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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IN THE ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

87

Abstrakt: The article is devoted to the problem of organizing international scientific cooperation in the archives management. It is noted that scientific researches and developments in the archival science can be of fundamental and applied nature, a conclusion is made about the influence of national archival traditions and practices on applied developments. When identifying and analyzing the main directions and forms of cooperation, the authors rely on many years of experience of leading international organizations, as well as the experience of bilateral cooperation between the All-Russian Scientific and Research Institute for Records and Archives Management (VNIIDAD) and the Belarusian Research Institute for Documentation and Archival Science (BelNIIDAD) that are the specialized national institutions in the field of archival scientific researches and developments. Factors complicating international cooperation have not been overlooked, the main of which the authors consider to be the specific professional terminology used in the theory and practice of archiving in different countries.

Keywords: *archives management, scientific cooperation, fundamental and applied researches and developments, directions of cooperation, forms of cooperation*

INTRODUCTION

Science is a field of human activity aimed at the development and systematization of objective knowledge of reality. In the process of this activity, a system of knowledge about the laws of the functioning and development of objects is being formed. The presence of a well-defined objects, which are studied by science, is one of its main features.

Various sciences have their own objects to study, and archival science in this regard is no exception. Archival science is closely related to the practical activities of archives, the tasks of which are to accept, preserve and provide conditions for the use of

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documents for a long time. Therefore, the traditional main object of archival science is a document. However, documents are studied not only by the archival science, but also by other sciences, for example, documentation science. For archival science, the documents that are stored or to be stored in the archive are important first of all. That is why archival science clarifies that the main object of its research is not any document, but a document stored or to be stored in the archive, i.e., an archival document.

88 Recently, due to the introduction of new information and communication technologies and the widespread use of electronic documents, there has been a transformation not only in the perception of the essential features and characteristics of the main object of archival science, but also in the object of this science itself³. The application of new technologies has led to the emergence of documents created, operated and preserved as part of information resources that are managed by using software and hardware. Documents are organized in them in a slightly different way to traditional documents. Moreover, documents created automatically without direct human involvement have emerged⁴. This actualizes not only theoretical issues related to the clarification of the object and subject of archival science, but also practical issues related to the revision of traditional methods of transferring documents for storage in archives, ensuring their long-term preservation, their subsequent use for scientific and practical purposes.

The adjustment of ideas about the object and subject of archival science, the revision of methods of archival research and methods of archival work are objective in nature. The changes taking place in the archives management reflect global trends, and in this context, international scientific cooperation among archivists is of particular relevance.

THEORETICAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH IN ARCHIVAL STUDIES

Research in any science can be divided into fundamental (basic) and applied. Archival science is no exception in this respect.

Fundamental researches are mainly theoretical in nature and are aimed at defining the object and subject of archival science, studying the essence of a document and an archive document as the main objects of archival science, their main properties and qualities, their interrelations within simple and combines complexes. In addition, archival science studies archives as institutional entities in all their diverse forms and manifestations.

Comprehensive and integrative study of the object and subject of science allows to form an objective view on them and on this basis to build a system of knowledge about the laws of their functioning and development in the social and technological environment. The most important forms of implementation of the results of theoretical research are publications of scientific papers in the form of monographs, scientific articles, reports at scientific conferences, etc.

Fundamental researches provides the basis for solving applied, practical problems

³ Andrei Rybakou. *Influence of Modern Information Technologies on the Views on the Basic Object of Archival Science*. In: Atlanti: Review for modern archival theory and practice, 2019, vol. 29, № 2, pp. 18–29.

⁴ Mikhail Larin. *Electronic Documents in Archiving: a Theoretical Aspect*. In: Atlanti: Review for modern archival theory and practice, 2019, vol. 29, № 1, pp. 60–68.

aimed at developing the principles of organizing archival work, specific methods and techniques of transferring documents into archives, their accounting, preservation and use. The results of applied researches are reflected in the archival legislation, methodological instructions, guidelines, recommendations, regulations, standards, classifiers and other documents of practical orientation.

All theoretical studies in archival science are universal in nature and do not have any national or regional coloring. Objective knowledge about reality does not depend on cultural, religious and other ideas about the world, the socio-political structure of society, although this does not exclude the existence of national scientific schools.

