

THE UKRAINIAN ARCHIVES AND DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHIVE AFFAIR IN MODERN UKRAINE

Iryna MATYASH*

MATYASH, Iryna, THE UKRAINIAN ARCHIVES AND DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHIVE AFFAIR IN MODERN UKRAINE, *Atlanti*, Vol. 15, No. 1-2/2005, Trieste 2005.

Original in English, summary in English.

Descriptors (ATLANTI)

Standards (9)

The beginning of a new period of the archival development in Ukraine is connected with its State Independence restoration. During the XX century Ukraine archivistics experienced several phases, the most prominent of which are 1917-1939 when the conceptual basis of Archive Study were defined, new ideas were formed and realized, searches of the optimal model of the archival affair organization in Ukraine¹ also took place, and in the years 1991-2002, when the strategy of the archival development received absolutely new priorities as compared with the Soviet period. During the long period of archivistics development in the conditions of the socialism (till 1991) organizational and rightful securing, and attempts of the theoretical ground of certain problems were mostly brought about by the ideological conjecture, which showed demand on the historical information. Generally the basic stages of the archival development on the territory of the modern Ukraine in the XX century is correlated with the periodization of the Central and East European countries², where the archival services began its independent development after 1991. Since that time till 2003 certain changes in the archival field organization, archival education and archival research took place.

The basic features of archivistics development in Ukraine in 1991-2003 are defined as designing and implementing of the state policy in the archival field, forming of the National Archival Funds as a component of the national and world historical and cultural heritage, distinct structurization of their functions and powers, democrati-

* Director of Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Archival Affair and Documents Study Kiev, Ukraine.

¹ Archives of Ukraine: on the Boundary of Centuries. Ruslan Pyrih the Head of the State Committee of Archives of Ukraine, Answers the Questions of the Editorial Staff // *The Archives of Ukraine*. – 2001. – N. 3. – P. 3.

² At the beginning of the XX century function the following Central State Archives: The Central State Archive of the Supreme Organs of Authority and Management of Ukraine (Kiev); The Central Historical Archive of Ukraine (Lvov); the Central State Archive of the Public Union of Ukraine; the Central State Archive – Museum of Literature and Art of Ukraine; the Central State Filmphotophonoarchive of Ukraine named after G.S. Pshenichnyy, the Central State Scientific and Technical Archive of Ukraine.

zation of the archival management, mass declassification of the archival information, widening of the access to the archives, deepening of the informational cooperation in the archival field, representing of the archival resources in the world net Internet, development of the archival science and education and positives changes in the social status of the archivists. Besides that, understanding of traditions and archives role in the life of society, gradual demarcation of historian and archivist's functions, and comprehension of their meaning greatly influenced on the archival development and professional motivation of archivist's activity.

State archival system of Ukraine entered a new stage of its development with firmly established basic elements of the organizational structure. In general they met the main principals of archivistics, those times administrative and territorial division and were able to meet the citizens and State demands of the retrospective documents information. The Main Archival Management at the Cabinet of Ministers in Ukraine continued to execute as the State Organ of Archival Management, later it became the Main Archival Management of Ukraine (March – December 1999). In December 1999 the status of the branch management organ was promoted – it was reorganized into the State Archives Committee of Ukraine. To the point of view of that time manager of the archival service, the Doctor of History, professor P.I. Pyrih, it showed the recognition of the archives social importance, their role in the creation of an independent state, and formation of the national consciousness of the citizens. It was the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine who determined the state police in the archival field and record keeping.

