

“Sources”, “Casualty Reports”, “Topics”, “Chronology of War” and “Publications”. The most important section is “Sources”, which so far enable access to more than 35,000 digitized images of original archival documents and its metadata. “Topics” section presents various topics on the Great War in the form of articles that are based on bibliography and archival documents in order to present less known facts about the War. “Casualty Reports” section is the starting page for researching database on war casualties – The Vienna War Ministry’s List of Losses (*Verlustliste*), which also includes dead soldiers from Croatian territory who were members of Austrian-Hungarian army. “Events” section publishes news on World War I commemorations in heritage and scientific institutions, and “Publications” section features printed material (exhibition catalogues, etc.) commemorating World War I published by archives, libraries, museums, scientific institutions and others. “Topics”, “Events”, “Sources” and “Publications” sections are being continually updated with new content.

All above mentioned activities will be continued through the next years with the aim of contribute to public’s awareness about the War’s impact on Croatian and European history and to present the work and importance of archives for keeping and researching our past to the public.

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Slovak National Archives

Legal predecessors of the Slovak National Archives until 1952

The organisation of archives, as we know it today, began to be set up only in the 1950s. Slovakia was not a sovereign state or independent administrative unit within the Kingdom of Hungary until the beginning of the 20th century, so this was also the reason why any kind of central or national archive did not exist. Certainly, various municipal and church archives were created on Slovak territory a long time ago. Significant changes in the organisation of archiving in Slovakia did not occur during the first decade of existence of the Czechoslovak republic, although immediately after the establishment of the new republic there were proposals for the establishment of a kind of central archive in Slovakia. Jan Bedřich Novák, director of the Czech Land Archive, was the first to make a proposal in November 1918 and, according to him, a general state archive for Slovakia should have been established. Its task was to receive documents related to Slovakia from the central archives and offices from Budapest. The second proposal was drawn up in February 1919 by the Director of the Archives of the Ministry of Interior, Ladislav Klicman. He talked about the establishment of a Slovak archive in Bratislava,

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which was to be subject to the Ministry of Interior¹. In March 1920, the state inspector of archives and libraries in Slovakia – Václav Chaloupecký advanced another proposal. Its concept required the subordination of the archives to the Ministry of Education and the establishment of three Slovak archives – in Bratislava, Martin and Košice. The Archive in Bratislava was supposed to have a higher position, to receive documents of national significance and funds obtained by archival separation with Hungary and Austria. At the same time it should have been the center of Slovak historical research and the support of the study of history at the Comenius University in Bratislava. V. Chaloupecký submitted several proposals for the organization of the Slovak archiving, but none of them was accepted². The resolution of the situation in archiving in this period was postponed by competence disputes between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education, which both claimed the management of archives and the creation of its organization in the republic. After the establishment of a new organization of public administration in 1928 – Country Office, Slovakia became a political administrative entity for the first time in history³. Edict of the Presidium of the Country Office no. 19355/prez. dated 28th September 1928 created a Country Archive. It took custody of the archive funds of the former historical county archives (which remained stored in their original places), documents from the county Office operation from 1922-1928, the registry of the cancelled Office of the Ministry of the Czechoslovak Republic with Full Authorisation for the Administration of Slovakia and the registry of the Country Office. It aimed at giving permissions for research in the former county archives. The Country Archive oversaw also the personnel and material provision of the former county and municipal archives and prepared statements to changes of the names of the Slovak villages. The Country Archive ceased to exist on 31st December 1939 by Law no. 190/1939 Coll. and its responsibilities were taken over by a department of the Presidium of the Ministry of Interior by the name of the Archive of the Ministry of Interior with a seat in the former county house in Bratislava⁴. The Archive of the Ministry of Interior cooperated with the central archives in Vienna and Budapest and prepared documents for the establishment of a central state archive in Slovakia.

After 1945, the archive was transferred to the administration of Presidium of the Commission and continued in activity as the Archive of the Commission of

¹ Václav Babicka, *Archív ministerstva vnútra a archívy na Slovensku 1918-1938*, "Slovenská archivistika" 21 (1986), 1, p. 56.

² *Ibidem*, p. 58.

³ *Štátny ústredný archív Slovenskej socialistickej republiky* (ed. by Bohumír Kostický & Ján Pivoluska), Bratislava 1983, p. 13.

⁴ Daniela Fukasová, *Krajinský archív a priekopníci slovenského archívniectva*, in *80. výročie uzákonenia krajinského zriadenia na Slovensku. Zborník prednášok z konferencie* (ed. by Monika Péková), Bratislava 2008, p. 1-10.

the Interior. The confiscation of the land of former large estates and the revision of the first land reform were closely related to the establishment of the Agricultural archive. In the buildings of these large estates there were often economic and family archives, extensive libraries and objects of high historical and artistic value, which needed to be taken care of. The Agricultural archive was established on the basis of a resolution of the Board of Commissioners no. 496/1947 dated June 13, 1947. Its task was to collect documents on the history of Slovak agriculture as well as their systematizing and accessing for scientific study. Whereas this resolution was rejected by the then Commissioner of Agriculture and Land reform Martin Kvetko, the real decision about the establishment of the archive was not made until 1948 after the change in the political context. The Agricultural archive was subordinated to the Commission of Agriculture and Land reform, section B. The competence of the Agricultural archive included the archives and registries of the Commission of Agriculture and Land reform, the Commission of Forests and the Timber Industry, the main administration of the Ministry of State Property for Slovakia, the former directorates of the State Forests and the State Property and within the Czechoslovak State Forests and Property Company took over the documents of former large estates⁵.

The Slovak Central Archive and the State Slovak Central Archive

In 1951, the regional archives throughout the state began to be established (based on Act no. 280/1948 Coll. and Government Order no. 39/1949 Coll.), in the same year, the Slovak Archiving Commission was established (it consisted of a third of the 18 members of the national State Archiving Commission established⁶ in 1951 at the Ministry of Interior). At its first session, it negotiated a proposal for the settlement of a Slovak Central Archive and its draft organisational rules. A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners dated in May 20, 1952 established the Slovak Central Archive⁷. It temporarily operated as an executive authority of the Slovak Archiving Commission. In addition to its main task of receiving, registering, preserving and scientifically accessing archival documents, the Slovak Central Archive was to direct, methodically guide and control all regional, district and town archives in Slovakia. It was not equipped for this task in terms of space or personnel⁸. As the supreme governing body of archiving in the republic, the

⁵ Eadem, *Pôdohospodársky archív a jeho miesto v organizácii slovenského archívniectva*, "Slovenská archivistika" 43 (2008), 1, p. 37-40.

⁶ The role of archival commissions was to manage and coordinate the activities of archives in the Republic and to prepare the conditions for a unic legislatively regulated organisation of archiving. The last time the Archiving Commission met was on January 11, 1954 to discuss a proposal for legislative regulation of archival work. This modification then came to life after the adoption of Decree-Law Nno. 29/1954 Coll. on Archives of May 7, 1954. *Štátny ústredný archív Slovenskej socialistickej republiky cit.*, p. 18.

⁷ D. Fukasová, *op. cit.*, p. 37.

⁸ *Štátny ústredný archív Slovenskej socialistickej republiky cit.*, p. 19.

Archival administration of the Ministry of Interior was created on November 1, 1953⁹. The significant turning point in the development of Slovak archiving occurred after the adoption of Decree-Law no. 29/1954 Coll. on Archives of May 7, 1954, which was the first ever legislative regulation with the law in the field of archives in Slovakia, the single Slovak archival organization was codified – Central Slovak State Archive in Bratislava (hereafter, SSCA), a direct ancestor of the Slovak National Archives and network of state archives. The archives were declared as scientific and research institutes of the Ministry of Interior (hereafter, MI), which was entrusted with the organisation and management of archiving. The Scientific Archival Council became the advisory body in professional and scientific matters of archiving, while the Slovak Scientific Archival Council became the advisory body of the Commission of the Interior for these issues¹⁰. From July 1, the Slovak Archival Administration of the Commission of the Interior also began its activities¹¹.