At the same time, applied researches, which are based on the results of theoretical developments, are conducted taking into consideration the archival practices existing in one or another country or a number of countries. This is due to the initial emergence of archival science as a purely practical activity. Only over time, as archival practices accumulated and specific methods of archival work were developed, it became possible to comprehend the content of archival work, and the desire to improve it required a transition to the level of theoretical generalization of existing knowledge, classification of objects, development of methods of research work, formation of conceptual and categorical apparatus. That is why applied archival researches are largely conducted within the framework of certain scientific schools, which sometimes have a deep historical tradition and differ from each other (for example, the so-called “Anglo-Saxon archival school,” the “Soviet archival school,” etc.).

Thus, theoretical researches in archival studies draws its source material from archival practice. Using the method of abstraction and other general scientific methods, they allow to get new knowledge, which in the future can be used in applied researches and developments. In turn, applied researches in archival studies are based on the results of theoretical research, but they take into account the established national archival traditions and the legal and cultural environment in which they will be applied in practice.

This circumstance should be taken into account when organizing international scientific cooperation in archives management and determining its directions and forms. At the same time, this does not exclude the possibility of international and interstate developments of an applied nature. One of the examples of practical realization of such developments is the model law “About Archives and Archival Fond” of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, with the provisions of which the first national archival laws in the corresponding countries were developed⁵. An equally good example is the General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD G), the second edition of which was adopted by the Standards Committee on Description of the International Council on Archives in 2011⁶. It has been adopted as a national standard by archivists in

⁵ Постановление Межпарламентской Ассамблеи государств – участников Содружества независимых государств от 3 апреля 1999 г. № 13-9 «О модельном законе “Об архивах и архивном фонде”». (1999). Available at <http://cis.minsk.by/reestr2/doc/898#text> (accessed on 19.07.2022). [Resolution of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, dated April 3, 1999 № 13-9 “About the model law “About archives and archival fund””. (1999)].

⁶ ISAD(G): General International Standard Archival Description - Second edition. CBPS - Sub-

many countries, but mostly not by the “cover method”, but by adapting its provisions to national archival traditions and practices.

Within the framework of theoretical and applied research, specific directions can be distinguished, both theoretical ones, the purpose of which is to study the phenomena of objective reality, and applied ones, focused on the development of specific techniques and methods of archival work.

When conducting profile researches, along with general scientific methods, certain special methods are used that are specific to this science or to several sciences close to it. The development of such methods is one of the most important tasks of theoretical and applied researches in archival science.

90 MAIN DIRECTIONS AND FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

The study of directions and forms of international scientific cooperation gives grounds to conclude that they are extremely diverse.

The undisputed leader and driver of cooperation is the International Council on Archives with its regional branches. The Congress of ICA, held once every four years, with its numerous scientific events, the results of which provide answers to the topical issues of archival theory and practice, plays a crucial role in determining the main trends in the development of archival science. In addition, in the intervals between congresses the ICA organizes conferences and roundtables on the most important problems of archival life, initiates various projects and working groups. The regional branches support scientific research on archival issues in the format of specificity of the archival services of the countries they belong to. For example, the Euro-Asian Branch of the ICA (EURASICA) regularly holds scientific conferences on current archival issues⁷.

An important role in the development of archival science is played by the standardization carried out by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and its Technical Committee ISO/TC 46/SC 11 “Information and documentation” / Subcommittee “Records and archives management”. Developed ISO standards are the embodiment of the results of international scientific cooperation of scientists and specialists from different countries⁸.

The development of global projects in which multinational teams are formed should be considered as an effective form of research. One of the best known projects of this type is the InterPARES Trust (ITrust) – a multi-national, interdisciplinary research project exploring issues of trust and trustworthiness of records and data in online environments. Its goal is to generate the theoretical and methodological frameworks to develop local, national and international policies, procedures, regulations, standards and

Committee on Descriptive Standards. 1 September 2011. (2011). Available at <https://www.ica.org/en/isadg-general-international-standard-archival-description-second-edition> (accessed on 19.07.2022).

⁷ *Международная встреча архивистов в Бишкеке*. In: Архіви і справаводства, 2019, № 6, pp. 32–43.

⁸ Standards by ISO/TC 46/SC 11 “Archives/records management”.

legislation, in order to ensure public trust grounded on evidence of good governance, a strong digital economy, and a persistent digital memory. ITrust is a research partnership that comprises over fifty universities and organizations, national and multinational, public and private, in North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Australasia, and Asia (the International Alliance). The researchers are experts in archival science, records management, diplomatics, law, information technology, communication and media, journalism, electronic commerce, health informatics, cybersecurity, information governance and assurance, digital forensics, computer engineering, and information policy⁹.

A major player in this field is the International Institute for Archival Science of Trieste and Maribor (IIAS). The IIAS has been organizing the scholarly activities of archivists from more than twenty countries for more than three decades¹⁰.