The system of the archival institutions of Ukraine has changed a little its configuration, taking into account the fact that at the beginning of the 1990's it included 6 Central State Archives (two historical archives in Kiev and Lvov, the Supreme Organs of Authority and Management Archive, the Archive-Museum of Literature and Art, Scientific and Technical Archive, Filmphotophonoarchive), the State Archive at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Crimean Autonomous Republic, local state archives (of the regions, of Kiev and Sevastopol, and districts), archival subdivision of the state scientific institutions, museums and libraries. It was enlarged by the Central State Archive of the social associations of Ukraine (1991), created on the basis of the Central Committee Archive of the liquidated communistic party of Ukraine and by such a new scientific institution as the State Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Archival Affair and Documents Study (1994). The status of the manuscript section of the Central Scientific library of Academy of Science in Ukraine (the National Library of Ukraine named after V.I. Vernadsky), was changed, on the basis of which was created the Institute of Manuscript and the Institute of Archivistics and later the library and archival collection "The Fund of the Presidents of Ukraine" (1996) also came to life. Gradually the tendency of decentralization began to develop, that is the expansion of the state regions archives power, which became the component of the region state administrations – the organs of the regional management; and also creation of new state archival institutions of double subordination: Branch State Archive of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (1992), Branch State Archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (1995), State Cartograph and Geodesic Fund of Ukraine (1996), Branch State Archive of the Committee of Ukraine as to the Problems of Hydrometeorology, State Archive of Defense Service of Ukraine and State Informative Geological Fund of Ukraine. At the beginning of the XXI century, with approving of the second editing of the branch bill, new opportunities for creation of the archival institution of a new type

were opened, that is the archival institutions based by natural persons and also the working archives for the documents storage that are necessary for the social and legal defense of the citizens³.

Working out of the legal point in archives functioning, settlement of law and order in the archival field, creation of the normative and legal base, which would meet the demands of time, have become the main points in the activity of the state management organ in the archival field and record keeping on the boundary of the centuries. In December 1993 a new Law "About the National Fund and Archival Institutions in Ukraine" was approved. This event was very important in the archival formation of the independent Ukraine. For the first time on the legislative level the legal basis and organizational system of the archival affair were defined, a new integral category of culture and law in the Ukrainian archivistics and legislation was consolidated, that is the National Archival Fund. It was qualified as a component of the national and world historical and cultural heritage, and the component of the informative resources of the society. For the last 10 years of the state independence nearly 19 million of different kinds of the documents became the part of the National Archival Fund, including 10,5 million documents from the Archival Fund of the Communist party of the former Soviet Union, almost 3 million documents from KGB and about 6 million ones from the enterprises, institutions and organizations – the traditional sources of the state archives completing. At the beginning of the XXI century the National Archival Fund had almost 60 million affairs.

The system of archival establishment is to secure the functioning of the National Archival Fund.

The law played a very important role in the expansion of the archives openness and easy of access, having defined the rights and duties of the citizens as to collecting and storage of the archival documents. It also showed new opportunities of new economical relations in the archival affair and expansion of different kinds of property in the storage of the archival documents. Approving of this bill has a special meaning for defense of Ukraine's sovereignty in the archival field and its entrance to the international legal expanse in this sphere.

In December 2001 a new editing of the branch law, which met the demands of time, was approved. As K.E. Novokhatsky noted, the vice-chairman of the State Committee of Archives, one of the main innovations in the second editing was the fact that "it greatly intensified the competence of the national archival institutions in the sphere of record keeping" and defined the archival documents as "personal property". Actually all national archival institutions that are in direct or double subordination of the State Committee of Archives, the Law of 2001 defined as the State organs, which perform the functions of collecting, counting, storage of the archival documents, usage of its information – and is also to manage the archival affair and record keeping. The officials of Central State Archives have received the status of the state employees.

The legislative activity in the archival field wasn't finished with the approving of a new editing of the branch law. Working out of the new law of Ukraine "About General Documents Study" has become an important direction of the activity in this sphere.

³ "The Law Creates the Basis for Solving Only Professional Problems". - // The Archives of Ukraine, - 2001. – N. 6. – P. 3.

Expansion of the State archival institutions power and world's practice pushed to the creation of such a bill. In particular, the law about federal documentation in the USA is in force since 1976, and in Germany the law about record keeping was approved in 1926. There also can be noted improvement of the normative base in such a fundamental direction of the sphere as security of the archival documents (the profile standards are being worked out), creation of the National Archival Fund, defense of the citizens rights and legal interests of the state and juridical person, and increasing of the social status of the archivists.

The last item of the problem directed the main goal of the activity which was created in May 1991 by Ukraine Archivists Association – a social organization, which task is to help to the archival development, satisfaction and defense of legal, scientific, economic, creative, national and cultural interests of the archivists. The most important task of the archivists was to change the attitude of the society to the archival affair and to increase the archivist's profession prestige. Members of Ukraine Archivists Association took part in the scientific research of the archival field, studying different aspects of the archives activity and improving professionalism. During the decades of its existence the Union of Historical Science was headed by a prominent scientist – the Doctor of History, professor C. Kulchitskiy, Honored person working in the culture of Ukraine B. Ivanenko, candidate of historical sciences V. Lozitskiy. A publishing organ of Ukraine Archivists Association – an informational bulletin “UAA Vestnik” (since 1998 – “Archivist: UAA Vestnik”) was created in order to inform about the activity of the Association.

As to the President of Ukraine decree in October 1998 the Day of the Archival Institutions Officials was recommended, which is celebrated since that time on December 24.

Expansion of easy of access to the archival information, as it was declared in the Law “About the National Archival Funds and Archival Institutions” found its realization in practice and gradually became very important in the professional activity of the archivists. A serious step on the way to the democratization of the archival affair in the independent Ukraine has become a new stage of the archives declassification, introduction to the scientific circulation of the important document information. First of all this process concerned the documents of the Communistic party of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialistic Republic, the transfer of which into the Main Archival Management at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has given the opportunity of incorporation of the Communistic party archival fund into the State one. This event proved the existence of the National Fund of Ukraine. According to Verchovna Rada Presidium decision some categories of the documents from the former KGB of the Soviet Ukrainian Republic were given to the State storage in September 1991, that is the archival investigation of the repressed and so called “filtrartive” affair of the citizens - the victims of the Nazi pursuit, departed to the forced labour to Germany. Declassification of the documents helped to investigate such tragic events in our history as famines, Chernobyl catastrophe and creation of the fundamental series of documentary editions, such as: “The Book of Memory”, “Rehabilitated by History” and others. One of the leading tendencies of the modern archivistic development is integration of the Ukrainian archives into the world professional association. Ukrainian archivists take part in the meetings of the Archive International Association and collaborate in its professional committees. In particular G. V. Papakin is elected to be the member of the Committees to decide the legal questions, T.A. Klymenko – the member of the

Archival Fitting out and Equipment in the Zone of Moderate Climate Committee, I.B. Matyash – the member of Science, Medicine and Technology Archive Committee. Participation of the Ukrainian archival institutions representatives in the International Conferences of the Central and East European countries in Poland has become traditional. Agreements about co-operation with the national archival services of Austria, Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Rumania, Turkey and other states are concluded. Relations between the archival services of Ukraine and Poland are developed especially active. They came into life in certain editing projects, help of the Polish colleagues in the liquidation of the fire in Kamenets – Podolosk archive in April 2003 and other⁴.

Fruitfully cooperate the archival institutions with Uta Genealogical Union on the accomplishment of the common project of making microfilms of the archival documents of the genealogical character; also with German scientific and research centers, with Udakia American center and other. Especially close creative contacts turned to be in the sphere of the archival science and education with History and Archive Institute of State Russian Humanity University, State Belarus University, State Homel University named after Francisc Skorina.

Extending of the international cooperation also was accomplished by transfer to Ukraine of some documentary complexes, which were kept abroad for many years. In particular, it was kept in the archival collection of UNR State Center in the immigration from Canada, diplomatic UNR mission from Switzerland, the Archival Fund of the famous Ukrainian writer Ivan Bagryanny from the USA and other personal funds, and also microphotocopies of the Ukrainian origin documents from different countries of the world.