Right from the beginning of its existence SSCA confronted problems of space. Rooms in Červený Kameň castle and several basements in Bratislava were supposed to serve as main repositories. In 1955, the archive obtained its own building on Križkova Street in Bratislava, which, even after adaptation, could only temporarily accomplish for the needs of the archive¹². Government Order no. 29/1954 Coll. §4 determined the obligation to integrate the agricultural and forestry archives into the organisation of state archives with legal effect from December 31, 1955, which ended the existence of the Agricultural Archive as an independent institution. The headquarters of the Agricultural Archive in Bratislava became the basis of the later Department of feudalism SSCA. The branches of the Agricultural Archive were incorporated into the network of state archives according to regions¹³. Gradually it began to concentrate other archival documents. In 1956, SSCA acquired the Archive of place of authentication in Bratislava, the private archive of Bratislava Chapter with historical library, which were previously stored in the lower part of the tower of St. Martin Cathedral in Bratislava¹⁴. In 1958, the archive took control of the archive fonds of places of authentication, such as archives of historical public institutions of national importance, e. g. the archives of convents in Hronský Beňadik, Jasov and Leles. In 1958, the Central Mining Archive for Slovakia in Banská Štiavnica¹⁵ was included in the SSCA. Previously, it had been the departmental archive of the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry and

⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 18.

¹⁰ It first met on April 7, 1955 and was chaired by prof. Miloš Gosiorovský from 1955 to 1978.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, p. 19-20.

¹² *Ibidem*, p. 20.

¹³ D. Fukasová, *op. cit.*, p. 43.

¹⁴ *Štátny ústredný archív Slovenskej socialistickej republiky cit.*, p. 21.

¹⁵ It was established in 1950.

Ore Mines¹⁶. Archival documents remained concentrated in the original premises in Banská Štiavnica, as the Mining department of SSCA headed by the regular head Jozef Vozár¹⁷. After cancellation of the Archive of the Slovak National Museum in Martin on January 1, 1960, its collections were taken over by SSCA. In its care, it preserved only documents of nationwide nature, part was handed over to other archives for unifying with mother fonds and only the documents that belonged to the regional archive and to the Central Literary Archive of Matica Slovenská remained in Martin¹⁸.

After 1960, the new public administration organisation also had an impact on the further development of the SSCA. It became a facility of the Slovak Archival Administration, which moved to building to the Križkova Street nos. 5-7 in Bratislava. The Slovak Scientific Archival Council continued to operate, but only as an advisory body of the Slovak Archival Administration. The SSCA took over extensive registers from the extinct central authorities and organisations (the volume was estimated at around 300 trucks)¹⁹.

The new organisational status from 1963 fixed the internal organisational structure of the SSCA, included four material departments – the Department of Feudalism, the Department of Capitalism, the Department of Socialism and the Department of Economic Fonds in Banská Štiavnica (former the Mining department; on January, 1 1969, this Department was transformed into the independent State Central Mining Archive with its seat in Banská Štiavnica) and three groups – a research room, library and microfilm library; a photo laboratory; and conservation and restoration workshops²⁰.

The State Central Archive of the Slovak Socialist Republic (SCA SSR)

Act of the Slovak National Council no. 149/1975 Coll. on archiving dated on December 19, 1975 renamed the SSCA to the State Central Archive of the Slovak Socialist Republic (SCA SSR). The Act considered the SCA SSR to be the main scientific-research workplace in the field of archiving. The archive participated in the state research plan in coordination with the Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, focused mainly on editions of documents to economic, social and political history²¹.

¹⁶ Peter Draškaba, *Ako po päťdesiatke? Úvaha na zamyslenie*, in *50 rokov Slovenského národného archívu, osudy, problémy a perspektívy slovenského archívnictva*, Bratislava 2005, p. 9.

¹⁷ Elena Kašiarová, *Slovenský národný archív a Štátny ústredný banský archív 1958-1968. Desiat' rokov spoločnej cesty, 50 rokov Slovenského národného archívu cit.*, p. 19.

¹⁸ *Štátny ústredný archív Slovenskej socialistickej republiky cit.*, p. 22.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 23.

²⁰ P. Draškaba, *op. cit.*, p. 10.

²¹ Mária Stieberová, *Pohľad na úlohy Slovenského národného archívu v minulosti a prítomnosti*, in *50 rokov Slovenského národného archívu cit.*, p. 50.

On January 1, 1978, the archive gained full legal status as an independent state-budget funded organisation. In 1978, a new statute was issued and the organization structure was changed. The Department of Pre-Archival Care, the Historical Microfilm Library Department, the Department of Laboratories, the Department of Scientific Information and the Economic and Technical Department were added to the existing departments²².

The Slovak National Archives

A major change in the organisational structure of the archive occurred after 1989, when a separate department of scientific research was established on February 1, 1990, later renamed the Cabinet of Science and Research. Its leader was Elemír Rákoš. In addition to him, two other employees from the Department of Socialism joined this department²³. In 1990, the Scientific Council was established as an advisory body of the Director. Act of the Slovak National Council no. 571/1991 Coll. codified the change of the name of the State Central Archive of the Slovak Republic to the Slovak National Archives²⁴. In 1992, a new statute of the archive was issued and in July 1993 its organisational structure was partially modified – two departments were created from the former three material departments: 1. the Department of Older Funds, which handled archival documents from the 13th century to year 1918 as well as personal archival funds, maps and plans with no time limits; 2. the Department of New Funds, which administered the archival funds from the 1918-1968 period. The material department also became the Department of Pre-Archival Care, which took over the archival documents of central government offices after 1969. In 1993, the Acquisition Commission was also established as an advisory body to the Director of the Archives²⁵.

Based on the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 312/2001 Coll. on civil service, with legal effect from April 1, 2002, the Slovak National Archives became a part of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, fulfilling the tasks of the central government in the field of archiving. In fact, the Slovak National Archives has lost its status as an independent budgetary institution. This status of the archive was also confirmed by the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 395/2002 Coll. on archives and registries²⁶. Act no. 266/2015 Coll. changed the organisational structure again. The Department

²² Eva Vrabcová, *Premeny Slovenského národného archívu po roku 1989*, in *Archívy po roku 1989. Víťazstva a prehry* (ed. by Júlia Ragačová), Bratislava 2011, p. 82.

²³ After the departure of Elemír Rákoš in 2001, Veronika Nováková took over the leadership of the Cabinet of Science and Research for a short time, and after her departure on March 31, 2002, this post remained vacant. During 2005 the Cabinet of Science and Research was abolished.

²⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 82-83.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 83.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 84.

of Older Fonds has been renamed as the 1st Department of Archival Documents Processing; the Department of New Fonds has been renamed as the 2nd Department of Archival Documents Processing; and from the Department of Pre-Archival Care and the Department of Reference Services the Department of Public Services was created. In addition, the Slovak Mining Archive (formerly the State Central Mining Archive) was again incorporated into organisation of the Slovak National Archives, with its seat in Banská Štiavnica as a specialised workplace of the Slovak National Archives. At the same time, by this Act, the Slovak National Archives acquired the status of the only state central archive.