Variety of forms of cooperation can also be realized within the framework of bilateral cooperation between scientific organizations specifically established for the study of archival issues. Let us examine in more detail the directions and forms of such cooperation using the example of the long-standing cooperation between the All-Russian Scientific and Research Institute for Records and Archives Management (VNIIDAD) and the Belarusian Research Institute for Documentation and Archival Science (BelNIIDAD). It should be noted that VNIIDAD was founded in 1966 as the all-union scientific centre for the study of records and archives management issues. After the collapse of the USSR, VNIIDAD continued its activities as an all-Russian institution, and a similar scientific institution with similar tasks was established in Belarus in 1991.

From the very beginning of BelNIIDAD's existence, close business ties had been established between it and VNIIDAD, and these ties were strengthened by good human relations between the representatives of their teams. In fact, already at that time, the main directions and forms of cooperation between the institutes were established.

The primary place in them was taken by the harmonization of research topics based on the revealing of the most urgent theoretical problems and practical tasks faced by archives and records management services of both countries. Of course, at the initial stage, Belarusian scientists followed their Russian colleagues in this direction, creatively using the scientific heritage of the Soviet period, which was also based on the developments of VNIIDAD. Later, the accumulated research experience, the increased level of qualification of scientific personnel allowed BelNIIDAD to choose relevant research topics independently, focusing on the needs and specifics of Belarusian archives. Nevertheless, the exchange of information about research directions and developments in the institutes remains important for understanding the perspectives of archival science. For example, for this purpose, in 2014 BelNIIDAD organized a special scientific and methodological seminar "Priority Directions of Scientific Research in Records and Archives Management at the Present Stage", which was attended by scientists from VNIIDAD.

At present, the main efforts of both institutes are focused on solving the problems of electronic records management, organization of their archival storage, implementa-

⁹ InterPARES Trust. Available at <http://interparestrust.org/trust> (accessed on 24.07.2022).

¹⁰ International Institute for Archival Science of Trieste and Maribor. Available at <http://www.iias-trieste-maribor.eu/?lang=en> (accessed on 24.07.2022).

tion of international standardization in the field of records management into the national legislation of the two countries, solving the problems of appraisal of the documents and their qualitative selection for storage in state archives, development of professional terminology.

From a formal legal point of view, BelNIIDAD and VNIIDAD do not conduct joint development of scientific themes. First of all, this is due to the national legislation of the parties, their legal status, and the organizational and financial conditions under which the institutions carry out their activities. The specifics of funding, planning, and reporting of the work of the institutes are such that formal development of a joint topic on a planned basis, allowing to get at the output a unified final product, is virtually impossible: the institutes have different sources of funding. In addition, the scientific researches of the institutes are predominantly of applied nature, so the development of the final scientific product must take into account the peculiarities of the national legislation of the two countries. Almost the only attempt to prepare a joint final document was made in 2000-2003, when the institutes were working on the draft rules of work for state archives. This attempt has expectedly ended in failure, because it was initially clear that the national legislation of the two countries does not technically allow such a possibility, and the archival legislation of the two countries has significant peculiarities.

92

The above-mentioned feature does not mean that joint development of scientific themes is not carried out by the institutes. By identifying perspective directions of scientific research, VNIIDAD and BelNIIDAD elaborate common approaches to solving the set tasks. For example, the above mentioned themes related to the development of rules of work for state archives were included in the institutes' plans as independent studies, but the most fundamental points related to their development were agreed upon. At the same time, the most fundamental aspects of scientific research are discussed during meetings at official events (scientific and practical conferences, joint meetings of the boards of archival governing bodies, etc.), as well as through publications in the specialized media. Even more important in the discussion of scientific problems are informal contacts, which necessarily accompany such events, but remain outside the field of official action and, accordingly, are not included in informational reports.

The next stage of working together on common themes is the exchange of prepared draft documents. For example, BelNIIDAD and VNIIDAD exchanged drafts of instructions on record keeping, rules of work for archives of organizations, lists of typical documents with indication of their storage periods, state standards in the field of records management, creatively borrowing from each other the most successful scientific and normative solutions. Thereafter, colleagues again return to exchanging views on problems during both formal and informal contacts, but at a higher level.

Thus, the development of common approaches to solving problems set within the framework of research topics and joint work on projects are some of the important directions of scientific cooperation between VNIIDAD and BelNIIDAD.

