Bogdan-Florin POPOVICI*

'Information is Power'. Or not?

* Ph.D., senior inspector, Braşov County Division of National Archives of Romania, str. G Baritiu nr. 34, Braşov, cod 500025.
bogdanpopovici@gmail.com

Original in English, abstract in English, Italian and Slovenian, summary in English

The article starts from the assertion that 'information is power' and questioning it in a time when National Archives Services are more and more in a state of poverty and negligence among other state institutions. The author argues that information is power only if it is "sold" as useful information for the users; therefore, the archival institutions and the archivists must learn how to advertise and 'sell' the information they shelter. Some ways of promoting the profession and the institution are involving records management issues, use of archives (by publishing and accessibility for researcher) and also by using the modern technologies in spreading the archival assets.

L'articolo parte dal presupposto che "informazione è potere" e porre ciò in dubbio in un tempo in cui i servizi archivistici nazionali sono sempre più in uno stato di povertà e ne-

1. Introduction: Age of information

Even since the second half of the last century, it was obvious for many observers that mankind is about to pass into a new Era. Either called "Post-Industrial Society", "Information Society", "Information Age" or "the Third Wave", it brought changes and new approaches that seemed to have a certain impact also to the world of archives. The topic of this paper is about the ways National Archives Services (hereafter NAS) relate to this reality.

In 1962, the Austrian-American economist Fritz Machlup published a study *The production and distribution of knowledge in the United States*. This work is credited with popularizing the concept of the **information society** and the author was considered one of the first economists to examine knowledge as an economic resource. Later on, in 1969, Peter Drucker has argued that there is a transition from an economy based on material goods to one based on knowledge[1]. John Naisbitt also considered that:

> "*In an industrial society, the strategic resource is the capital… In our new society, as Daniel Bell showed the first of all, the strategic resource is information. Not the only one, but the most important*"[2].

As a chronology, it is considered that the eve of Information Society was in 1956-1957[3], while the transition from industrial society was obvious since 1980s[4]. Peter Drucker noticed in that time:

> "*…the productivity of knowledge has already become the key to productivity, competitive strength and economic achievement. Knowledge has already become the primary industry, the industry that supplies the economy, the essential and central resources of production*"[5].

Step by step, the Marx theory based on work is shifted with the theory based on the importance of information[6].

> "*Here, at the end of the twentieth century, four decades into the computer age, it is increasingly obvious that the very nature of business itself is information. Many of the employees in any corporation are involved in the business of gathering, generating or transforming information. Information has revised the workplace*"[7].

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_society (visited 23.07.2009).
2. John Naisbitt, *Megatendinţe. Zece noi direcţii care ne transform viaţa* [Megatrends. Ten New Directions Transforming Our Lives], Bucureşti 1989, p. 44.
3. *Ibidem*., p. 39.
4. Helena Tapper, *Understanding of Information Society Paradigm* at http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/ comm/argo/argonet9/TAPPER.HTM (visited in 25.06.2009).
5. Cited in Naisbitt, op. cit., p. 46.
6. *Ibidem*.
7. Cited in Richard Cox, *Closing An Era: Historical Perspective On Modern Archives And Records Management*, Westport 2000, p. 1.

2. Wishful thinking

Having these entire approaches one archivist may feel very comfortable. Knowledge is processed information. Information is aggregated data. A document is information recorded on a medium. Therefore, talking about the power of information, one may also talk about the power of records. The professionals of archives[8] have in their custody the greatest repository of (mostly) unique information.

But, if the information is power, why are the NAS , institutionally speaking, so poor[9]?

Of course, we like to believe that our particular expertise is extremely relevant for our societies. Those who appraise the value of information preserved for the future, those who decide in advance what information will be available for the next generation cannot be otherwise than the most important. Although, it seems that those who decide over the budgets do not see it in the same way. Otherwise, why the lack of resources is the main topic when some archivists get together in national or international meetings? Why, in economic recession times, the NAS are intended to be restrain (Australia[10]), administrative degraded (as in France[11], Romania[12]) or their funds are cut-off (as in UK)[13]?

