

Jelka Melik
Matevž Košir

SENSITIVE ARCHIVES

Post-modern archival science is becoming increasingly transnational science. This pushes up its reputation and justifying its position as real practical science. Becoming more universal measure of the proper management of records and documents for all Europe, for whole civilized mankind.

Despite, or precisely because of this, we are particularly well aware, and take into account special cases, and the problems relating to national archives.

A special challenge is certainly in the former socialist countries which twenty years ago broke away from communist rule. However, the problems of these countries are not identical. Slovenia is one of them. It is becoming apparent that archives served not only for scientific research. Archives have become necessary to correct injustices, and restoring rights which have been grossly violated in the previous system. Archives also become essential in determining the state borders (arbitration agreement concluded between Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia (2009) in which it was decided to establish a tribunal with a mandate to resolve the dispute over the border by land and sea). They also become a tool of intense political struggle. About the opening and access to archives of the former intelligence services have even been decided by a referendum (legislative referendum June 5, 2011). These raises many questions. How to fix a system of injustice and not to make new ones? How to protect sensitive personal data and also provide a good overview of recent developments? How to preserve evidence for criminal and corrupt practices which have arisen during the transition? How to ensure trust in the archive documents? How to achieve that documents and heritage of a country remain complete and intact? How to ensure that it won't be retained only or primarily those documents it was seeking to maintain power, the ruling party?