Prioritive direction of the archival institutions activity on the modern stage is working out and accomplishment of the creation of the complex program of the branch informative system. That is why the Center of Informative Technologies was created in the State Committee of Archives in Ukraine in 2000. The first serious result of its work was the working out of the first version of a new programming product “The Archival Funds of Ukraine”, which will help to create electronic versions of the local fund catalogues and to integrate them into the single national system. Opening of the official website of the State Archive Committee was very important for the representation of the Ukrainian archival recourses. Its extending and improvement is to lead to the creation of all – Ukrainian archival portal, which, to the mind of the State Archive Committee Leader – professor G.B. Boryak, is “an important strategic prospect of the region informatization”. On the whole, the concept, strategy and tactics of the system of informatization in the archival sphere co-ordinates with the State program informatization of Ukraine and together with that correlates with the international, informational projects, which are worked out under the aegis of the International Archives Association, UNESCO; and the Council of Europe.

Development of the archival science and education clearly shows the condition and the prospects of the branch. Next important step in the archivistics development was the institution of the branch scientific institution – the Ukrainian Scientific and

⁴ Look: Matyash Irina “Colloquia Jerzy Skowronek Dedicata” in the Development of the Archivists International Co-operation. // Studios of Archival Affair and Documents Study. – 2002. – V.8. – P. 210-214.

Research Institute of Archival Affairs and Documents Study (1994). No doubt, the creation of the proper scientific and research base of this sphere is a positive event in the archival development. The tasks of the institute can be defined as the following: investigation of the nowadays problems in the archive study, creation of the concepts and forecasting of the archival development and documentary securing of the management in the conditions of the society informatization, investigation of the legal aspects of work with the documents of the National Archival Fund, organization of the scientific and research information concerning the problems of the archival affair. The theoretical investigation of such problems as defense of the national interests in the archival field, mechanism of the documents aging and defining the methods of its storage prolongment, working out of means and ways of documents defense from the biological damage is also very important for the practical activity of the archival institutions. Investigations in the theory and value of documents examination, completing the State Archive by the funds of personal origin, classification of the documents information, labour defense and anti-fire security in the archives, working out of the instructions of record keeping, album of the documents standard forms, norms of time for working with governmental documentation for the archival service of the state organs and local self-government are oriented on solving the linguistic problems of the archival affair. In the branch of scientific institution such sections as archive study, documents study, scientific and informational section, section of physical and chemical and biological investigation are in function, the post-graduate education was opened and specialized science council as to the defense of the candidate dissertation was created.

For the expansion of the scientific ideas in the archival field, informatization of the scientific research results on the theory and methods of archive study, document study, certain historical disciplines, publication of the archival documents a scientific annual "Studies from the Archival Affairs and Record Keeping", annual of study and publication of early texts "Memento" (1998), series of edition "The History of Archival Affairs: Memories, Investigation, Sources" and "Archival and Bibliographical Sources of the Ukrainian Historical Thought" (1998), interdepartmental collection of scientific works "Archive Study", "Study and Publication of Early Texts. Sources Study" was created in 1996.

Practical meaning for the Ukrainian archivists has a special edition of the Manuscript Institute of the National Library of Ukraine named after V.I. Vernadsky "Manuscript and Bookish Heritage of Ukraine: Investigation of Study and Publication of Early Texts of the Unique Archival and Library Funds" (1993), of Ukrainian Study of Early Texts and Source Study Institute "Ukrainica: Archival Studies" (1997) and other. As there is no special scientific establishment in Ukraine to prepare the archivists, a lot of attention is paid to the questions of the archival education in the activity of the branch institute. Now the future officials of the archival institutions get their professional education on the Faculty of History of Kiev State National University named after Taras Shevchenko, Charkov National University named after V. Karazin and Lvov National University named after Vasyl Stepanyuk, on the faculty of Humanities in the Academy of the Leading Specialists in Culture and Art and other. Close collaboration of the institute with these establishments helped to prepare series of education editions: text book "Archive Study" (1998, 2002), bibliographical reference book "Ukrainian Archivists" (1998), terminological explanatory normative dictionary "Archivistiques" (1998), textbook "Sketches of Archival Affairs in Ukraine" (2002), that

was named the best textbook for high schools on the Forum of Editors in Lvov (2003).