Another direction of cooperation is to solve the problem of staffing of scientific research. The so-called "round tables" with the participation of representatives of VNIIDAD and BelNIIDAD, specially organized during scientific conferences and other official events held in Minsk, have demonstrated high efficiency. Along with young scientists

from BelNIIDAD, more experienced employees take an active part in their work, and the topics under discussion are usually of the widest scope – from the theory of documents and appraisal to practical issues of forming files¹¹.

Close contacts between BelNIIDAD and VNIIDAD have been established in the training of highly qualified scientists. Highly qualified specialists of VNIIDAD have repeatedly participated in this work as reviewers of dissertation researches of Belarusian scientists, opponents in defense of dissertations, members of the dissertation council.

Cooperation between institutes in terms of training is not limited to a purely bilateral relationship. BelNIIDAD has established close contacts with the Department of Source Studies at the Faculty of History of Belarusian State University (BSU), which oversees the training of records managers and historians-archivists (since 2013, a branch of the Department has been operating at the Institute). During his visits to BelNIIDAD, Mikhail Larin, then the director of VNIIDAD, repeatedly gave lectures to BSU students; in 2014, he also took part in a special scientific and practical seminar “Topical Issues of Training Records Managers and Archivists at the Belarusian State University”, organized jointly by BSU and BelNIIDAD. Director of BelNIIDAD Andrei Rybakou has also repeatedly been a guest of students of the Institute of History and Archives of the Russian State University for the Humanities.

A lot of work is done by the institutes to prepare textbooks for students. In particular, BelNIIDAD and VNIIDAD coordinated the approaches to the reflection of the most complex theoretical problems in the Belarusian and Russian textbooks on documentation science and records management, and the drafts of the textbooks were exchanged. The dominance in recent years of library documentation science (the so-called “documentology”) creates significant difficulties in the educational process, which is focused on the training of records managers rather than librarians. In these circumstances, the fact of the appearance of such textbooks should be recognized as a major breakthrough in the field of educational and methodological support for the training of qualified personnel of records managers and archivists in Belarus and Russia.

There is also close cooperation between institutions in the international arena. The head of BelNIIDAD Andrei Rybakou and the former director of VNIIDAD Mikhail Larin are members of the International Institute for Archival Science of Trieste and Maribor, which holds annual scientific conferences as part of International Archival Day and organizes annual Autumn Archival School. At the meetings of the Assembly of the IAS members, the representatives of BelNIIDAD and VNIIDAD constantly coordinate their actions, make joint proposals defining the topics of future conferences, the prospects of development of the scientific journal “Atlanti” published by IAS, and so on. Similarly, interaction between the institutes has been established within the framework of traditional Conferences of Archives of Slavic Countries, which have been held in different years in Lipica (Slovenia), Trieste (Italy), and Moscow (Russia).

¹¹ Рыбаков А.Е. 25 лет вместе: профессиональное сотрудничество научных институтов Беларуси и России в сфере документоведения и архивного дела. In: Документация в информационном обществе: документоведение и архивоведение в современном мире: Доклады и сообщения на XXIII Международной научно-практической конференции, посвященной 50-летию ВНИИДАД, 15-16 ноября 2016 г. М.: Росархив, ВНИИДАД, 2017.С. 47- 56.

Of course, we should not think that the work of the two institutes in the international arena is rigidly regulated and requires the mandatory coordination of all positions. Representatives of VNIIDAD and BelNIIDAD participate in various international forums quite autonomously, for example, in the activities of the International Council on Archives and its regional branch EURASICA, the Autumn Archival School of the IIAS, the Summer School for Young Archivists, organized by the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and others.

In recent years, there has also appeared a tradition between BelNIIDAD and VNIIDAD of exchanging draft report materials based on the results of international forums. This exchange allows each party to prepare better reports submitted to higher authorities, as well as information and analytical materials for publication in the national periodical press. The preparation of joint publications for specialized periodicals is also practiced¹².

94

PROBLEMS

Speaking about the possible directions and forms of international scientific cooperation, it is impossible not to dwell on the factors that, to varying degrees, complicate this activity.

The main problem seems to be the specificity of the professional terminology used in the theory and practice of archives management in different countries. As noted above, archival science and related to it documentation science grew out of archival and records management practices, which originally developed spontaneously, and therefore differed from country to country both organizationally and methodologically. These differences are also reflected in the professional terminology of archivists: the same word in different archival cultures can denote not quite identical concepts, have semantic features that are difficult to grasp for a foreign specialist who is not familiar with the archival practices of a particular country. On the other hand, differences in national archival traditions and techniques have led to the emergence of special terms in the conceptual apparatus of some countries that have no equivalents in the archival terminosystems of other countries.