In our opinion, one explanation is that, not once, there has been an erroneous professional approach. Many professionals in archival field regards full of hope towards the new historical transition to the information society, hoping that professional and institutional status would grow. We like to believe that "information is power". Most of all, we like to believe that "Behind every successful manager is a Records Manager or that "Knowledge is of two kinds: we know a subject ourselves or we know where we can find information upon it." But it is also true that "not all the information is created equal". Information is not necessarily productive or useful by itself. Having information does not make you richer or smarter if you do not deal it on the market. Alvin Toffler stated it clearly: "In a Third Wave economy, the central resource-a single word broadly encompassing data, information, images, symbols, culture, ideology, and values - is *actionable* knowledge"[14]. To have an *actionable knowledge*, one must has it and use it when needed. „Information which is not communicated is valueless. Information which cannot be found is worthless[15].

On the other hand, it is also true that, in order to find information at the relevant moment, somebody must know firstly how to preserve it and how to process it. Not even entirely under Web 2.0 approach the information is organising by itself, but it needs certain guidelines; therefore, it needs some professional to elaborate "a way of doing". To organize the information for indexing and retrieving, one must have a specific expertise. This is the topic of information science[16]. This science encompasses some theories and practices that are as old as the World, and that form the core of other sciences, among which the archival science has an important place. Despite that, some new preachers of Information Science attempts to make a revolution and to reinvent the wheel. For instance, not once, they try to impose a new vocabulary to archival practitioners, as a grandson is

gligenza fra le istituzioni statali. L'autore sostiene che l'informazione è potere solo se viene "venduta" come utile informazione per l'utenza; perciò le istituzioni archivistiche e gli archivisti debbono imparare a pubblicizzare e "vendere" al meglio le informazioni che ospitano. Alcuni dei modi di promuovere la professione e le istituzioni coinvolgono questioni riguardanti la gestione documentale, l'uso degli archivi, e l'utilizzo di moderne tecnologie.

Prispevek se začenja s trditvijo, da je informacija moč in z nadaljevanjem, ko se ta trditev postavi pod vprašaj, ko menimo, da kažejo službe nacionalnih arhivov vedno manj zanimanja za informacije kot pa za ostale državne dejavnosti. Zato avtor poudarja, da je informacija moč takrat, če je prodana kot koristna za uporabnike. Tako bodo morali postopati tudi arhivi, ki se bodo morali naučiti, kako proda(ja)ti informacije. V prodajo zato gotovo spada uporaba arhivskih dokumentov, bodisi preko tiskanja ali pa preko dostopnosti za uporabnike, po drugi strani pa z uporabo sodobnih tehnologij v razširjanju pomena arhivskih dokumentov za znanstvene in poljudne pomene.

8. The term 'archives' is used here as in the "Romanian" approach, that is to cover the whole lifecycle of a record, since its creation to final disposition, including an eventual historical preservation.
9. http://www.archivalplatform.org/resources/category/archives_at_the_crossroads/ (visited on 10.05.2010).
10. http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2010/s2828294.htm (visited on 5.06.2010). To be noticed that such an action generates in Australia reactions both from the public and politicians (http://sarah-hanson-young.greensmps.org.au / content/media-release/senate-votes-stop-closure-national-archives-tas-sa-and-nt (visited on 5.06.2010); http:// www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/11/2768867.htm (visited on 7.07.2010); also, on Facebook, the group "Against the Closure of the National Archives of Australia SA NT and TAS" (visited on 31.12.2009); the name have been afterwards modified in "Friends of the National Archives of Australia" http://www.facebook.com/posted.php? id=211454920801#!/group.php?gid=211454920801&v=wall (visited on 13.07.2010).
11. http://www.archivistes.org/Disparition-de-la-Direction-des (visited on 3.03.2010).
12. http://www.gov.ro/upload/articles/106509/lege-reorganizare.pdf (visited on 10.05.2010).
13. http://action4archives.com/ (visited on 30.08.2009). One should be mentioned that the current global depression affected many National Archives services, but severity and public support in favour of NAS varied very much.
14. Dyson/Gilder/Keyworth/Toffler (1994) cited at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_society (visited on 10.05.2010).
15. http://www.archimac.org/Profession/Slogans.spml (visited on 10.05.2010).
16. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_science (visited on 10.05.2010).

