

Archives Online – It's all about choices.

Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Vienna, 28 April 2016

'Presenting the past – The OeNB's 200-year history'

Abstract

The Bank History Archives of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) have been open for public research since 1999. Its collections date back to 1816, the OeNB's founding year.

Following an overview of the OeNB Archives' records with a focus on the area of "international financial relations," the authors present the wide range of multimedia channels used by the OeNB Archives to reach out to their various audiences.

The OeNB's tools of choice for providing online information include snapshots of corporate history, a selection of digitized records and an online historical currency converter.

For historians seeking to work with original records, the OeNB Archives' resources are available for on-site research as well. Of course, personal interaction during in-house presentations and tours for new OeNB recruits is also an important information channel.

Currently, the activities and events organized to mark the OeNB's bicentennial are at the center of attention.

One of the first highlights was the launch of two history books, an illustrated history of the OeNB, which draws on previously unpublished archival records, and an academic discussion of Austrian monetary policy history. The print editions will be used as giveaways and will continue to serve as works of reference in the decades ahead. Extracts from these books as well as full-text versions of older publications have been made available online.

Addressing a broader audience, the OeNB's website provides an interactive timeline and facts and figures (so far in German only).

Finally, the OeNB also offers face-to-face information through a special bicentennial exhibition at the OeNB Money Museum as part of its financial literacy initiative, above all with a view to enhancing the financial education of the next generation.

Walter Antonowicz

Born in 1969, Walter Antonowicz studied history and political science at the University of Vienna, from which he graduated in 1995.

1998 he was commissioned to set up the Bank History Archives of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB).

From 2001 to 2015 he continued to work for the archives within the OeNB's Documentation Management and Communications Services. He is co-author of the jubilee book about the 200-year history of the bank.

Since 2015 he has been a Senior Archivist within the Communications and Financial Literacy Division.

Claudia Köpf

Claudia Köpf is currently studying history at the University of Vienna. In 2012 she joined the team of the Bank History Archives at the Austrian Central Bank. She is co-author of the jubilee book about the 200-year history of the bank. As a market and opinion researcher she analyses target groups and customer behavior.

'The World Bank Group Archives' Open Archives Program'

Abstract

The World Bank Group Archives' "Open Archives" program is comprised of services to the public, technology, archival arrangement and description, and digitization. Enabled by the World Bank's Access to Information Policy, the Open Archives program is now in its third year. The presentation will cover: the general context of the WBG Archives' responsibilities and work program; the motivation for the Open Archives endeavor and information about the methods and target audience; the benefits of – and future plans for – the program; and a demonstration of the available functions of the program on-line if time permits.

April Miller

April is the Program Lead for the programs, services and staff of the World Bank Group Archives in Washington, DC, where she has worked since 2003. The Archives provides Bank Group staff and the global community with access to relevant information and services to: foster knowledge, transparency, and accountability; and reflect history to enable effective delivery of development solutions. She holds a Masters in Archival Studies from the University of British Columbia and began her career as a Government Records Archivist at the (then) National Archives of Canada before joining the World Bank Group.

'The Bank of England Archive Online: Openness Versus 'The Headline!''

Abstract

Openness and accountability is one of the four pillars of The Bank of England's Strategic Plan, but what does this mean for publishing archive material online? And to what extent do our choices of what to publish need to be balanced against reputational risk such as a dreaded bad headline? The paper will take you from the first tentative steps of putting archives online in 2012 to a more recent large scale digitisation project. It will highlight the mistakes made and lessons learned in-between, some of which in hindsight might have affected our choices.

Lorna Williams

Lorna has worked as an archivist in the UK for over ten years: six years with the Bank of England in the bustling City of London; three with Denbighshire Record Office, deep in the beautiful Welsh hills; and a year working on the 'Documenting the Workshop of the World' cataloguing and digitisation project, in the industrial Black Country. Lorna is also a trustee of the Business Archives Council and a Director on the board of the Digital Preservation Coalition.

'Ask the users: expectations, behaviors and satisfaction of online archives' end customers'

Abstract

Archives online could be considered as public services that put together archival standards with the usual features of digital libraries, with browse&search functions, item-level descriptions and sometimes access to digital reproductions. Their quality as products depends mostly on end customers' satisfaction against their defined goals. How can we observe the effective use of archival digital environments and improve eventual issues? This presentation briefly presents the typical issues for final users' experience and the usefulness of organising user studies along projects' life-cycle to guarantee a convenient return on investment.

Pierluigi Feliciati

Researcher and Lecturer at the University of Macerata since 2007, Pierluigi worked for the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage as coordinator of National Archives web information systems (since 1986). Presently he is pro-rector for information systems at the University of Macerata, where he teaches Information Science applied to Cultural Heritage, Archives, Digital Humanities. He is one of the coordinators of the UniMC network of research for Social Sciences and ICT and President of the spin-off company "PlayMarche srl".

His research interests focus on interface quality, usability evaluation and users interaction with cultural web content, on digital cultural repositories management, semantic marking.

Member since 2003 of the MINERVA european working group on cultural web quality, co-author of the European and Italian edition of the *Handbook of quality of cultural web sites*, the *Quality Principles for cultural Web sites: a handbook* and the *Handbook on cultural web user interaction*. In 2013 he directed the 2nd International Summer School in *Policies and Practices in Access to Digital Archives*, funded by CEI and OSF.

'Using social media to promote archives'

Abstract

Social media is now an incredibly important tool for archivists. With millions of active users, having conversations across the globe, it provides unique opportunities for archive services big and small.

Social media provides a variety of opportunities for organisations and individuals to engage with their audiences, but how can you define success and measure the impact of your activity?