The organisational structure of the Slovak National Archives:

- 1st Department of Archival Documents Processing – handles archival documents from the 13th century to year 1918 as well as personal archival fonds, maps and plans with no time limits,
- the 2nd Department of Archival Documents Processing – manages archival fonds from year 1918 to nowadays,
- the Department of Public Services – separate divisions operate within the department – a filing room, research room, library, pre-archival care workplace, and workplace of administrative agenda. The department provides services to the general public connected with Access to archival documents for scientific, cultural and administrative purposes and also Professional methodical assistance in the area of pre-archival care to the supreme public authorities, legal persons or national importance, natural persons – public social life figures of national importance, and other originators of registry records determined by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
- the Department of Archival Preservation – is connected with the comprehensive protection of the archival documents. It includes the restoration and conservation laboratories and the photo laboratory.

Development of the name of the Slovak National Archives

1952-1954	Slovak Central Archive
1954-1975	State Slovak Central Archive
1975-1991	State Slovak Central Archive of the Slovak Socialist Republic
1992-	Slovak National Archives

Building of the Slovak National Archives - State of space security and construction of the purpose-built building

Right from the beginning of its existence, central archive struggled with problems of space and personnel, as it started its activities with 11 employees and without its own building²⁷. At its inception, SSCA took over the archival

²⁷ Ján Pivoluska, *Tridsať rokov Štátneho ústredného archívu SSR a jeho perspektívy*, "Historický časopis" 32 (1984), 5, p. 807.

documents from its legal predecessors (the Slovak Central Archive 1952-1954, the Archive of the Commission of the Interior 1945-1952, the Archive of the Ministry of Interior 1939-1945, Country Archive 1928-1939), all of which were housed in the building on the then Októbrové, now Župné Square in Bratislava²⁸. In 1955 the archives managed to get the premises in the building on Križkova Street No. 5 (7), but it was by no means sufficient, so the main repositories were mainly in Červený Kameň castle²⁹. Because of increasing number of received documents, the institution of archives was forced to use inappropriate spaces such as basements around Bratislava city and its surroundings. Before 1983, it had the repositories not only on Križkova Street and Červený Kameň castle, but also in Slovak National Uprising Square no. 14 (under the then Slovan cinema), on Kúpeľná Street no. 8 and 10, on Gondova Street no. 2 (now building of the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava), on Trnávka, on Dostojevský rad, and since 1974 also in the mansion in Plavecké Podhradie³⁰.

The SSCA was facing the space problem for almost 30 years after its establishment, although the Board of Commissioners by Resolution no. 94 dated on April, 2, 1957 legislatively approved a proposal for a construction of a new building for the SSCA and ordered the Commissioner for Interior and the Commissioner – the President of the Slovak Planning Office to “take appropriate measures to include the construction of the building for the SSCA in Bratislava in the third five-year plan” (i. e. 1961-1965). For these purposes, the archival administration acquired the building land in Gottwald Square³¹ in the area of Mestský majer. The original plans envisaged the construction of a six-storey building on the plot of 100 x 60 m with a construction investment of 10,899,660 Kčs without the interior fittings of the building. The complications that delayed the start of construction were as follows: the necessary sanitation of the original buildings, the acquisition of the contractor of the building, but in particular the reorganisation of the public administration in 1960, since the Commission of the Interior as the responsible and investor of the special-purpose building of the archive was abolished on June 30, 1960³².

²⁸ Today's building of the Slovak National Council, originally a monastery of trinitaries, which since 1794 has housed Bratislava County and its archive. It was the county archive that formed the basic archival fonds of all archival institutions located in this building until 1954. Since October 1, 1954, this archival fonds has been put into administration of the State Archives in Bratislava. Michal Kušík, *Nová budova Štátneho ústredného archívu SSR*, “Slovenská archivistika” 19 (1984), 1, p. 16-17.

²⁹ Slovak National Archives, *Chronicle of the Department of socialism I.*, 1984, internal material (*Kronika oddelenia dejín socializmu I. rok 1984, interný materiál*).

³⁰ SNA, *Registratúra SNA, Správa o plnení pracovných úloh ŠÚA SSR v roku 1984 a úlohy na rok 1985*, p. 2.

³¹ Today Freedom Square in Bratislava.

³² M. Kušík, *op. cit.*, p. 18-19.

In 1968, the Presidium of the Slovak National Council returned to the problem of building construction and ordered to the President of the newly created Commission of the Slovak National Council for national committees (under the Slovak Archival Administration) to ensure the preparation of complex project and budget documentation for the construction of the central archive. The original building land, meanwhile, was intended for other purposes, so in 1969 a new and definitive building plot of 16,000 m² was found in the area of Holý Hill on the Machnáč, called Bubnovka. At that time, the building investor was already the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Socialist Republic, whose branch was also the Slovak Archival Administration³³. It was already in September 1970 when work began on the initial project, the general designer of the construction was Eng. arch. Vladimír Dedeček, CSc., who is considered to be the greatest person of the Slovak architecture of the last century, and the national enterprise Staving in Bratislava became the general contractor of the construction. After the decision to build the historical film library the investment cost limit of 39,7 million Kčs was set at 58,5 million Kčs³⁴. On the day of the adoption of the Act of the Slovak National Council no. 149/1975 Coll., on December 19, 1975, the Minister of the Interior Eng. Štefan Lazar laid the foundation stone of the new building of the central archive³⁵. Estimated date of completion of the building – year 1978 – was postponed for several times, especially due to extension of the original project of the building for two more floors and microfilm rooms, as well as to problems with suppliers and requirements for bottleneck materials. The grand opening of new-purpose building³⁶ of the archives in Drotárska cesta street in Bratislava was held on August 30, 1983. The international inauguration of the new building of the SCA SSR took place during the XXII. international conference *Table ronde des*

³³ *Štátny ústredný archív Slovenskej socialistickej republiky cit., p. 41.*

³⁴ *Ibidem, p. 43.*

³⁵ P. Draškaba, *op. cit., p. 11.*

³⁶ The entire building consists of a twelve-storey main building and two-storey archive building with an underground film library and conference hall, both connected to the main building. The lowest floor of the building (-2) stores spaces for the archives reception, separation and disinfection, two flats and three garages. The largest part of a basement (-1) houses the 1st Department of Archival Documents Processing repository and the canteen for the archives' employees. The entrance to the 180-seat Congress Hall and the separate corridor to the historical film library are located there as well. The reception area, the public search room and the library are accessible from the entrance hall (0), so as additionally built mailing room, the exhibition room (reconstructed for these purposes in 2009), the Department of Archival Preservation laboratories and the library store room in the central part of this floor. The offices for staff are placed on the first floor (+1) and together with the ground floor rooms are rimmed by loggias, forming a distinctive ring around the whole building. Remaining eight upper floors (+2 to +9) belong to the archival repositories. All the repositories except library are equipped with compact movable metal shelves, produced by the Spiš Industrial Company in Levoča for the first time ever for the central archive.

Archives from 17th to 20th of October 1983. The building was inspected by 130 archival experts from 48 countries of all continents and seven international organisations headed by representatives of the United Nations, UNESCO and the International Council of Archives³⁷.

Professional activities and staffing status

Since its inception, the Slovak National Archives has been the largest archive in Slovakia. It receives a large number of archival documents every year, fulfilling one of its main tasks – to acquire the archival documents from the activities of the central authorities of the Slovak Republic and their legal predecessors, as well as other documents of national importance. The Slovak National Archives administers 1,848 archival fonds and collections with a total of 48,241 running metres (hereafter, “r. m.”), of which 21,350 r. m. are arranged and registered in the inventory.

