

Digital rebirth of historical datasets

A financial archives workshop

30 June 2022

Hyatt Regency Sofia Hotel
Vasil Levski Hall
Vasil Levski Square, 1504 Sofia, Bulgaria

Jointly organised by

The Bulgarian National Bank (BNB)

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

bankinghistory.org

Central banks and other financial institutions have longstanding histories and rich archives. These contain extensive sets of historical information and hence are an extremely valuable source of knowledge about the evolution of financial institutions' functions and mandates, as much as the trajectory of financial systems and the economic development of countries and regions. In this workshop we will check up key quantitative historical financial data, historical dataset accessibility and IT tools and innovation.

Programme*

30 June 2022

10.30 Coffee

11.00 Welcome

Kalin Hristov (Deputy Governor of the Bulgarian National Bank)

Moderators: Carmen Hofmann (*eabh*), Andreas Kakridis (Bank of Greece)

11.15 Introduction

Hugo Bänziger (Chairman of *eabh*)

- *Before the beginning: Financial information prior to 1878 in the archives preserved in the National Library 'St. St. Cyril and Methodius', Sofia, Bulgaria. Problems and perspectives*
Hristiyan Atanasov (University of Library Studies and Information Technologies & National Library 'St. St. Cyril and Methodius')

11.45 Session 1: Making primary sources available in new ways

This session will look at cutting-edge case studies for (online) data provision for research: data collection, digitization, data management and description. Our experts will put emphasis on how to prioritize and find funding for the 'rebirth' of historical datasets on design, technologies, and copyright.

- *Central banking and economic integration. A new database for Italy, 1850-1936*
Marianna Astore (Paris School of Economics), Maria Stella Chiaruttini (University of Vienna) & Federico Barbiellini Amidei (Banca d'Italia)
- *The use of Linked Open Data by bank archives: The Intesa Sanpaolo Historical Archives projects*
Federica Brambilla (Intesa SanPaolo)
- *Historical datasets at the Bank of England and the development of a UK historical data repository*
Ryland Thomas (Bank of England)

13.15 Lunch

14.30 Session 2: Setting new standards

This part will look at new tools and AI (artificial intelligence) assisted strategies that have been tested to make larger quantities of historical datasets available to a wider community of researchers, such as: HTR (Handwritten text) technology, automated recognition of document structures, complex historical tables and forms.

- *THOTH - Extracting tabular data at scales. New tools and strategies for historical datasets accessibility*
Alexis Litvine (University of Cambridge)
- *Chasing cash flows: Indexing the Rothschild Archive cash books, 1810-1915*
Bernadette Mischka (Regensburg University)
- *Creating new digital historical datasets for scientific research with A.I.: A new use of paper historical records at BNP Paribas*
Marie Laperdrix (BNP Paribas)

16.00 Closing remarks

20.00 Dinner

Vivacom Art Hall, 5 Oborishte str., 1504 Sofia

Dinner speech

Harold James (Princeton University & *eabh*)

***All times are Sofia times (EEST)**