SUMMARY

Even since the second half of the last century, it was obvious for many observers that mankind is about to pass into a new Era, the "Information Age". This might be welcomed by archivists: information is aggregated data; a document is information recorded on a medium; therefore, talking about the power of information, one may also talk about the power of records. The professionals of archives have in their custody the greatest repository of (mostly) unique information. But, if the information is power, why are the NAS , institutionally speaking, so poor? Starting from these premises, the author shares some opinions about the way National Archives Services can raise their institutional profile: involvement in records management of public sector; re-thinking the services for historians and other users; broadening the pool of users through developing the range of services for them; promoting archives using the new technologies.

trying to correct the behaviour of his grandpa… This approach explains also why the IT guys try to assert that any need for retrieving would be-the computers will do it all. Why to organize-"Google knows everything". Under such circumstances, where is here the place for professionals of records and archives management?

3. How to deal with the new world?

The statements above underline that despite appearances and expectations, no one will come to us, archivists and records managers, to admire our professional skills. As it happened many times before, we must justify our existence; we must show to the decision makers that we are useful and important in the Information Age. And that we deserve our wages and our institutions deserve their budgets. Since this approach is common for records management[17], what can we say about the NAS ? In my opinion, a way to improve the institutional status is to prove to be useful-and even more, essential-for the government and citizens. In this respect, there are two main directions I assume are to be followed.

3 a. *Ante portas…*

One first aspect is the position of the NAS in the institutional framework of a State. Traditionally, in many countries, the Archives deal only with historical records. In the records lifecycle, they intervened only after the final disposition. Some other practices put the records in early stages under a sort of supervision of the NAS . And this could be supervision of the way accessions are prepared for the transfer to NAS or the supervision also of the records management practices. In my opinion, the involvement of the NAS in early this is a direction that must be continued and broaden, as being relevant for the profession and institution.

Let us have the case of public institutions that deals with their records. Should the NAS be concerned about the way those institutions are managing their records? There is not a single answer: NAS might be concerned about them only when permanent records are transferred while the first stages of the lifecycle is not their concern, but the administration one's; also, some might say that early involvement might lead to a better management of records, helping also the proper identification and preservation of permanent records. In my opinion, the latter is the most fruitful, also for the NAS and for the public administration.

First of all, one must permanently have in mind the fact that any public institution has its own mandate. The main activity is not that of managing records (except, of course, for the NAS), but to administer a territory, to manage the water supply system, to administer the justice etc. The trend of executive management will always be to achieve their mandate and to neglect some supporting activities, like management of records. Of course that such an approach might have an impact on public budget, but many times this passed unnoticed. If, for instance, one cannot find the map of water supply network of a city, how much is the cost of restoring this map? Or, if an old drainage system is not documented anymore, and a huge and costly building is raised on such pipelines and collapsed afterwards, how much is the cost of not having a proper documentation?

17. For instance, Mary F. Robek, David O. Stephens, Gerald F. Brown, *Information and Records Management: Document-Based Information Systems*, 4th ed., Glencoe McGraw Hill: 1995, pp. 8-11; Ira A. Penn, Gale B. Pennix, Jim Coulson, *Records Management Handbook*, Gower Publishing: 1989, pp. 7-8. One may notice that Ira Penn asserts: „*But while the savings which can accrue from a records management program are substantial, they must be placed in proper context. The savings are not the rationale or justification for the program and should never be considered as such. The records management program must exist because the function of managing recorded information IS a necessity. The savings are merely a bonus that may be obtained from managing the information efficiently*".

„Policies based on incorrect, incomplete or disjointed data result in wrong information being communicated to the wrong person at the wrong time... Good information do not make good executives but the contribution is enormous. With good information, they at least have a fighting chance; without it, they are reduces to exclusively depending upon luck[18].

Many other examples can be presented here, from the obligations of producing a records under the Freedom of Information Act (how can one find it if the records are not arranged?) to the need of personal data protection (what data to protect if one does not find it?).

In the same time, the negligence in this field might lead to huge accumulation of records, either paper or electronic. As it is well known, proper management of records might lead also to the implementation of an appraisal system that will save spaces and money. By the way of electronic records, the nowadays challenges, with automated environment and digital records compel to an early professional intervention, from the moment of systems design, in order to have a proper long term preservation of e-records.