The largest group of archival fonds of the 1st Department of Archival Documents Processing consists of archives of noble families and their feudal dominions. The institution of Slovak National Archives focuses in particular on the families of Slovak or trans-regional importance. Entire complexes of fonds consist of documents of the magnate families Pálfi, Erdödi, Esterházi, Habsburg, Zai, Kubíni, and Révai, whose members occupied important posts in various political and economic structures of the Kingdom of Hungary and the Habsburg Monarchy for centuries. They contain traditional family archives, fonds of central administrations of their feudal property, fonds of administration of feudal dominions, and also fonds of noble industrial enterprises and manufactories, and also collections created by noble originators. The archive fonds of church institutions represent another extremely valuable part of the department. They include the private historical archives of the monasteries of the Premonstratensian Order in Jasov and Leles, and a private archive of the Bratislava Chapter. The group of fonds with a religious origin includes a set of fonds of place of authentication (*loca credibilia*), which is unique even in a European context; places of authentication operated in the territory of Slovakia for five centuries and are an unsubstitutable source of information on the development of medieval Slovakia. They include places of authentication at the Premonstratensian convents in Jasov, Leles and Turiec (Kláštor pod Znievom), at the Benedictine convent in Hronský Beňadik, and at the Bratislava collegiate chapter. A unique historical ensemble is the historical Library of the Bratislava Chapter, which is the oldest library complex in Slovakia.

Archival documents of educational institutions substantially enrich the source base for the 18th and 19th centuries. Regarding the universities, these include mainly the archival fonds of the Royal Law Academy in Bratislava, the Royal Law

³⁷ *Impozantný trezor národného dedičstva*, “Večerník” 28 (1983), 183 (16 September). M. Kušík, *op. cit.*, p. 22-26.

Academy in Košice, and the Bratislava Royal Elizabethan University. Secondary schools are represented by the fonds of Slovak grammar schools – Evangelic in Revúca and Martin, and Roman Catholic in Kláštor pod Znievom.

State institutions are represented only by fragments of fonds of central public authorities and administration before 1918, which results from the state legal development in Hungary. They include regional branches of Hungarian royal ministries and judicial institutions with the competence corresponding approximately to the current territory of Slovakia. They also include a representative set of archival fonds of public funds as regional authorities of the central economic institution of the feudal state – the Hungarian Royal Chamber, which managed the properties of the orders cancelled by Emperor Joseph II.

Fonds managed by the 2nd Department of Archival Documents Processing consist of documents originating in the activities of the supreme public authorities and administration. The time period of the documents begins in 1918 and continues almost up to now. Important archival documents frequently used by researchers from the period of the first Czechoslovak Republic include the fonds resulting from the activity of the newly established central government authorities in Slovakia. These are archival fonds such as the Slovak National Council I., 1918-1919; the Czechoslovak Provisional Government in Slovakia, 1918; the Club of Slovak members of the National Assembly, 1918-1920; the Slovak Unit of the Czechoslovak National Committee, 1918; the Department of the Ministry of Education and National Enlightenment in Bratislava, Slovakia, 1919-1938; and the Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic with Full Authorisation for Administration of Slovakia, 1918-1928.

A vast and unique quantity of information on the political, economic, social and cultural life of interwar Slovakia can be found in the fonds of departments, branches and units of central ministries existing in Slovakia between 1919 and 1928. The Country Office archival fund in Bratislava, 1928-1939, which is the biggest archival fund in Slovakia with approximately 1,380 r. m., deserves special attention. A variegated mosaic of social, cultural, and also moral and criminal conditions of the big city or the political activity of several important public figures is offered in the archival fund the Police Directorate in Bratislava, 1920-1950. The Directorate monitored the whole life of the city and its surroundings including the activity of all political parties, organisations, and associations. More details on the activity of various political parties and several important associations with national scope of operation can be obtained directly in the archival funds mapping their activity. The 2nd Department of Archival Documents Processing administers, for example the documents of Živena – an association of Slovak women, 1870-1951, or Tatran, a musical and singing association in Bratislava, 1929-1960. The department also administers the fonds of political parties and movements. The most important of them include Hlinka's Slovak People's Party, 1921-1945; the Party of Slovak National Unity, 1919-1939; the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Labour Party, 1919-1939; the *Deutsche*

Partei, 1935-1945; the Democratic Party in Slovakia, 1944-1990; and Public against Violence, 1989-1992.

Those interested in studying the development of Slovak law may research the Organisation of Judicial System fond's documents in Slovakia, 1919-1920; the Supreme Administrative Court in Bratislava, 1919-1952; the High Court in Košice, 1919-1939; the National Court, 1945-1947; and the Prosecutor's Office at the National Court, 1945-1947.

A great amount of archive funds in the 2nd Department of Archival Documents Processing concerns economic life in Slovakia. The operation of the insurance industry, banking or even the life of banking institutions may be found in the documents of private insurance companies, Tatra banka, 1884-1950; the Branch of the Land Bank in Bratislava and the Slovak Mortgage and Municipal Bank, 1937-1944.

Researchers who need to study the history of cooperative societies in Slovakia may be recommended to study the archival documents of the Central Cooperative in Bratislava, 1919-1949; the Central Union of Buy-Out Cooperatives, 1952-1958; and the Liquidation Centre of the Central Council of Cooperatives, 1949-1953; as well as the fonds of cooperatives alone, either economic (Cooperative of Economic Distilleries, 1937-1944; Cooperative for the Management of Aricultural Products, 1949-1953; Cooperative for Trade in Milk, 1940-1949; Cooperative for the Sale of Sheep Cheese, 1938-1944), working (Slovakohost – Working Cooperative, 1950; Slovak Temple Cooperative, 1948-1952; Slovak Flour-Milling Cooperative, 1937-1948), or building, which included, for example, the Building Cooperative of Social Insurance Institutes in Slovakia, 1940-1941, and SVOJDOM, the Building Cooperative of Employees of Education and Enlightenment, 1941-1951.

The documents related to both land reforms in Slovakia could be found in the archival fonds of the State Land Office in Prague, 1919-1935; the Colonization Department of the State Land Office in Bratislava, 1921-1938; and in the documents of the State Land Office's allotment commissars from the period of 1921-1933. Post-war redistribution of land was organised by the Commission for Agriculture and Land Reform, Section B.

The political, economic, and social history from the period of World War II, thus, of the first Slovak Republic in the years 1939 to 1945, are illustrated by documents in archive fonds such as the Assembly of the Slovak Republic, 1939-1945; the Office of the Presidium of the Government, 1938-1945; the Office of the President of the Republic, 1939-1945; the Central Economic Office, 1940-1945; the Headquarters of State Security, 1940-1944; all ministries of the Slovak Republic, etc. As regards the topic of the Holocaust, researchers most frequently use the fond of the Ministry of Interior, 1938-1945, which also managed labour camps and organised transports of Jews.

The period after 1945 brought both the restoration of the pre-war Czechoslovak Republic and also the introduction and later stabilisation of a regime

that survived in our territory until the revolutionary days in November 1989. All these initially inconspicuous changes can be observed in the documents from the activity of the Settlement Office in Bratislava, 1945-1950; the Fond of National Recovery, 1946-1953; the Slovak National Council, 1944-1968; the Board of Commissioners, 1944-1960; Commissions of Prague ministries operating until 1960; Commissions of the Slovak National Council from the period of 1960-1968; and also Slovak ministries from the period of 1968-1992.

Facts about political, economic, and social changes in Slovakia connected to its industrialisation should be sought particularly in the large archival fonds coming from the activity of the Commissions. Specific problems of agriculture and forestry can be examined in documents coming from the activity of the Central Administration of Public-Fund Property, 1919-1954; the Central Directorate of State Forests and Lands, 1938-1945; and the Fond for the Administration of Agricultural Lands, 1942-1951. The archival fonds of the above-mentioned Slovak ministries as well as general directorates of important enterprises operating in our territory are invaluable for understanding the period after 1968.

