

Résumé of the 2nd issue:

András Pál Oláh wrote the first paper in the second issue of the Archival Review 2022 on the accuracy of the cadastral database and issues of data cleansing in land administration offices and archives on the occasion of a recently enacted law. Anikó Schmidt's report on the Konkoly-Thege family records, which were given to the National Archives of Hungary, also relates to the Hungarian archives' priority task of researching Hungarica as well as to the subject of collecting private records. A block of four studies focuses on the major challenge for public collections in 2020-2021, the conditions triggered by the coronavirus epidemic and the responses it has generated in individual institutions. Four types of archives, the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security (Gergő Bendegúz Cseh), the Budapest City Archives (Csaba Fehér), the Somogy County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary (Tamás Polgár) and the Archives of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Krisztina Bataalka) provide insights into how archives have managed to adapt to the changed circumstances. Ádám Pálfi's article is on the history of archives, discussing the status of archival records in Nagykőrös during World War II and the years between 1940 and 1951. Tamás Szálkai gives a professional review of an archivist's travel diary, this time about Gábor Herpay's study trip and the 1915 layout plan of the City Archives of Debrecen. New archival projects and their results as well as the use of new technologies, are the subject of Dorottya Szabó's article on the results of the European Digital Treasures project. Ildikó Szerényi presents a sub-project undertaken as part of this project to process the 1828 national census with the support of Artificial Intelligence and the help of volunteers. The issue also includes a review and concludes with a selection of the latest news from the archives.

András Pál Oláh: Problems of data cleansing in land administration offices and in archives, in connection with agricultural lands

The legislation, known as the law on the abolition of undivided common property, came into force on 1 January 2021 and finally aims to correct incorrect or inaccurate ownership data in the land registry database, but only for agricultural land so far. This is necessary because the ownership data recorded in the land register is not accurate and incorrect data can lead to a reduction in the marketability of individual properties, difficulties in land use and, in some cases, even undermine the principle of public authenticity of the land register.

The author presents an outline of the work undertaken in this area, outlining the problems of the data cleansing process, both in the land administration offices and in the archives.

Anikó Schmidt: Records of the Konkoly-Thege family

The family archive, preserved abroad until now, was received by the National Archives of Hungary in 2021. The oldest surviving pieces of the archive date back to the 14th century. The records provide a thorough insight into the history of the Konkoly-Thege family, in many cases including information on other families through marriages. Wherever possible, the original family order has been preserved and only deviated from where it was technically necessary. Following the separation of the medieval charters, two series were created. One contains the original

documents, the other the 20th century copies. A third series is planned to be added at a later date, which will include the family documents already held by the National Archives. This is one of the most valuable private donations of archival materials in recent decades.

Gergő Bendegúz Cseh: Archives under COVID. Epidemic management and services in the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security

The Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security began implementing its new institutional development strategy around the same time as the outbreak of the COVID epidemic, and the pandemic certainly changed the content of the strategy, but not its priorities. The primary objective was to provide an IT system that would enable working from home, as well as serving the needs of researchers and citizens online. Thanks to a series of step-by-step improvements, the new e-service was launched in all the areas mentioned above by the summer of 2022. The epidemic also provided an opportunity for a major energy upgrade of the Archives' building. The exceptional period has shown that in many areas, online solutions can replace face-to-face presence in the longer term.

Csaba Fehér: Clients, researchers, media. Communication strategy of the Budapest City Archives during the pandemic (2020–2021)

During the pandemic, the Budapest City Archives had to suddenly adapt its workflow to organise full home working. This resulted in compromises, as many planned tasks could not be carried out, while in other areas the freed-up work capacities allowed for major improvements, such as a significant improvement in the efficiency of the re-checking and cataloguing of previously digitised collections. An increasing percentage of research enquiries were made online. At the same time, new initiatives such as the introduction of the 'Call the Archivist' service served to improve the communication with researchers. But there were also areas that had previously functioned effectively, such as event management and exhibition planning, which were temporarily side-lined.