Of course, one might argue that there could be private companies of records management that can do that, and this should not be the task of NAS . This is certainly true but, in my opinion, as long as we are talking about the public institutions and the public money, this is the task of the public employee having expertise in dealing with records-i.e. the archivists from NAS.

Therefore, the involvement of NAS , through proper regulations, training of employees, guide of best practice and the control of the enforcement of records management regulations will help the public institutions to have a better information asset and to save public money. Also, the proper processed records will help NAS when accessioning the permanent records. The collateral effect of such an approach is that, working along with public administration, proving the utility of our work in improving their work, the institutional profile is very likely to increase and also the budgeting. The administration will be aware of the role played by the NAS professionals-of helping them in dealing with recorded information and not being the worker in dark cellars. In this way, they will have a clear picture that despite the new evolution of "science", the proper expertise in dealing with records is also relevant for the good managing of public affair.

However, there are two caveats in this. Firstly, it raises the question if the archivists are trained to do so. In some countries they are, in others they are not. But such an approach compel to an updated training for the archivists. In many countries archivists have knowledge about rather fixed facts (past institutions, past diplomatic rules etc.) while today everything is very fluid. The Latin palaeography is still the same, after 50 years, for instance, while the administrative regulation or computers are changing fast[19]. The need for permanent training for archivists is a must and they have to be aware for the need of being also trained as records managers. In some countries, like Canada for instance, they are even melted together

18. H. Taylor, *Information Ecology and the Archives of the 1980s* In Tom Nesmith (ed.), *Canadian Archival studies and the Rediscovery of Provenance*, 1993 p. 194.
19. One very good argument in Robert Nahuet, *Des problèmes archivistiques à une nouvelle problématique de cette discipline ou les défis posés à l'archivistique contemporaine*, "Atlanti", 19(2009), pp.117-125.

under the generous umbrella of "information managers". They share common practices, common purposes. But not all the countries have records management practices. In some countries a long and generous tradition states the way the clerks must manage their papers; in other, there is nothing like this, and common sense or the free will of the clerk dictates the "recordkeeping" before the transfer of records to Archives. So, if the archivists will need to get involved in managing of records, they should be prepared to get the proper information to support the public institutions in their activity.

Another issue is that in many countries the right of inspection is regulated, but it is targeted mainly on supervising the transfer of permanent records to the Archives. This is, without any doubt, important, but my argument is that archivists should go before this moment, and assist the administration on the whole lifecycle of records.

As a conclusion, I consider that to help public administration to have a better control over their records means helping it to have a proper organized source of information and also, in the end, to help the Archives to have proper archival records. This is a way to show to the decision makers that Archives means not only Past, but also Present. The implication of archivists in the world of "records management"[20] may be a possible way of creating a higher institutional and professional profile for NAS and archivists.

3 b. *Urbi et orbi…*

A second aspect concerns the way the NAS understand to offer their services. The classical image is that of a sober institution, mainly dedicated to elite historians, that follows in full tranquillity its course, because it deals with centuries and not with minutes or hours. In the NAS do not enter but those able to read palaeography or those who need some information for academic research. Of course, one cannot forget to mention the greater stream of genealogical researchers, but they can also be called, many of them, "professionals", not to mention the international companies that offer global services in the field. The rest of the users are rather incidental: curious informed reporter, that has the information that in a certain file one may found an interesting topic for an article, an album editor that wants some photos copied, an cadastral expert who wants to study an old map. In the former communist countries, a large number of citizens were looking for their lost right (social, proprieties etc.). The later increased significantly the number of user of the NAS with the price of transforming the institution in a sort of notaries or social security offices.

But, overall, how much is this range of users? How much of the tax payers have benefits from the archival activity? Socially speaking if tomorrow the NAS will be closed, how vital we would be for some politicians that might be threaten by the citizens' votes for their decision?

In my opinion, traditionally we serve an extremely limited number of the population. In my opinions, the impact of archival activity is small on a short time: a relatively limited number of users, high costs for maintenance, secondary activity from the administrative perspective. I have never heard that a strike in the railway services could be compared with one of the archivists or that an ICA

20. The modern records management was, in fact, re-invented by the National Archives of the United States, starting from the administrative reforms in 1950s (Robek, Stephens, Brown, op. cit., pp. 20-21).