The documents from censuses in 1930, 1939, 1940, 1950, and 1961 represent an invaluable source in terms of demography for the purposes of administration.

Another important unit are the archival documents from the last third of the 20th century, especially the materials from central state and political authorities and fonds of nationally important industrial enterprises. Let us mention e. g. archival fond of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia, which with its scope of 1041,5 r. m. belongs to the larger archival units.

The separate set of archival fonds consists of personal fonds created by the activity of significant Slovak public figures from the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other spheres of public life from the 19th and 20th centuries. They represent the part of the archive that develops most dynamically and has great research potential.

Moreover, the Slovak National Archives stores archival collections of various characters created by collecting activities of institutions and individuals. The sets of various types of historical maps and plans from the 18th to 20th centuries, which have been stored separately due to their non-standard dimensions, possess special value. We register over 60,000 individual pieces of this type of archival documents. A collection of seals and stamping devices is very interesting. Although these are three-dimensional objects, their function is closely related to the process of writing; therefore, they belong inseparably to archival documents.

A historical microfilm library stores and protects micrographic copies of archival documents deposited in domestic and foreign archives which concern Slovakia. These are mostly documents from the period when Slovakia did not have its own state. It contains microfilms of archival documents from the fonds of Slovak National Archives, microfilms of archival documents stored in other archives in Slovakia, and microfilms of archival documents stored in foreign

archives, e. g. in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Germany, France, Poland, Croatia, Romania, and Ukraine. The archive has obtained a part of the microfilms from abroad on the basis of reciprocal exchange from Hungary, Germany and Austria.

In addition to its primary task, which is to receive, make accessible and protect archival documents, the archive also performs cultural and educational activities and takes share in the education of students of archiving and related disciplines. Every year, employees publish numerous expert studies and articles, participate in the creation of professional publications, and the archive itself has also published several works for several years in a row³⁸.

In the field of culture and education, the archive has always performed a great activity. Every year, its employees prepared several lectures on professional archival and historical topics, which were discussed at various events. Since the opening of the new purpose-building of the Slovak National Archives, a large number of excursions has taken place there, during which visitors could make an idea of the activity and functioning of the archive. Since 2009 the Slovak National Archives has organised the Open Day on the occasion of the International Day of Archives at the beginning of June. On this day, the public could look not only at archival repositories, but also get acquainted with the work of restorers in their workplace and try out some restoration techniques. At the same time, during the day, archival documents - interesting not only by their content, but also by their artistic design - are presented.

Since 1983, the archive has had a special exhibition room in which several interesting exhibitions have been held, and at the same time it has often been involved in the organisation of exhibitions in cooperation with other cultural institutions. After the remodeling of the ground floor of the archive building in 2003, this exhibition room disappeared and it was only in June 2009, with the adaptation of the former lecture-room, that the archive acquired a new space for exhibition purposes. Since that year, it has held several exhibitions, which focused on the presentation of archival documents on a selected topic (health care, railways, firefighters, crafts, curiosities in the archives, fashion, the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic, etc.). In cooperation with the Department of Archival and

³⁸ *Kapitoly z dejín hospodárskeho vývinu Slovenska v medzivojnovom období (1918 – 1939)* (ed. by Ivana Fialová & Daniela Fukasová), Bratislava 2011; *„Pripomínam, že neide o aprílový vtíp! Gergelyi“ Pracovné zápisky archívára z Humenného* (ed. by D. Fukasová), Bratislava; *Pôdohospodárstvo v dejinách Slovenska. Tradície, inovácie a kultúrne dedičstvo* (ed. by I. Fialová & D. Tvrdoňová), Bratislava 2012; *Od špitála k nemocnici. Zdravotníctvo, sociálna starostlivosť a osveta v dejinách Slovenska* (ed. by I. Fialová & D. Tvrdoňová), Bratislava 2013; *Remeslo má zlaté dno... Cechy, živnosti, manufaktúry a továrne v dejinách Slovenska*. Slovenský národný archív (ed. by I. Fialová & D. Tvrdoňová), Bratislava 2014; *Škola základ života* (ed. by I. Červenková & D. Tvrdoňová), Bratislava 2016.

Auxiliary Sciences in History of the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava, the Slovak National Archives, as the main training workplace, has long realized annual compulsory practice for archival students. The Department of Archival Preservation performs the function of a training and methodological workplace for the protection of archival documents, cooperates closely with the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. On the initiative and with the support of the Slovak National Archives, the Department of Restoration at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava was also established.

As regards staffing, in 1983 (when the new building was opened), the archive had 93 employees. It had the highest number of employees in 1992, that is 105. Since that year, the number of employees has gradually decreased, with a significant decrease in employees after 2003. The number of employees increased slightly after November 2015, as mentioned, when the Slovak Mining Archive in Banská Štiavnica was added to the Slovak National Archives.

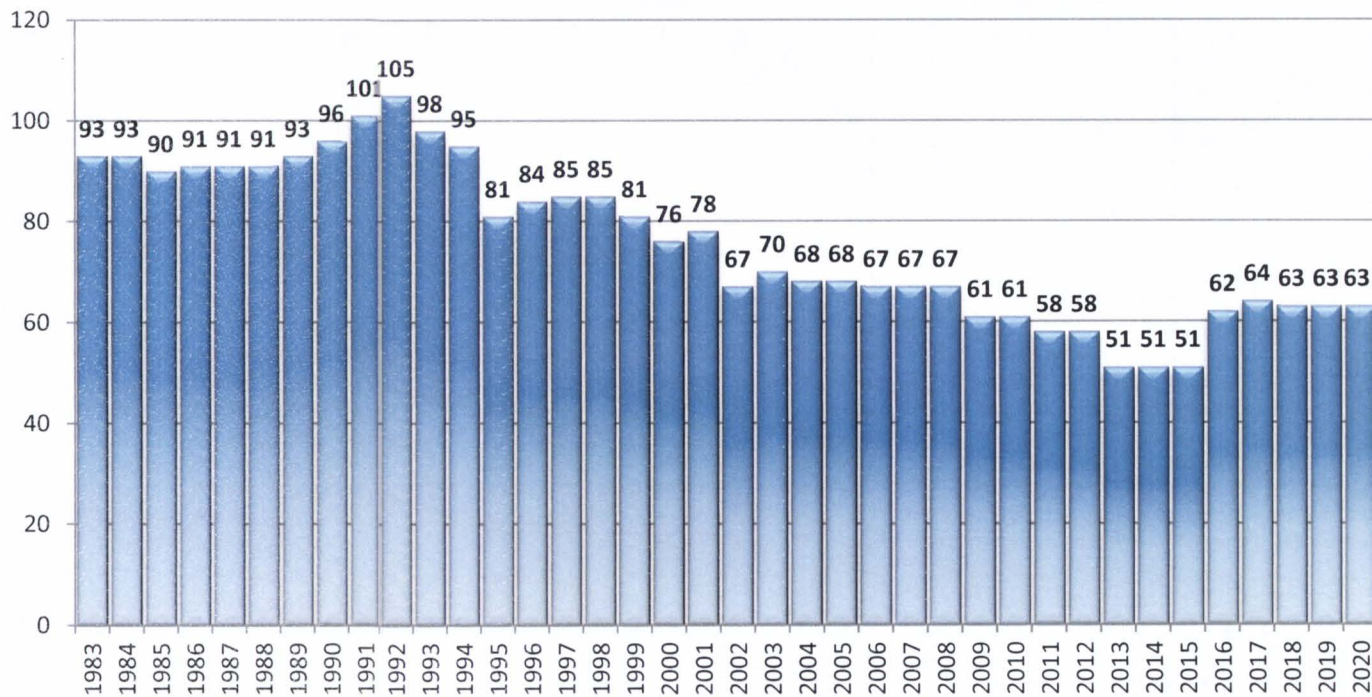
Directors of the Slovak National Archives:

