

ARCHIVAL FILE PROTECTION IN KOSOVO

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Izvirnik v angleščini, izvleček v slovenščini in angleščini, povzetek v slovenščini.

V prispevku avtorica poudarja potrebo po pravi definiciji zaščite arhivskega gradiva na Kosovu. Poda razvoj in organizacijo arhivske službe na Kosovu s poudarkom na pomembnosti zaščite gradiva, ki je pomembno za zgodovino in narod. Z konkretnimi primeri na kratko predstavi resnično stanje zaščite arhivskega grada v arhivih. Prispevek je uporaben tako za zaposlene v arhivih kot tudi za ustvarjalce klasičnega in elektronskega arhivskega gradiva.

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In this article the author expresses the need for the right definition of archival file protection in Kosovo. First of all she describes the development of archives in Albanian land-bank, always considering the importance of protection of archival documents as a need for standardization of the protection of documents with historical - national importance. She approached the status of archival files in Kosovo archives, emplacement conditions and protection of archival files, air-conditioning etc. With concrete examples and in brief she presents the real status of archival file protection in Kosovo archives. This article is useful not only for the employees of the archives but also for the creators of classic and electronic archival documents.

Ključne besede: zaščita arhivskega gradiva, standardizacija, arhivska skladišča, arhivska služba.

Development of written documents protection has an early origin. Documents and archives are found in early periods and they were mainly in Illyrian cities, especially by the coast. In medieval period special individuals were responsible for the administration of documents with historical value, that served for tax collection, land ownership etc. Such documents today discourse of Albanian territory in general and Kosovo, in particular they are mainly being stored in archives of foreign countries as in Vatican, Dubrovnik, Venice, Zara, Istanbul, etc. Registers of merchants, city statuses e.g. of Shkodra, Ulcin etc. should be mentioned. Ottoman Archive in Istanbul keeps cadastral registers for Kosovo properties and population and more from XV century until 1912. Some documents were also taken from Kosovo and are stored in other archives, especially in Serbian archives. As an example we can take the Krisobula of Monastery of Decan of 1330 that is stored in Serbian Archive and also judicial proveniences, colonization, agrarian reform, cadastral documents etc. were taken when in Kosovo archives did not exist, but also during the nineties when Kosovo's autonomy was taken and in archival institutions violent measures were applied, especially in the Kosovo Archive. In relation to this a registration of taken documents was done and it was requested to return them to the place where they

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were created. Important documents are also in Macedonian Archive, in Skopje, of course documents of Kosovo provenience.

Macedonian Archive was established on 26th September 1926, and except in Macedonia its competences were extended in a part of Kosovo territory, of course after the establishment of Banovina of Vardar. Therefore for a long time in Kosovo there was no institution that would protect and store archival file.

In Kosovo a sound organization of service for protection of archival files dates as of 1948, when the Archival Centre was established by Regional National Council. This center with the law on state archives, on 21st March 1951 exchanged, respectively the Regional State Archive was established with competences for protection, evidencing, classification, use and storage, etc. of the archival file. Whereas since 1969 until 1979 based on the legal provision of the Law on State Archives, inter - municipal archives with center in Pristina, Peja, Gjakovë, Prizren, Mitrovica and Gjilan were established in Kosovo. Thus a sound network of archives was established. Later because of the created conditions in some of municipal centers municipal archives were created. Except for these archives special archives were functioning as economical ones in Kosovo Electro - economy in Obiliq and of Trepca in Mitrovica. Thus a sound network of archival service was created.

However, as in some regional countries, the beginning was difficult. There was a lack of qualified persons, premises, equipment and even the lack of tradition etc. With the dedication of the archival employees, support of the reign, however, this situation began to be over fulfilled. Organization of courses and seminars in archival field begun, and also, ensuring some emergency premises for the emplacement and storage of archival file.

It must be emphasized that in 1977 a climacteric was done in Kosovo archival service on archival file protection aspect. Kosovo Archive new modern building was inaugurated. Here a lot of archival fonds, that were received until then, were placed but also a lot that were received by registry.

This developmental situation and organization of the Kosovo archive service continued until 1989, when the autonomy was taken by Serbian regime. Archival service in Kosovo underwent changes. In Kosovo Archive violent measures were applied, some Albanian experts were fired and replaced by Serbian, even coming from Serbia, Serbian Region and Bosnia. This situation continued until the beginning of war in Kosovo during 1998/99.