Congress to be reflected in mass-media more than a local political event. We like to consider ourselves capitals, but, cynically speaking, I do not think we really impress too much.

What is obvious, on the other hand, is that the NAS cannot become a commercial company. We cannot become records businessmen nor to dance in public places to get public attention. There are several occasions when the NAS do get public attention. Movies like *National Treasure* or books like Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* or Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* or *Angels and Demons* promoted the idea of Archives as place for past treasures[21]. All images are however the classic ones and do not really fits with the new demands. Therefore, even if some tips may still present the Archives as the "hidden treasure", in order to increase the number of users there are things that can be done, even if they change the traditional image over the Arcives and archivists.

If we consider as main goal that of increasing the number of the users of archival services, we must think in terms of marketing: identify a need that only you can satisfy[22]. We cannot invent the History: it is already invented and more, there are some people who write history without studying the records from Archives (see the postmodern approach). Therefore, we must identify that "something", unique in the archives that can satisfy people's needs. Let us face it: those people, who need NAS from professional point of view (academics mainly), will come to the NAS anyway. But there is a fraction of users that has nothing in common with the NAS and must be targeted specifically. From their spare time, we must "steal" for the NAS some of their time, wake them some new interests, in challenge with all the others services, from entertainment to academic.

Traditionally, the Archives' patrons were historians. Mr. Charles Kecskeméti even argued last year, in one session of the Autumn School organized by the International Institute for Archival Sciences from Trieste-Maribor, that if the NAS want to regain some of the past prestige, they must renewed an alliance with historians: "…*a new alliance between historians and archivists is a must for the future of both the archival institutions and historical scholarship*"[23]. To some extent, this is certainly true. As it was stated, "the history of all countries is rich in unsolved enigmas"[24]. The good presence on market of TV stations like Discovery or Viasat History shows that the public taste for history has not vanished. On the other hand, there have been made some pertinent remarks about the different way historians are writing history today. In a presentation held in Bucharest at the Conference of the Faculty of Archival Science (May, 2010), Mr. Yehoshua Freundlich, the State Archivist of Israel, noted that

> "…*during the last decade, or maybe even earlier, this intimate relation between history and archives has been weakened and gave way to a more limited, distant and reserved attitude between these two professions. This is an on-going process, and the reasons for this estrangement are complex and diverse*".

He identified several factors, which I enumerate briefly: the decline of Political history, the emergence of post-modernistic trends

21. In a discussion we had, an Austrian friend noticed however that, ironically, almost all the facts related to archives in this book are contrary to what a real archive mean: the archives, coordinated by librarian, were readily accessible, without a trace of finding aid; all the holdings have been inventoried, but in a very librarian approach, the wanted manuscript was easy to find, shelves were not anchored etc.
22. See a very interesting approach in this respect at http://www.inspiringlearningforall.gov.uk/ (visited on 13.06.2010).
23. Charles Kecskémeti, *History and Archives (the Value of Primary Sources)-Historian and Archivists (Enemies or Allies?)*, „Atlanti", 19(2009), p. 249.
24. *Ibidem*, p. 244.

in history writing, the popularity of regional, local, ethnic and sectarian history, the growing importance of oral history, the growing interest in genealogical research, the introduction of the new media, that is, photographs, video, films, and voice recording into the historical writing.

In order to re-appeal the historians, Mr. Freundlich suggested that NAS

- should accumulate, preserve and use the new media, so as to play again an indispensible role in historical writing;
- should initiate and lead far-reaching projects of oral history, to maintain this material and open it for public use;
- should better train our staff so that they will re-assume their place as advisors to historians, that is, to pay more attention to the material that we hold than to technological innovations.

Beyond these traditional patrons, the NAS must definitely broaden the pool of users. It is really hard to know how-probably, the archival marketing will be (if it is not already) a new thread of professional discussions. I saw in Archivio di Stato di Trieste excellent exhibitions that, beyond a document or a jewel, tell a story-as a detective story or as a thriller. Eventually, if people are interested by SF movies about how spectacular would be in some other societies, why they would not be interested about how spectacular were the past societies? And by the way of SF, when entering the National Archives in Kew some months ago I saw large posters advertising the release of UFO files[25]… Also, I had the opportunity to see in France very interesting "ateliers pédagogiques", that try to present the living past to children and young people[26]. I find them a little different than loaning records in reading room. And, even if I cannot say if these actions target new segments of users (but it is very likely so), I must confess I was really impressed and they really got my attention.