Tamás Polgár: A county archives under COVID. The Somogy County Archives at the time of the epidemic

The COVID epidemic turned the life of county archives also upside down. During the first wave of the pandemic, archives staff were only allowed to work from home on individual request. There were archives where almost everyone took this option, and others where very few did. During this period, research requests were partially handled online, while customer service was moved entirely to the online space. On the negative side, there has been an almost complete absence of face-to-face events. This was, however, somewhat compensated for by well-functioning online solutions that were maintained and integrated into the daily life of the county archives after the epidemic had subsided.

Krisztina Batalka: Archives of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics in 'virus mode'

In several cases, the staff of the Archives of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics were obliged to work from home during the epidemic. This involved restructuring the activities to be carried out and establishing online channels for cooperation. Several important projects of the archives, such as the oral history collections among alumni, were inevitably stopped. At the same time, the ongoing crisis has stimulated new initiatives. The archives began to collect university documents published in connection with the COVID campaign and, in the context of the creation of a 'virology archive', encouraged university citizens to document the changes they had experienced in their lives and to deposit the records and documents they had produced in the archives. Although this exceptional period caused a number of changes, the work continued uninterrupted and successfully, thanks to the secure infrastructure.

Ádám Pálfi: A turbulent decade. The destiny of Nagykőrös's archival records during and after World War II (1940–1951)

During World War II, countless valuable documents were destroyed or taken outside the country. In many cases, we do not even know the exact circumstances of their disappearance and destruction. It is very rare for an institution's collection to survive these times in its integrity and even to have a well-documented history. Among the few exceptions is the archives of Nagykőrös, which, although it was repeatedly destroyed between 1940 and 1950, has survived thanks to fortunate circumstances and the efforts of archivist Béla Balanyi. The archives have recently been moved again and today is part of the Pest County Archives in its entirety.

Tamás Szálkai: „how more precious is the material of written sources...” - Gábor Herpay's study trip and the plan for the arrangement of the Debrecen City Archives (1915)

In 1915, the new mayor of Debrecen, Endre Márk, initiated the case for the reorganization of the neglected city archives with records of contemporary times. At the same time, the so-called „secret archives”, a collection of records containing letters of privilege and documents relating to the appearance of the town, were opened to researchers and kept in exemplary order. The two collections have also been merged and at the suggestion of the national archivist, Károly Tagányi, archivist Gábor Herpay was sent on a study tour to visit the three most modern archives of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the meantime, Herpay has prepared a draft for the organization of the city archives. The first part of the report of his study tour, which praises the role of the archives, is annexed to this study.

Dorottya Szabó: European Digital Treasures – new perspectives in a digital universe

In 2018, the National Archives of Hungary joined a four-year long international project called European Digital Treasures, part-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. The international consortium of the project presents archival resources - typically in digital form - which, when placed in a historical context, both 'tell' captivating and moving stories in a way that is accessible to the public and link the historical documents of the Mediterranean, Iberian and Central European regions with Scandinavian ones in a matrix of shared European historical interpretation. All this is done in a way that also reaches a non-specialist audience, especially those age groups that remained a 'blind spot' of archival life: young people and senior

citizens. International experience in recent years has shown that, despite the accessibility to the general public of several well-known European public collections' portals, they remain largely inaccessible to non-specialist users. The project is trying to remedy this by its own means. This summary of the project, which is still ongoing at the time of writing, outlines the first three and a half years of this ambitious work, and shows the results of the last six months, which will be completed in the second half of 2022.

Ildikó Szerényi: Working on the 1828 national census with the use of Artificial Intelligence and volunteers

In 2021, the National Archives of Hungary implemented a large-scale, innovative volunteering programme within the framework of the European Digital Treasures international project. The programme offered a unique opportunity for applicants to participate in the professional work of the archives, preparing a searchable database of the 1828 national census based on handwriting recognition, providing valuable and essential support to a cultural institution of the state. This report summarises the experience of this initiative.