Levéltári Szemle / Archival Review – 2023

Résumé of the 4th issue:

The opening publication of the Archives Review 2023, issue 4, is a comprehensive professional development concept for archives (István Kenyeres), which is not only interesting from the point of view of the institution concerned - the Budapest City Archives - but can also be instructive for the archival profession, and may even be an incentive for the publication of other institutional development ideas. The first part of the study on medical records of lasting value (Gábor Koltai - Anett Ogoljuk-Berzsenyi), which is less discussed but important, shares with the readers the professional experiences of the identification of collection difficulties, the planned and conscious collection following the preparatory work, and the concept of a collection area covering several issues. The communication of the professional and cultural tasks of public collections, as well as the results and services of the institutions, to society from different perspectives and at different levels, is a key element in the life of archives. The effective operation of this online digital platform is illustrated by the examples of two institutions, the Habsburg Ottó Foundation (Szilveszter Dékány) and the Budapest City Archives (Erika Garami). This latter topic is also partly related to the report of the 90th German Wandering Assembly (István Kenyeres). On the topic of Hungarika, there is also a Croatian-Hungarian conference report (Ágnes Ordasi), book reviews, association reports (Association of Young Archivists, Hungarian Association of Higher Education Archives), and a short chronicle of the archival events of the second semester took place in this issue as well.

István Kenyeres: Professional Development Concept of the Budapest City Archives 2023-2028

In 2019, the author published the first shortened version of his successful leadership application in our journal. This paper is a study version of the concept for the next five years, which sets out the basic objectives for the Budapest City Archives for the period 2023-2028. It presents in the most comprehensive way possible all the areas of the institution's work, from its strictly professional work to its scientific activities and its various outreach activities. The reader can not only learn about the objectives and development plans for the coming period but also about the recent past and the current situation.

Gábor Koltai - Anett Ogoljuk-Berzsenyi: Exploration and collection of medical documents of permanent value in the capital I.

The archives of healthcare institutions operate under rather harsh conditions, based on the experience of archivists. Their main contact with the competent archives is when they authorize forced disposals. The Budapest City Archives wishes to give special attention to the receipt of documents of lasting value held in these institutions. In this regard, a collection area concept was prepared. The first part of the study examines the legal background, the reasons for the unfeasibility of document collections so far, and the possibilities for future collections. About the latter question, the authors conclude that, due to the sheer volume of documents to be transferred, the task can only be accomplished through carefully considered sampling.

Szilveszter Dékány: The online presence and digital communication interfaces of the Habsburg Otto Foundation

In many cases, the website is the first point of contact with an institution for the interested. This is why, as first impressions are very important, particular care must be taken when designing the content and image of a website. At the same time, the wider public does not find the website first but comes across the institution through a social media site. Since the international interest of the Habsburg Otto Foundation is even more pronounced than the Hungarian one, media platforms such as Twitter (rebranded as X) are also used, which is traditionally not the case for Hungarian public collection institutions. Because a significant part of the collection is made up of audiovisual elements, the institution's YouTube channel is a prominent tool. An increasing proportion of preserved resources are also available in digital format, of which online service availability to the public is also solved.

Erika Garami: The use of online interfaces in the communication of the Budapest City Archives

The Budapest City Archives set up its Information and Public Culture Department in 2014 in response to the changing needs of society. The department also manages fifteen online platforms maintained by the archives. In addition to its website, the Archives also uses various social media platforms to make its news as widely known as possible. To achieve this goal, they operate both a Facebook page and a TikTok page. Although for the time being the latter is more of an experimental area, the long-term plan is to reach out to young people. In addition to the space for short entries, the archives also have a YouTube channel with videos of presentations and introductory films. In addition, the BFL plays an important role in the operation of the domestic topotekas. The institution manages the City Park topoteka and liaises with international partners for the other topoteka.