One other issue I would like to address is the way NAS is delivering their services to patrons. Another classic image is to have finding aids in reading room, where researcher reads page after page, identifies the reference codes and order the files. If we have today online exhibitions, online TV streams, online concerts, who has time to come in a dusty reading room and read page by page? The need is to have the necessary information as quick as possible; therefore, the automated archival information systems available through Internet are a must for our days. This is why I was really surprised to see in some NAS how about the same content from the web is also published in heavy books: are we, as archivists, more respected if we publish the finding aids on paper instead of letting them only in electronic version? Also, efforts should be made in order to make descriptive information as explicit as possible for users. If our finding aids are as academic as to be incomprehensible to the average user, our goal is not achieved. Of course, classical "true" researcher is that one who knows an archive, how to search for that very records she/he needs. But the archives do not have services only for academics, but also for those who have no idea what an archive is, and the approach should be shaped in such a form that the "dummy", the inexperienced user that comes to the NAS should not feel embarrassed because of his/her lack of knowledge. We do not work only for those

25. http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ufos/ (visited on 10.05.2010); see also the You Tube advertisment http://www. youtube.com /watch ?v=MN4g2aEBxdQ (visited on 10.05.2010).
26. A similar initiative in USA http://kdl.kyvl. org/kyleidoscope/kyleidoscope.htm (visited on 10.05.2010).

who know; we work for everybody and we work more for those who do not.

Besides automated information systems, many other ways of interacting with users can be used. One common way is to have on-line records. Very likely, a full digitized archive is, in my opinion, a utopia. But some of the most demanded records or the most spectacular ones can be digitized, in order to enhance the access; significant approaches can be cited in this respect, for instance TNA[27]. The classical albums can also be easily and cheaper be edited, in a nice multimedia architecture in electronic format, as happened in Italy or Hungary with cadastral maps.

Some very nice approaches regard the use of the Web 2.0 technologies. Many NAS use social networks (Facebook or You Tube[28]) for promoting their activity and news update. Sometimes, it is really an astonishing experience, to see how dynamic an NAS life can be! In this respect, some very nice and useful advices I found on a blog[29] shape the way archivists should act and emphasize many of the ideas above:

1. *Know their worth*-archives and libraries help to create an informed society
2. *Market their services*-use Twitter and Facebook, create a blog etc. but don't just start it and let it go, use it to promote your services
3. *Engage the community*-talk to the people in the community and find out what they want from the library and then supply it
4. *Brand themselves*-every library and archives has a mission statement, use that mission statement to create a tagline and then promote, promote, promote
5. *Have fun*-navigating through the world of social media can be fun so enjoy it

Such approaches require, of course, some new skills for the archivists. On the one hand, we must invest more resources in "tertiary sector", the services. J. Naisbitt noticed that within the framework of transition to Information Age, the number of direct workers is smaller than that of clerks. In the archives, that means in the new social framework, the number of archivists processing the archives should be smaller than that of those who are the interface with our users. On the other hand, it is obviously that skills of editing document catalogues are not enough anymore for archivists and our professional body must be trained to use the new technologies. The Past story can be told in a very modern way, because not the content should dictate the form, but the target audience.

4. Final considerations

This paper started from the realities of a country in South-Eastern Europe that hit the wave of post-modernism. Although, the visits I have made in different countries convinced me that the issues raised here are not merely parochial topics, but they describe a broader reality, that affects the archives in different geographic areas. In the same time, those visits showed me there are attempts to face the wave of changes that might be followed as good practices.