During the war of Serbian aggressor in Kosovo in 1998/99, as there were huge consequences in killing the population, expel from the country, destruction of dwellings and other things, archival documentation had high consequences as well. Archival documents in a lot of registries were destroyed or burned, whereas municipal archive in Decan was entirely burned. In a lot of municipal assemblies' archival documentation on property - juridical issues and civil status were taken and sent out of Kosovo, respectively in Serbia. From Kosovo Archive were taken mainly some fonds of agrarian reform, colonization, judicial provenience and other.

With the end of the war, the situation changed for the better. Albanian qualified individuals returned to their working places. Work and engagement on the collection and protection of archival files started not only in archives bur in registries as well. International institutions placed in Kosovo assisted on this. UNESCO delegated a team of experts; they recorded the situation of archival service, war consequences and gave the proposals for further development of the archival activity in Kosovo.

In the after war period a new organizing of the archival service started with the main aim on the protection of archival files. In 2003 Law on Archival Files and Archives was promulgated, this law amongst others clearly defined the obligation of the possessor and creator of the archival file and its protection. With this law a new organization of Kosovo archival service was placed. Archives were organized according to the newest models of European states. Previously Kosovo archives were under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport. Based on this law some sub - legal acts were approved as it was the Regulation on Receiving and Submission of Archival File and Regulation on Selection and Protection of Archival File. Thus a new legal base for the protection of archival file was created. In archives the service for inspection and control was organized or, as we would call it external service for the protection of archival files of the creator and possessor, respectively registries.

It should be emphasized that a particular problem in protection of archival files in Kosovo is still the lack of adequate premises. Except for the Kosovo State Archive that possesses sufficient and adequate premises for the placement and storage of archival files in some regional archives, especially one in Prizren the situation is not good. However, we hope that with organizing and ensuring the means adequate conditions will be created for archival file placement and storage.

With amendments to the Law on Archival Files in 2005, Kosovo archives were passed from the dependence of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports to the direct dependency of the Prime-Ministers Office of Kosovo Government. Progress of archives continued further on. In the end of 2008, archives were raised to the level of Agency. Kosovo State Archives Agency was established as a central archival institution of Kosovo. At the level of this Agency function the Kosovo State Archive, Department for Regional and Municipal Archives, Department of Administration and Finance and Department for Planning, International Communication and Cooperation. This is a new system organized according to the new model of English and Bulgarian archives. For a better functioning of archival service in Kosovo and better protection of archival files on a centralized manner, based on the new organizational structure, with the creation of conditions, documentation center will be established or as they will be called inter-archives.

Law on Archival File and Archives, except for the protection of public archive file, includes also the protection of private archive files, as an individual but also the organizations, companies, and private enterprises. Private possessors' archival files in the protection and value aspect have the same treatment as public file. Kosovo archives nowadays gives special attention to the archival files of the privatized organizations in Kosovo by the Kosovo Trust Agency that deals with privatization.

With Law and other local legal provisions it is forecasted also the protection of archival files of other international organizations acting in Kosovo as UNMIK, OSCE and other organizations. This file according international protection norms should remain in Kosovo, as the file was created there it should remain there and it is the property of that nation and territory.

Nowadays preparations for organizing the system for protection of electronic files are being made. Law on Archival File and Archives will be amended with a special chapter on electronic documents. Here it will also include the Law on Electronic Stamp and Electronic Signature. A new Regulation on Official Management of Electronic and Classic Documents is under preparation. Archival system will be included based on the classification scheme, definition of the storage terms etc. All this aiming for the protection of electronic documents with permanent value.

Only some of the essential elements for protection of archival files in Kosovo archives were presented, by not detailing with protection procedures of archival files of the creator and possessor outside archive, technical protection of archival files through conservation and restoration, microfilming and digitalizing, creating optimal conditions for file storage through air conditioning in the places where the archival treasury is stored.

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POVZETEK

ZAŠČITA ARHIVSKEGA GRADIVA NA KOSOVU

Ena izmed osnovnih dolžnosti arhivov na Kosovu je zaščita arhivskega gradiva. Državni organi na Kosovu so podpirali organizacijo in boljše delovanje arhivske službe in v ta namen vpeljali pravno infrastrukturo, ki to zagotavlja. Kosovski arhivi so na nivoju agencije, arhivska služba je centralizirana.

Poleg zaščite arhivskega gradiva na papirju se arhivi na Kosovu danes bolj ubadajo tudi s pripravo pravnih podlag in usposabljanja kadra za zaščito in prevzemanje elektronskih arhivskih dokumentov na magnetnih in optičnih medijih.

Poseben problem arhivov na Kosovu je še vedno pomanjkanje primernih prostorov v nekaterih regionalnih arhivih. Zaradi tega je arhivska agencija pripravila razvojno strategijo Kosovskih arhivov, v katero je vključeno tudi reševanje prostorske problematike.