events for a wider age bracket. BME Children's University, a regular course created specifically for children to raise young people's interest in science and engineering technology, started in 2015. The University Archives took its part in the programme, which provided 45-minute courses for upper secondary pupils, with topics varying from year to year. There were sessions for the presentation of the archival work, or for demonstrate the structure of a semester, showing everyday life of former students with the use of contemporary records and photos as well as a course to get acquainted with the events of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, with declaring an own "Twelve Points", in remembrance of the 170th anniversary of the Revolution.

Veronika Tóth-Péter: Educational activities in the Komárom-Esztergom County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary

Museums have long been dealing with educational activities, so it is opportune to use their potential in the archives in greater numbers too. The Komárom-Esztergom County Archives adds considerable weight to this new segment of archival work and the article summarises the main conclusions. The chosen topics and themes can operate effectively only if they try to connect to the topics of school curricula. In case an archives can adapt flexibly to the needs of schools, the popularity of the archival courses can significantly arise amongst public schools. It is also very important to have self-reflection and to consider the feedback of the school participants, in order to have continuous quality improvement.

Ferenc Pál: „Let’s play archivist!”

As a county institution, the Vas County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary believes that it is important to strengthen the local identity. During archival educational sessions, they adapt common school curricula, historical junctions and they also leave great scope for auxiliary sciences of history. It might be useful to create a master copy collection of original historical records on the chosen subject. Not just for preservation reasons, but to be able to hold educational activities outside the archives too. It is also possible to create sessions using online databases (like Hungaricana) to show record collections this way. In addition, the Vas County Archives organizes research camps regularly. As a mission, auxiliary sciences of history – and within this field, historical geography – is always involved into these activities, as they do not get a prominent role in public school education. During the summer camps, Slovenian and Hungarian students are researching together the past of a chosen settlement, with meeting the local families, gathering documents, photos and conducting interviews. The author highlights that building up a specific brand image in archival pedagogy is definitely possible, but it would require much more endeavour from the archival staff.

Judit Mákos –Madlen Szabóné Maslowski: Paper, as a material in focus

Archival educational activities are being organized in Szolnok for 10 years. The first events were based upon an exhibition on the history of paper, after the County Archives took over the files of Szolnok’s closed-down paper factory. The exhibition was completed with a practical session, where children were invited to craft handmade paper from recycled papers, to teach them not only archival knowledge but environmentally caring consciousness too. On the basis of this first programme, the institution developed six thematic courses over time. All of them are a sequence of three archival classes, with freely variable and combinable elements. To expand the programme, the archives provides similar courses to adults and even to children of pre-school, pushing the original limits of archival pedagogy a bit further. The staff members are tailoring the topic of the archival classes to the needs of the participants, every time. The essay covers also the difficulties encountered in the last few years: the strict school curricula make it difficult to easily fit archival courses into class time. It is also hard to find continuous training for professionals of archival education in Hungary.