Taking examples from UK archives and lessons learned in managing The National Archives' accounts, this presentation will look at the different ways you can use social media channels to promote your collections and services. It will consider the benefits and potential pitfalls, and also how you can manage the expectations of your social media followers.

This presentation will also look at recent crowdsourcing projects from The National Archives and consider the power social media has to make us all Citizen Historians.

Laura Cowdrey

With over ten years' marketing experience and an MA in Modern History, Laura is currently working in the Marketing and Communications department at The National Archives. Here she can combine a passion for archives and history with creativity, marketing strategy and digital technologies. She has a focus on social media and digital communications, supporting colleagues working in the archive sector and academic and research teams.

'Spoilt by choice? The art of archival cataloguing'

Abstract

The 2012 Ithaka report cites 'good cataloguing' as essential for researchers planning their visits to record offices. But what does this mean in practice? What are the choices that archive repositories have about how they catalogue? What are the choices for a national aggregator like the Archives Hub? How high do we set the bar for our contributors and how do we balance this against researchers' requirements? This presentation will set out to answer these questions and the presenter will suggest that we should think about cataloguing as a science as well as an art. It is a skill that we should not underestimate, and it is a skill that needs a broad understanding of our current digital age and the online environment.

Jane Stevenson

Jane is an archivist with over 20 years experience. She works for Jisc, a not-for-profit organisation for digital services and solutions within UK education and research. She manages the Archives Hub service, which brings together descriptions of archives held across the UK to enable researchers to locate primary sources quickly and efficiently. The Archive Hub provides support and advice about the importance of effective descriptions for online discovery, and provides a tool for the creation and editing of interoperable descriptions. It does a substantial amount of work around data normalisation and integration, and work on behalf of our contributors to promote their archives nationally and internationally. As a part of Jisc, Jane works with colleagues who have expertise in the development and deployment of shared digital infrastructure, digital services and technical innovation.

'Archives in motion: Open Access at SALT Research and the Ottoman Bank Archives'

Abstract

SALT Research assembles archives of recent art, architecture, design, urbanism, and social and economic histories of Turkey in its broadest sense from the 19th century to our time, to make them available for research and public use. From the very beginning, the archives were not seen as the “possession” of the institution but belonging to the community. To make them accessible, an open access policy was followed in order to stimulate new research perspectives and to promote creativity for different perspectives.

The Ottoman Bank Archives collection, which was catalogued in 1994 and whose digitization started in 1998, do not only provide an insight into the financial history of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey; they are very precious for the social, economic and cultural history of the country. Only a small number of the above documents is available online. However, they are put into value through different means. Besides the Ottoman Bank Museum created in 2002 and located in today's SALT Galata, the Museum website, the Google Cultural Institute, Flickr, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are used to reach a wider audience. This paper focuses on two different approaches: on the presentation of the documents in their “integrity” for research on the one hand, and on the selection for one of the above specific purposes on the other hand. At which level and how the choices are made and what challenges are faced during the implementation of different tools will be some of the questions addressed in the presentation.

Lorans Tanatar Baruh

After graduating from the Department of Economics at Boğaziçi University, Lorans obtained her master's degree in history from the same university in 1993. In 1997, she began to work as Prof. Edhem Eldem's assistant for the Ottoman Bank Historical Projects of the Economic and Social Foundation of Turkey. She holds the post of scientific manager at the Ottoman Bank Archives and Research Centre from 1998 to 2010. She has been awarded a Ph.D. in history from Boğaziçi University in 2009 and is currently working at SALT as Associate Director of Research and Programs.

'D.A.C. Digital Archive and Collections of Fondazione 1563'

Abstract

Digital Archives and Collections (D.A.C.) is a project set up by Fondazione 1563 to make historical archives available on the web. Putting all the inventories and catalogues relating to the Foundation's archival heritage in just one structure, managed by open source software known as CollectiveAccess, D.A.C. rationalizes its management, solves problems relating to possible system obsolescence and, last but not least, makes the whole archival heritage consistently searchable.

In November 2015, the virtual study room opened online and the archive of the old Compagnia di San Paolo (1563-1853) went on the web. It was completely digitized – 4.500 registers, volumes and files, 200.000 pages.

Since January 2016, the archives of architects Bartolomeo and Giuseppe Gallo have been available online. In 2016, we will put the archives of Istituto di San Paolo (1853-1950), Gestioni EGELI (confiscation of Jews and enemies properties during second world war, managed by San Paolo bank) and General Secretariat of San Paolo bank (1950-1991) online.

While the oldest archive has been completely digitized, for the more recent and very extensive archives, we chose to digitize only the main and frequently consulted series such as articles of association and minutes of decision-making bodies (now up to 150.000 pages). In the electronic inventories, the decisions of the boards are described so users can see directly the page of the minutes referring to their research.

My contribution will start with an introductory video on D.A.C. followed by a "tree diagram", typical of Italian archives description, with examples of surfing and researches. From the archivist point of view, it is interesting to examine the passage from the traditional inventory of the old Compagnia's archives (1563-1853) published in 1963 to the web. Then I will describe our politics of access: a compromise between total free access and limited access that permits us to know the users and their interests.

Anna Cantaluppi has been the head of the Historical Archives of Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino and Compagnia di San Paolo since 1986. Now she doubles as the director of Fondazione 1563 per l'Arte e la Cultura, which is in charge of managing and developing the Historical Archives of the Compagnia di San Paolo and promoting studies into the culture of the Baroque period.

Author of publications and inventories on banking archives and modern history, among other works, she also co-edited the history of *Compagnia di San Paolo (1563-2013)* published by Einaudi (2013).