

National Archives of Hungary

Special Library of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Archives

History of the library:

According to documents from the archives of the historical counties Szabolcs and Szatmár, the archives contained books and journals as early as the 19th century, but the special library was not founded until 1950. It was the year when a great number of books arrived: 47 encyclopaedias and geographical books from the castle of the Kende family in Cégénydányád, 200 volumes on public administration from the archives of the historical county Szatmár, as well as 308 volumes of official documents, monographs and major historic works from the stacks from the library of the historical county Szabolcs. All these books became part of the stacks of the archive's special library in 1950 when the above counties were united.

The functioning of the library was regulated by the National Centre of Archives. One of the most important orders was issued in 1953; it determined the collecting areas of the libraries. The archives were taken into county maintenance in 1968. Since then the library has been allowed to make acquisitions independently. Besides purchasing, the stacks have been mainly increased by exchanging publications, from personal donations and with the publications of our archives. We managed to obtain new financial resources from tenders of the National Cultural Fund of Hungary in order to enlarge our stacks. The library has had professional librarians since 1976. The first one was dr. Géza László (1976–2003), whose activities were significant in the functioning of the library.

On 1st October 2012, the National Archives of Hungary were established by uniting the county archives and the old National Archives of Hungary. Our library is one of the 31 special libraries of this new institute.

Description:

Starting an archival research requires professional knowledge. It is unimaginable to understand the documents of an issue without having a thorough knowledge of the era and the particular types of documents used at the time. The special library, which was established to satisfy the demands of the archivists and researchers of the archives for professional literature, helps to obtain the necessary basic information on the spot. Therefore, it mainly contains books on the theory and practice of archival work and volumes which help archivists and researchers to use the materials of the archives. It collects its own publications and those of other archives, works on local history and summarizing history, general reference books (encyclopaedias, dictionaries, directories, place name collections, etc.), essential handbooks and standards on the professional literature of librarians, historical magazines, as well as periodicals published by our county and the National Archives of Hungary.

Approaching the end of 2013, the library has about 20 300 volumes, 89 electronic documents and 58 kinds of journals (30 current), which are only available when the research room is open. Only visitors with a valid archives ticket get access to the library documents, which they have to return to the attendant of the research room when leaving. Besides the traditional catalogue, the ALEPH integrated library system gives help, which is accessible on the website of the archives (www.szabarchiv.hu).

Subject headings and bibliographies used to raise the quality of our services to researchers, but since 2011 our catalogue has been integrated into an open access library system with the help of a successful Social Renewal Operational Programme tender.

In the 1950s, the books used to be stored in double rows in deep cabinets and on their tops. Today the books are arranged on open shelves in the research room of the archives and in adjoining rooms on 92 square metres. The books are stored in thematic groups as follows: handbooks, statistics, law, source publications, county and settlement monographs, biographies, publications by the archives and other studies. We supply the volumes with stock numbers in the order of their arrivals, except for handbooks, which get arranged according to Universal Decimal Classification. The most important historical journals and county periodicals have their own storing area.

Museum documents, school reports and electronic documents make up the special collections in the library. 122 museum documents belong to the stacks of the library. The oldest ones are John Calvin's letters and answers to religious questions and his biography written by Theodor Beza. This book written in Latin and bound in parchment was published in Genoa in 1576.

Our archive has connections with all the archival special libraries (gaining experience, exchanging publications) and several museums (exchanging publications), local libraries and cultural institutions. An example of this cooperation is the "Special Library Knowledge Base of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County", which we established together with the Central Library of the College of Nyíregyháza, the Kállay Rudolf Medical Special Library of the Jósa András Hospital and the Special Library of the Jósa András Museum. The catalogues, data bases, digitalized documents, events and services of the above institutions are accessible on the webpage of the project (www.olvass-sokat.hu).

The activities of our archives are regulated by the Organization and Management Policy, which came into effect in 2010. Library tasks include administrative duties, the maintenance of our collections and the implementation of several other library services.

Library services:

Local use:

All subscribed researchers can have access to the whole stack of the special library on the spot.

Catalogue:

The library has both a card-index catalogue and an electronic one. The library documents which were catalogued after 2010, can be searched for only electronically. The electronic process of the older stack is in progress. In October 2013, 80 per cent of our library stack is included in the ALEPH integrated library system.

Lending:

Besides the staff of the archives, only the members of the scientific staff of local institutions have the possibility to lend documents according to the regulations of the library.

Interlibrary loan:

The special library is a member of the National Document Providing System. Our subscribed researchers can have access of documents missing our collection.

Instead of the original documents of our library stack, we forward digitalized copies electronically, the maximum number of pages is 20.

Copy making:

For stack-protecting reasons, in case of books edited before 1900, damaged volumes and bound reviews only photocopies are available. Our current charges are listed on the website below and in the research room.

<http://www.szabarchiv.hu/drupal/szolgalatas>

Please feel free to contact us for more information about our library:

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Phone Number and Fax: 00 36 42 311 013

Web-site: <http://www.szabarchiv.hu>

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