Jozef Beláčik	1952
Viktor Borodovčák	1953 – 1956
František Sedlák	1960 – 1962
Ladislav Hubenák	1956 – 1960 1962 – 1968
Michal Kušík	1968 – 1980
Ján Pivoluska	1980 – 1988
Dárius Rusnák	1988 – 1998
Peter Draškaba	1999 – 2007
Radoslav Ragač	2008 – 2016
Ivan Tichý	2017 –

*Ivana Červenková
Daniela Tvrdoňová**

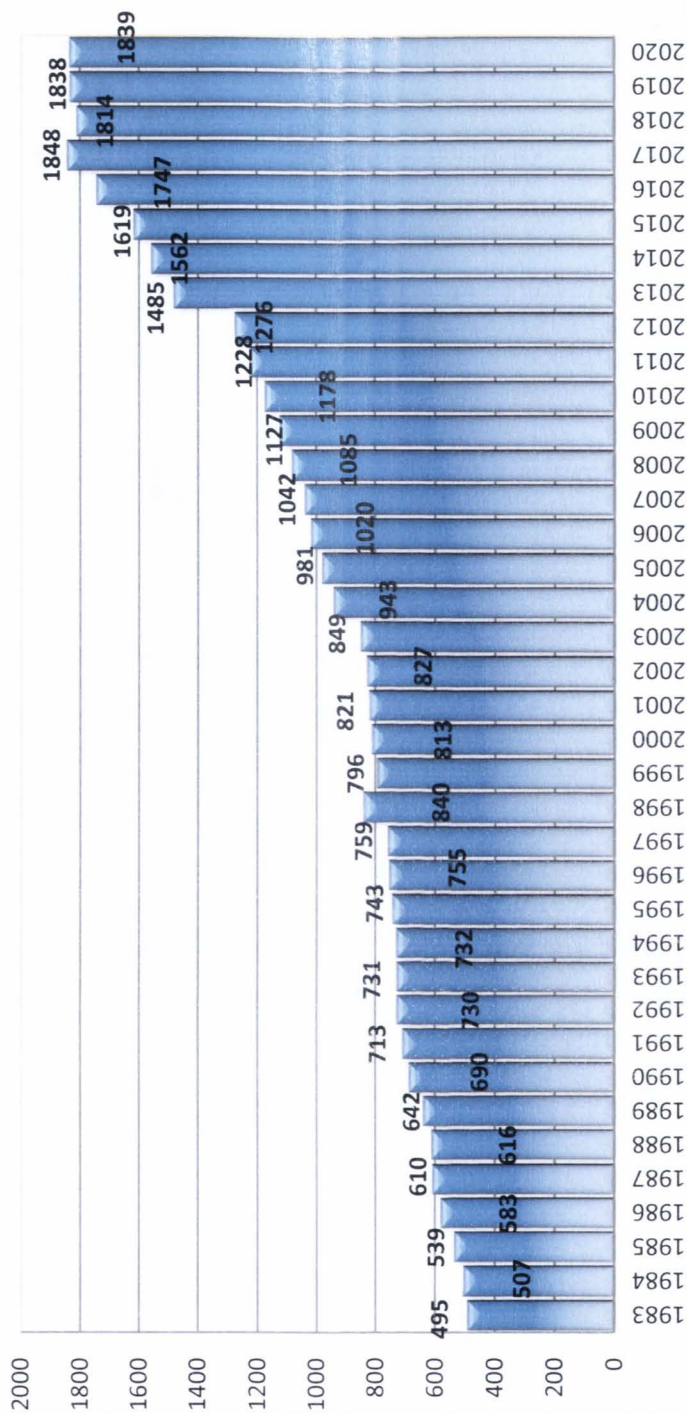
* Ivana Červenková and Daniela Tvrdoňová, Slovak National Archives.

Number of employees of the Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020

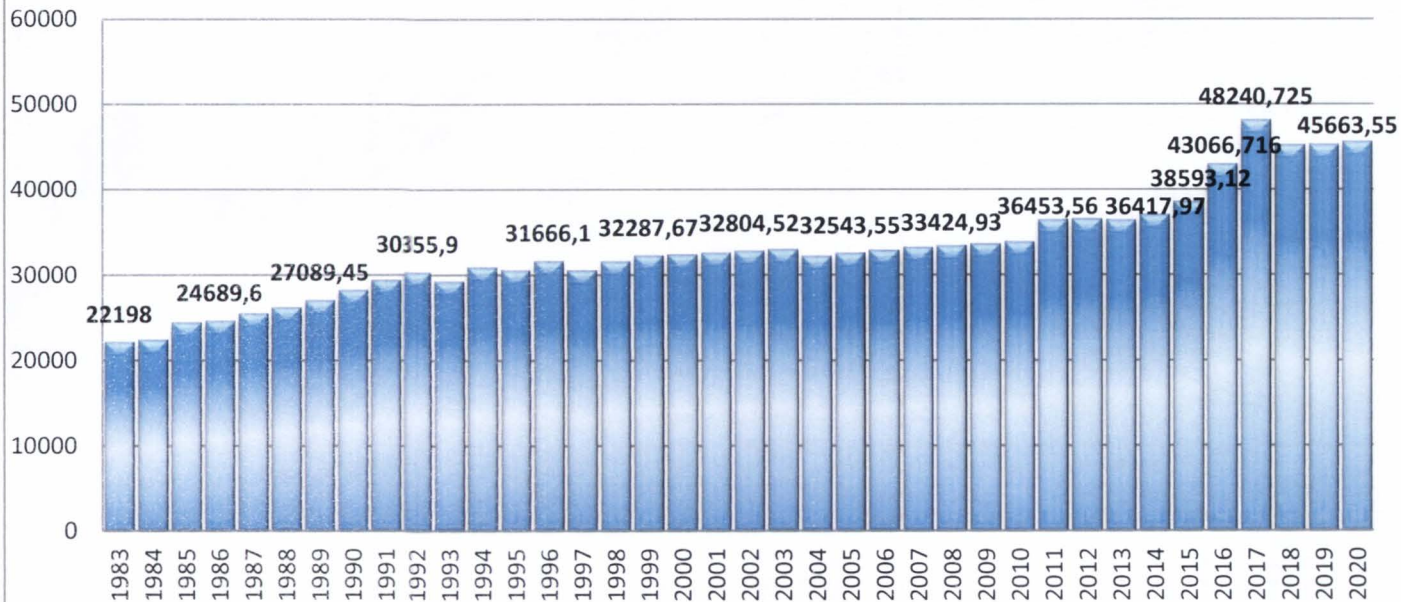


* from 2016 together with <https://biblioteca-digitala.ro/> <http://arhiveonline.ro/> and <http://www.romanianarchive.ro/> in Banská Štiavnica