Important role in the archival development in the second part of 1990s were international and all-Ukrainian conferences: "Current Problems of the Archival Development in Ukraine" (1995), "Ukrainian Archive Study: History, Modern State and Prospects" (1996), "Archival and Library Affairs in Ukraine of the Liberation Competition Epoch" (1997), "National Archival Heritage: Storage Problems" and "Archive and Personality" (1997), "Archives and Study of Local Lore, History and Economy: the Way to Integration" (2003). Conferences held in the second part of 1990s in Odessa, Poltava, Charkov, and Cherson helped to pay more attention to the problems of the regional archival study investigations.

Central state archives and the local archival institutions as branch and regional scientific and methodical centers participate in the creation of the documentary history chronicles of the archival affair, realization of the scientific research results and, organization of the scientific conferences. More and more popular become periodical edition, based by the archival institutions: almanac "Constant" (Cherson), magazine "Crimean Archive" (Simferopol), informative bulletin "Archivist" (Sumy), "Works of the State Archive in Odessa Region". Regional archives take part in accomplishment of the program, approved in 2000, "Archival Collection of Ukraine", which leads to archival reference books publication and helps to expand access to the archival information. As the part of the project were published the guidebooks of the Central State Archive, Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lvov, State Archives of Chernihiv, Sumy, and Ternopil regions.

Increasing the level of the scientific researches in the archival field helps to improve the branch service work of the scientific and technical information, which is to secure the informative service of all directions of the archival institutions activity, research affair and documents study, to introduce new methods and technologies of the informative work in the archival institutions. Scientific and informational section of the Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Archival Affairs and Documents Study, performs the function of the Branch Service of STI since 1999. There also created a special sector with Reference and Informative Fund.

Receiving the branch award named after Vasyl Veretennikov as the best scientific research in the archival field and documents study has become a moral and material stimulus for the archivists. Its first laureates have become the authors of the textbook "Archive Study" (Kiev, 1998).

Generally, the modern Ukrainian archival development of archival science is characterized by integration tendencies in the archival institutions activity, Ukrainian and foreign higher educational establishments, academic institutes; working out the current questions of the archival science and practice, introduction of new technologies. It is caused by some factors: political (restoration of the state independence, paying more attention of the state to the national cultural heritage), human (new tendencies of the archival institutions specialists, reinforcing of the international professional contacts), interbranch (peculiarities of the archival formation, more active participation of the archives in informatization and humanization of the society, enlargement of the

archival institutions net by the scientific and research institute)⁵.

Summary

The paper concerns principal directions of the archival development in Ukraine in 1991-2002. It is noted that periodization of the archives history in Ukraine coincides with the corresponding periodization in the Central and East European countries. The basic features of the modern Ukrainian archivistics are defined as the following: designing and implementing of the state policy in the archival field; forming of the National Archival Funds as a component of the national and world historical and cultural heritage; distinct structurization of the hierarchical system of the archival institutions, enlargement of their functions and powers; democratization of the archival management; mass declassification of the archival information; widening of access to archives; extending of the international cooperation in the archival field; representing of the archival resources in the world net Internet; development of the archival science and education; positive changes in the social status. It describes the structure of the archival service and its tasks on the contemporary stage. The correlations of archival institutions of Ukraine with high school and scientific institutions are also demonstrated.

⁵ Look: Boryak G.V. Electronic Archival Publications in the Internet: Representation Problems of the Informative Resources // The Archives of Ukraine. – 2002. – N. 4-6. – P. 163.