

Archival Review, Issue 2 (2025)

The leading article of the second issue of 2025 is the annual report of the Archival Supervision. As part of the *Visual Sources* series, readers can learn about the archival management of family photo collections (Ágnes Nagy), while Gergely Bodor complements an earlier topic with his article on the collection of health-care records in county archives. A report on the increase in holdings provides news about the Otto von Habsburg Foundation's collection (Szilveszter Dékány, Eszter Gaálné Barcs, Ádám Suslik). The issue is enriched by two *Archivist Interviews* (with Magdolna Láczy and Pál Héjjas), by the experiences of an archive-pedagogy workshop (Eszter Lengyel), and – within the *Kilátó* section – by a presentation of the professional contacts and achievements of the Historical Archives of Zenta over the past ten years (István Fodor, Jr.). Dániel Havasi-Mészáros provides a detailed and accessible professional description of the online database (LIR) of The Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security. The issue also includes reviews, a report on the “Archival Publication and Exhibition of the Year” awards, and a selection of news from archival life.

Ágnes Nagy: Archival management of family photo collections

Since the systematic collection of private papers began in 2000, tens of thousands of photographs have entered the holdings of the Budapest City Archives. Their assessment – primarily for preservation purposes – has been ongoing since 2020. The work carried out also makes it possible for archivists to develop the principles for the professional storage of such archival materials. As the survey progresses, the various types of photographs are continuously separated and their exact number determined, and their dates of creation identified. In addition to presenting the survey work, this study also describes the lessons learned and outlines long-term plans for the photographic holdings.

Gergely Bodor: Collecting and Archival Processing of Health-Care Institutions' Records in County Archives

Health-care institutions produce an immense volume of public records, the permanently valuable portion of which could serve as a significant source base for researchers. Yet county archives have so far acquired and preserved only a relatively small share of this material. This is due not only to limited storage capacity but also to the fact that archivists generally possess only limited expertise regarding health-care operations and the documentation created in the course of their work. This article compares the holdings of health-care records in seven county archives, focusing on the creators of the transferred records, the types of documents, the quantity of preserved material, its state of arrangement, and the main principles guiding that arrangement. One of the study's principal conclusions is that, for successful medical-history research, it would be essential for archives not only to collect records concerning the operation of institutions but also to acquire – at least by sampling – a portion of the medical documentation itself.

Szilveszter Dékány – Eszter Gaálné Barcs – Ádám Suslik: A Legacy within a Legacy. The Expansion of the Otto von Habsburg Foundation with the Heinrich von Degenfeld Collection

In 2024, the Otto von Habsburg Foundation acquired the Heinrich von Degenfeld estate, representing the largest archival acquisition of recent years. From his youth until his death, Heinrich von Degenfeld was one of the Habsburg family's closest confidants, and his legacy complements the Foundation's holdings. In addition to roughly twenty linear metres of records, the collection has also been enriched with numerous photographs and artefacts. The processing and digitisation of this rich material are ongoing; once completed, the entire collection is expected to become freely accessible to researchers.

Dániel Havasi-Mészáros: Archival Information System – The new online database of The Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security

The digital age has radically transformed archival research, confronting record-keeping institutions with new challenges and, at the same time, new opportunities. In this spirit, the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security (ÁBTL) has developed its Archival Information System (LIR), an integrated online database serving both the general public and academic researchers. The uniqueness of the database lies in its dual access: anyone can freely access public information, while academic researchers can access protected data by logging in with profiles created for them. The study presents in detail the archival, IT, and legal aspects of the system's development, addressing issues of data protection and information security, as well as the possibilities for future expansion of LIR's functions. This development by ÁBTL not only provides the research community with a more modern and efficient database but also offers innovative solutions for the archival profession. In addition, the information available in the database contributes to broader public awareness of the sources preserved by ÁBTL.