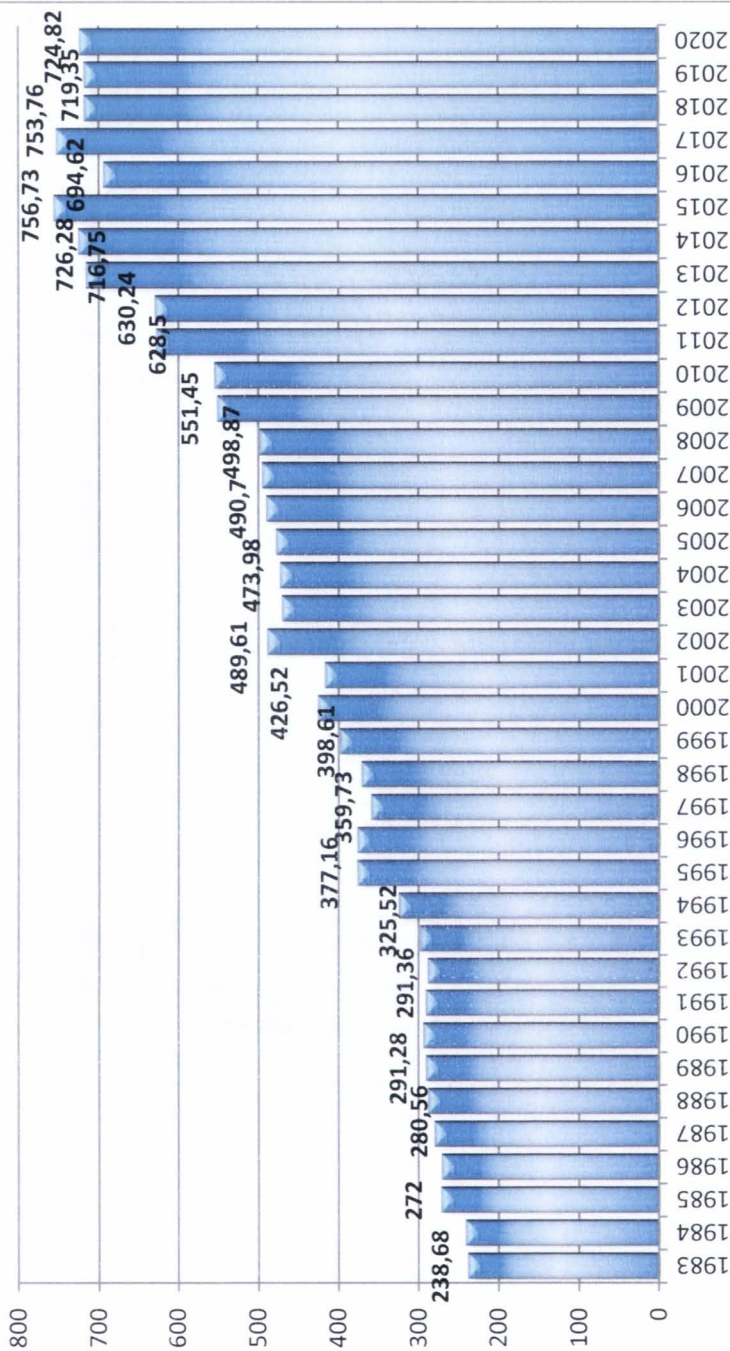
Number of archival fonds of the Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020



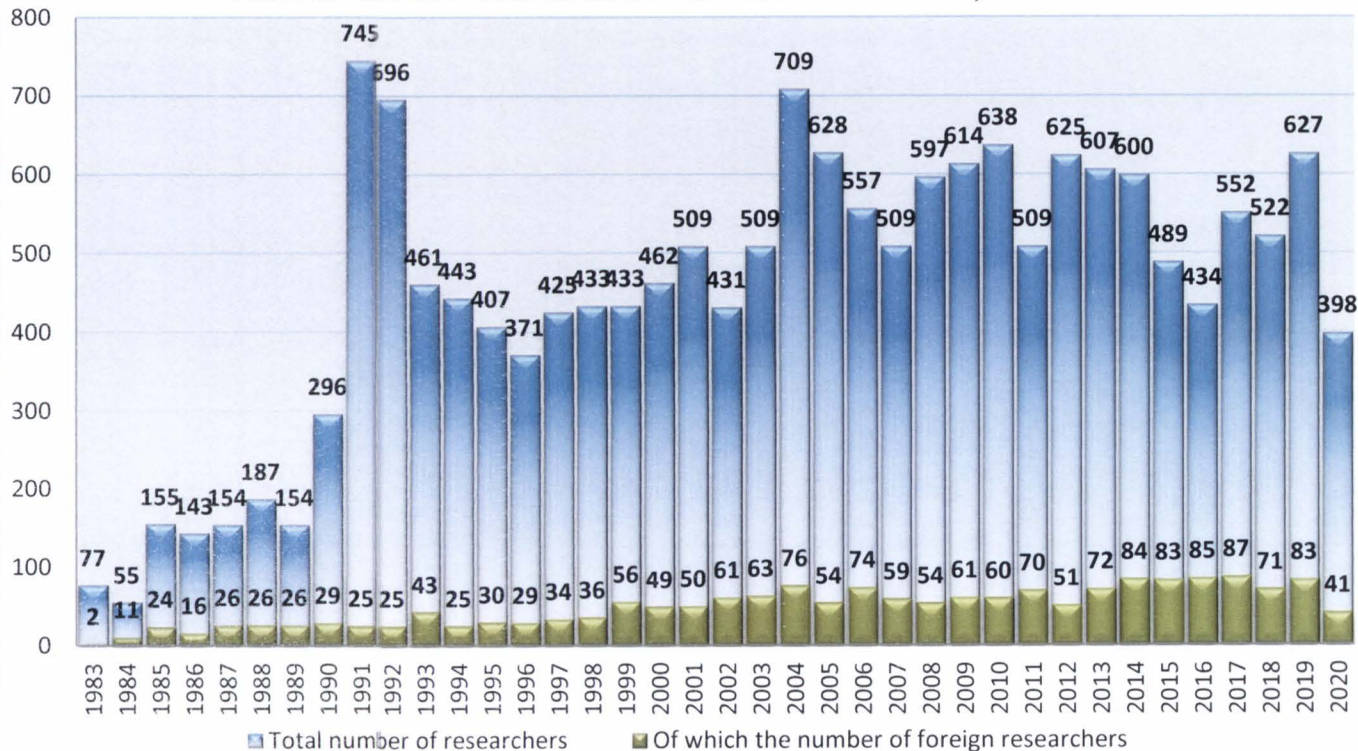
Total number of archival documents in Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020