For this reason, it is extremely important not only to maintain constant communication between archivists from different countries, but also to participate actively in the development of multilingual thesauri of professional archival terminology, despite the complexity and laboriousness of this work. For a long time, the only successful attempt to solve this problem was the Multilingual Dictionary of Archival Terminology, which was prepared with the participation of Soviet, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Vietnamese, Cuban, Mongolian, German, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Czech archivists¹³. In this regard, the efforts made by the IIAS in recent years to develop a multilingual dictionary of archival terminology seem to be extremely relevant¹⁴ (Multilingual dictionary of archival terminology, 2022).

¹² Ларин М.В., Рыбаков А.Е. Встреча архивистов стран СНГ в Астане (Республика Казахстан). Делопроизводство.2015, № 1. С. 9-14.

¹³ Словарь современной архивной терминологии социалистических стран. М.: ВНИИДАД, 1988, Вып. 2.

¹⁴ Multilingual dictionary of archival terminology. Available at <http://www.iias-trieste-maribor.eu/attivita-2/dizionario-plurilingue-2/?lang=en> (accessed on 20.07.2022).

The quality and intensity of international scholarly cooperation among archivists is also greatly influenced by external factors such as pandemics, insufficient financial resources, and political restrictions. In recent years, archivists have tried to overcome the problems arising in this regard through the active use of modern information and communication technologies. Of course, communication in the online format provides good opportunities for the exchange of research and development results, scientific discussions. However, distance forms of interaction cannot fully replace face-to-face communication, in which scientists and archivists from different countries are able to discuss behind the scenes the scientific issues that interest them.

SUMMARY

To summarize, it should be noted that the directions and forms of international scientific cooperation among archivists depend to some extent on the nature of researches and developments. Fundamental scientific researchers are aimed at obtaining objective knowledge about the objects of the real world, their properties, interrelationships, etc. Therefore, they are less dependent on the peculiarities of the archival system in this or that country, its historically formed archival methods, and the archival terminology used. Applied researches, on the contrary, take into account to a greater extent the national archival traditions and the legal and cultural environment in which their results will be applied in practice. Accordingly, in the framework of fundamental and applied researches, specific themes of researches and developments can be defined, which can have both theoretical and practice-oriented character. This circumstance must be taken into account when organizing international scientific cooperation in the archives management.

The main directions of international scientific cooperation can include the following: identification and coordination of relevant topics requiring scientific development; development of common approaches to solving scientific problems; mutual exchange of obtained results of theoretical and applied researches and developments; joint solution of problems on staffing of scientific research, including training of highly qualified scientific personnel.

Within the framework of the indicated directions it is possible to allocate the following basic forms of the international scientific cooperation: joint work on scientific archival projects and themes on a multilateral and bilateral basis; exchange of legal acts, methodical elaborations, scientific literature prepared on results of researches; mutual review of results of scientific researches and elaborations; organization and carrying out international scientific conferences; participation of scientists from different countries with lectures in international and bilateral educational programs, organization of international internships for scientists and practicing archivists; joint development of textbooks and teaching aids on archival science and related scientific disciplines.

In the conditions of close connection between archival science and archival practice, international scientific cooperation, which includes the implementation of joint projects, organization of conferences, business meetings, and educational events, is extremely important for establishing mutual understanding between representatives of the archival communities of different countries, increasing the effectiveness of each party in solving both common and specific tasks.

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MEĐUNARODNA NAUČNA SARADNJA U ARHIVSKOM MENADŽMENTU

Rezime

Članak se bavi problemom organizovanja međunarodne naučne saradnje u arhivskom menadžmentu. U tekstu je primećeno da su naučna istraživanja i nova kretanja u arhivistici fundamentalne i primenjene prirode i donet je zaključak o uticajima državnih arhivističkih tradicija i praksi na primenjena kretanja. Kada se analiziraju osnovni pravci i forme kada je u pitanju saradnja, autori se oslanjaju na višegodišnje iskustvo vodećih međunarodnih organizacija, kao i na iskustvo bilateralne saradnje između Sveruskog naučnog i istraživačkog instituta za zapise i arhivski menadžment (VNIIDAD) i Beloruskog istraživačkog insituta za dokumentaciju i arhivistiku (BeINIIDAD) koje su specijalizovane državne insitutucije u oblasti naučnog arhivističkog istraživanja. Faktore koji komplikuju međunarodnu saradnju nismo prevideli, kao osnovni smatramo specifičnu profesionalnu terminologiju koja se koristi u teoriji i praksi u različitim zemljama.