Mainly, these lines are thought for future. Even if it seems a

27. http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/what-you-can-find-online.htm (visited on 10.05.2010).
28. For instance, see NARA initiatives: http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/ (visited on 10.05.2010), (http://www. youtube.com/usnationalarchives/ (visited on 10.05.2010), http://www.flickr.com/usnationalarchives/ (visited on 10.05.2010), http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nationwide/US-National-Archives/128463482993 (visited on 10.05.2010), http://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-at-the-US-National-Archives/129424269765 (visited on 10.05.2010) or TNA: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/get-involved%5Cdefault.htm (visited on 10.05.2010), http://www.youtube.com/user/NationalArchives08 (visited on 10.05.2010).
29. http://curiouschild.wordpress.com/2010/06/18/five-things-archives-and-libraries-can-learn-from-mom-bloggers/ (visited on 10.05.2010).

little bit harsh with NAS and archivists, I true believe that we should not indulge in wishful thinking. NAS have cultural relevance, but there are also other relevant things in society. Unfortunately, there is a trend to cut off firstly the budgets for culture, when other needs appear. And, among cultural institutions, a fierce fight started, for more money. Something valuable is not necessarily always appreciated. NAS need money in order to survive, but the money, whether we like it or not, are given based on the relevance of the services granted. At the very beginning, the NAS came into being for the fulfillment of social need. As professionals, it is our duty to watch over the changing needs of the State and of the society. If these change, we must also change our offer for satisfying the new requirements. Otherwise, no matter how important we might consider to be, we will be condemned to poverty or dissolution.

LITERATURE

Richard Cox, *Closing An Era: Historical Perspective On Modern NAS And Records Management*, Westport 2000.

http://action4archives.com/ (visited on 30.08.2009).

http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/ (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://curiouschild.wordpress.com/2010/06/18/five-things-archives-and-libraries-can-learn-from-mom-bloggers/ (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_science (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_society (visited 23.07.2009).

http://kdl.kyvl.org/kyleidoscope/kyleidoscope.htm (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://sarah-hanson-young.greensmps.org.au /content/media-release/senate-votes-stop-closure-national-archives-tas-sa-and-nt (visited on 5.06.2010).

http://www. youtube.com/usnationalarchives/ (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2010/s2828294.htm (visited on 5.06.2010).

http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/11/2768867.htm (visited on 7.07.2010).

http://www.archimac.org/Profession/Slogans.spml (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.archivalplatform.org/resources/category/archives_at_the_crossroads/ (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.archivistes.org/Disparition-de-la-Direction-des (visited on 3.03.2010).

http://www.facebook. com/pages/Nationwide/US-National-Archives/128463482993 (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-at-the-US-National-Archives/129424269765 (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.facebook.com/posted.php?id=211454920801#!/group.php?gid=211454920801&v=wall (visited on 13.07.2010).

http://www.flickr.com/usnationalarchives/ (visited on 10.05.2010)

http://www.gov.ro/upload/articles/106509/lege-reorganizare.pdf (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.inspiringlearningforall.gov.uk/ (visited on 13.06.2010).

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/get-involved%5Cdefault.htm (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.youtube.com/user/NationalArchives08 (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/what-you-can-find-online.htm (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ufos/ (visited on 10.05.2010).

http://www.youtube.com/watch ?v=MN4g2aEBxdQ (visited on 10.05.2010).

Charles KECSKÉMETI, *History and NAS (the Value of Primary Sources)-Historian*

and Archivists (Enemies or Allies?) „Atlanti", 19(2009), pp. 243-249.

Robert Nahuet, *Des problèmes archivistiques à une nouvelle problématique de cette discipline ou les défis posés à l'archivistique contemporaine*, "Atlanti", 19(2009), pp.117-125.

John Naisbitt, *Megatendințe. Zece noi direcții care ne transform viața* [Megatrends. Ten New Directions Transforming Our Lives], București 1989.

Ira Penn, Gale Pennix, Jim Coulson, *Records Management Handbook*, Gower Publishing 1989

Mary Robek, David Stephens, Gerald Brown, *Information and Records Management: Document-Based Information Systems*, 4th ed., Glencoe McGraw Hill 1995.

Helena Tapper, *Understanding of Information Society Paradigm* at http://www. valt.helsinki.fi/ comm/argo/argonet9/TAPPER.HTM (visited on 25.06.2009).

Hugh Taylor, *Information Ecology and the NAS of the 1980s* in Tom Nesmith (ed.), *Canadian Archival studies and the Rediscovery of Provenance*, 1993.