

GDPR & Historical Archives

a financial archives workshop

eabh (The European Association for Banking and Financial History e.V.)

in cooperation with the European Central Bank (ECB)

4 November 2022

European Central Bank

Sonnemannstrasse 20

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Call for papers

What is new for historical archives under the GDPR regime? In particular in a Post-Covid environment?

This workshop aims to look at the impact of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on historical archives, in particular, but not exclusively, in the financial sector.

Since May 2018, the GDPR has set common standards of data protection within the European Union and, to a certain extent, beyond. This regulation received critical acclaim by the public and scholars alike, however, not without facing widespread criticism for the severity of the changes it requires. Without a doubt, it has been successful in getting the topic of data protection on the political agenda as well in the public and business sphere. The ever-increasing collection of digital data has required common actions to limit the usage of personal data.

Historical archives in public and private ownership are generally subject to the GDPR, albeit the meaning of personal data fades the older the archives are. The GDPR acknowledges the particular role of archives as cultural memory institutions as well as the importance of scientific research based on historical records. However, the more digital records are transferred into the custody of historical archives, the more archivists can be confronted with data protection issues.

This is not new; the protection of personal data has been an issue in archives long before the establishment of the GDPR. Nonetheless, the GDPR raises a couple of questions for archives, which we would like to address in the planned workshop, for instance:

- What is new for historical archives under the GDPR regime? In particular in a Post-Covid environment?
- Has the GDPR drastically changed the handling of personal information in archives?
- How shall we balance data protection in relation to other significant considerations relevant for archives, in particular those relating to the public's access to records (transparency) and the freedom of science?
- Can we identify specific data protection requirements in the financial sector (public institutions as well as private banks)?
- Are there significant national differences in the application of the GDPR in archives?
- How shall archivists deal with individuals' requests to 'clean' records?
- How can archivists recognise data protection risks, especially in digital fonds?
- Will data protection change the collection practices of archives?
- Will data protection influence the description of archival holdings?
- How shall the GDPR be further developed in the future?

Do you want to participate in this workshop?

Please send your abstract (max 500 words) and a short CV (5 lines) to

c.hofmann@bankinghistory.org no later than 1 October 2022.

The programme's committee consists of: Luca Furlotti (ECB), Carmen Hofmann (*eabh*) and Matthias Weber (ECB).

We would like to encourage submissions of presenters from various backgrounds:

- Archives in private custody
- Central bank archives
- Public archives in general
- Legal studies
- Data protection practice
- IT practice
- Users (researchers)

Selected speakers will be asked to:

- Submit a full paper ready by the end of the calendar year 2022
- Give a presentation of 15 - 20 minutes on 4 November 2022 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany