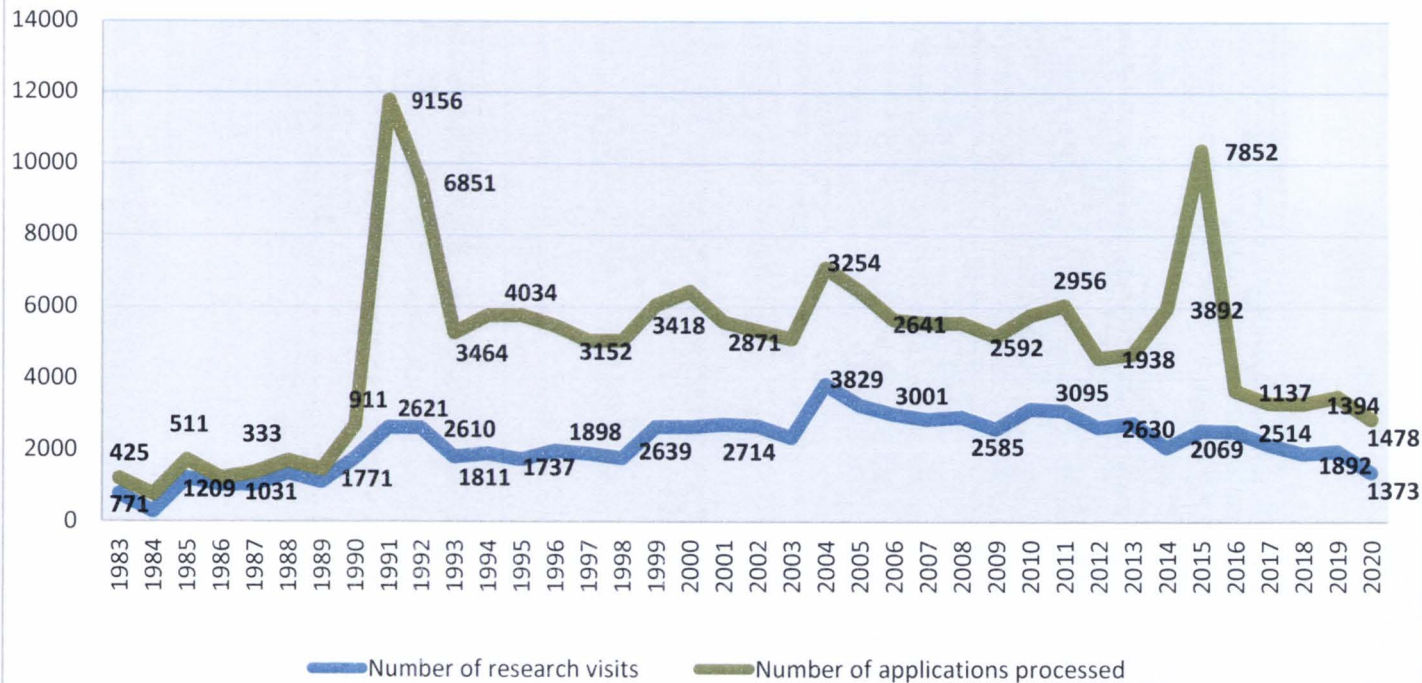
Number of archival documents per employee of the Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020



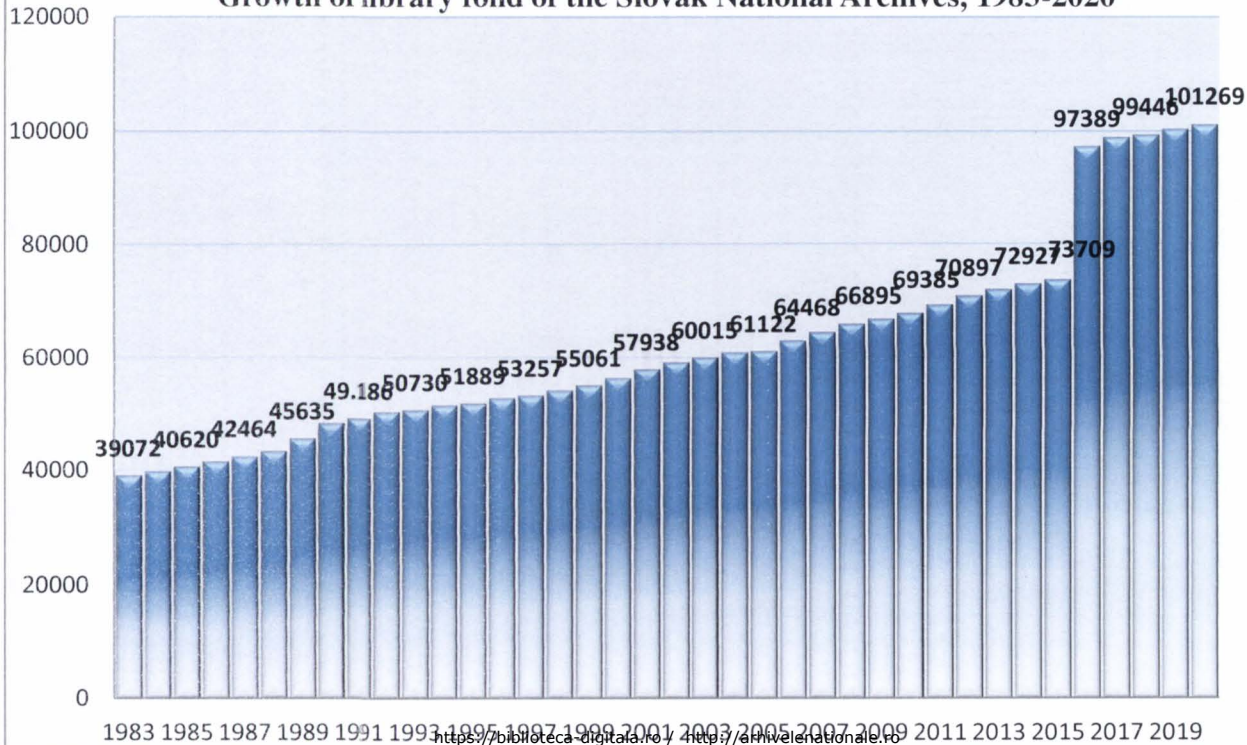
Number of researchers in the Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020



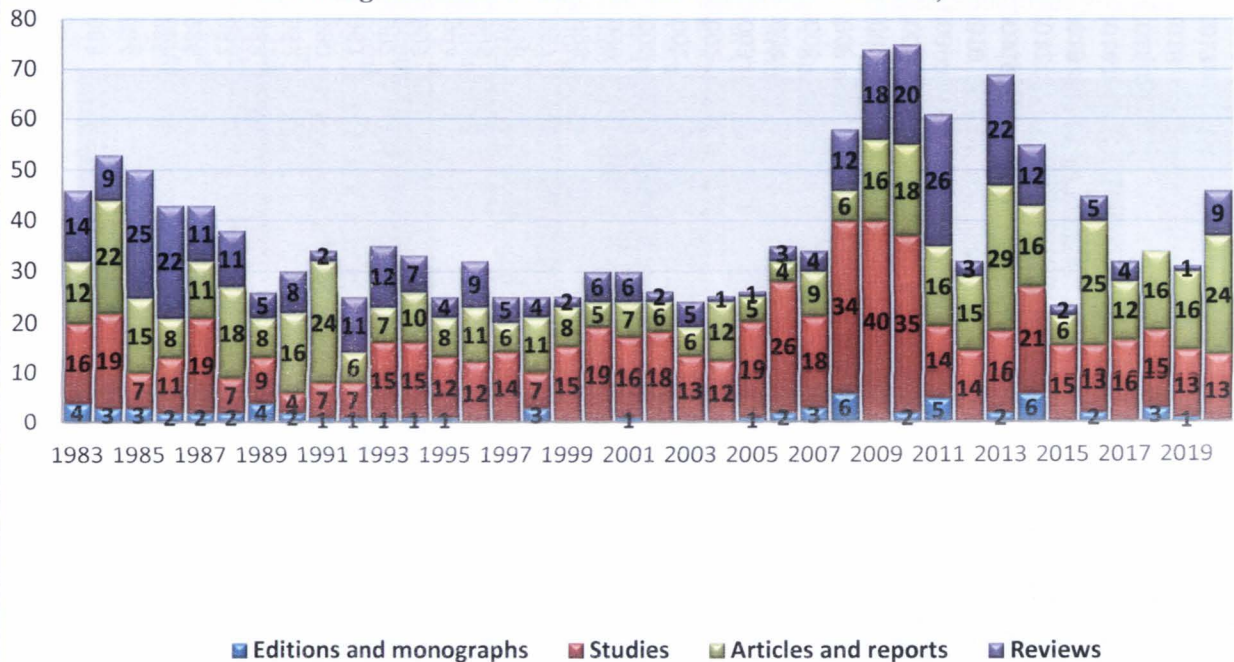
Number of research visits and applications processed in the Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020



Growth of library fond of the Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020



Publishing activities of the Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020



Cultural activities of the Slovak National Archives, 1983-2020

