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## Archival policy as a tool for ensuring access to information and preservation of cultural heritage

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**Abstract.** The purpose of the article was to explore the key aspects of archives, their role in the protection of cultural heritage and their impact on social development. Particular attention was paid to the problems of access to archival data in the context of digitalisation and the development of strategies to address them. This article analysed the web platform of the State Archival Service of Ukraine, which is one of the tools for preserving and disseminating the cultural heritage of Ukraine. Special attention was paid to the analysis of modern approaches to digitalisation of archival documents. The prospects of using the latest technologies to create online museums, which increase the efficiency of people's access to cultural heritage, are investigated. The article analysed one of the websites of the online museums of Ukraine, which stores the intangible cultural heritage of Ukraine, and considers the archival policy in the field of preservation of intangible cultural heritage. A list of immovable monuments of cultural heritage in Ukraine was found on the website of the State Archives, which helped to consider how the number of preserved intangible cultural heritage is controlled. The results were obtained from statistical data on requests for access to archival documents. The study provided data on the most frequent requests to the archives, as well as the methods of application. The study of online museums confirmed the relevance of modernising museums and their transition to online mode. Further improvement of the archival policy is important to ensure the preservation of cultural property and historical data. The results of the study indicate that archival policy is crucial for maintaining national memory, and the effectiveness of archival institutions has a significant impact on the preservation of cultural heritage

**Keywords:** document management; national heritage; protection of historical data; reference apparatus; digitalisation

### Introduction

Archival policy is not only an essential aspect of cultural heritage management, but also one of the elements that directly affects access to historical, cultural and

social sources. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where the preservation of national memory is becoming increasingly relevant, archives are becoming an integral part of this process.

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At the same time, the rapid digitalisation of society raises new challenges for the preservation of and access to archival materials. The problem is to understand the role of archival policy as a tool that strikes a balance between conservation of cultural heritage and its accessibility for future generations. The relevance of this study necessitates an in-depth study of archival policy as a means of ensuring access to information and protection of cultural heritage. One of the questions raised is the possibility of adapting traditional approaches to archiving in the new digital environment, what legal and administrative mechanisms need to be developed to ensure effective access to archival materials and the preservation of national heritage.

The current state of research in the field of archival policy shows considerable interest in this topic, but the search for sources for the study revealed that most scientific works focused on specific aspects, such as the legal framework of archival activities or technological challenges of digitalisation. For example, the researcher O. Maksymchuk (2018), emphasised the importance of archival management and the fact of its preservation as a national treasure, but his work did not address the issues of interaction between archives and society in the new conditions of digitalisation transformation, and aspects of the impact on the efficiency of archives after the intervention of the aggressor country, the consequences of which affected the efficiency of preservation of cultural heritage and contributed to the acceleration of digitalisation of documents.

M. Kulyk (2022) considered ways to improve the work of the state archive. The researcher noted that the activities of the archives' system are regulated at the stage of targeted development by government agencies, lawyers and archivists, which makes it possible to comprehensively address issues that arise when working with archival materials. Basic facts are determined in accordance with the legislation of each country. This has a specific historical context and depends on such factors as the socio-political structure of the state, political system, development of civil society institutions, level of development of market relations, technological support of society, traditions of record keeping, level of literacy of the population and national cultural peculiarities. The system of archives is a set of basic principles of organisation and methods of archival activity, which ensure orderly and integral functioning of all archival institutions.

L. Johnston & B. Lawlor (2020) emphasised that there are problems in state archives, such as unsuitable premises for storing archival materials (the size of the area does not correspond to the volume of storage, insufficient preparation for storing documents, lack of shelving, non-compliance with temperature and humidity conditions), which leads to damage to documents. M. Condron (2019) analysed the legal regulation of information activities of state archival institutions in Ukraine. The author noted that the system of state archives

functioned as a separate sphere with a governing body that had significant powers. Also, T. Batanova *et al.* (2021) emphasised that Internet technologies are becoming one of the key ways to popularise archival materials. The researchers noted that archives are actively organising online exhibitions that provide an opportunity to get acquainted with unique documents without having to leave home. For employees, such online projects are also useful, as there is no need to allocate space for the exhibition, risk original documents or limit the time of its holding and control the number of visitors. It is enough to scan the documents once and post them on the official website, so that anyone interested in history can have constant access to them.

The previous studies analysed lacked a comprehensive approach that would analyse archival policy as a holistic system that takes into account legal, administrative and technological aspects. It is important to note that previous studies also dealt with the specific conditions of archival activities in Ukraine, which indicates the national context of the topic. The purpose of the study was to examine the process of transition of Ukrainian archives to online preservation of cultural heritage, to identify gaps in this process, and to analyse the disadvantages and advantages of online museums. The objectives of this study were as follows: assessing the functionality of archival policy under martial law and its impact on the preservation of cultural heritage; exploring ways in which archival institutions can effectively combine traditional methods with new digital technologies to balance preservation and access to information; analysing existing approaches to preserving national heritage; and proposing new solutions that will facilitate its accessibility for future generations. The modern mechanisms for the protection of cultural heritage in Europe, in particular in Ukraine, Italy, Poland, and France, were examined, and the relevance of the research in view of the threat to Ukraine's cultural heritage due to the numerous negative consequences of the war was emphasised.

## Materials and Methods

Various sources were used for the research, including international regulations and national legislative documents governing the activities of archives, in particular The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011). These documents are key in understanding modern archival policy and define the basic principles of archival preservation and access to them. The study included a comparative analysis of archival policies of different countries such as Italy, Poland, France, Germany, and Ukraine, including methods of drafting legal documents. For this purpose, the UNESCO's Records of the General Conference (2012) were used. These documents were analysed in terms of their impact on national archival legislation and archival management practices. The study also examined the European Convention ETS No. 143 (1992), which defines the importance of archival materials related to archaeological

sites. In particular, attention was paid to the mechanisms for preserving archives that are important for the protection of archaeological heritage and measures to reduce the risk of their destruction. The study included an analysis of UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016), which contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage and mutual understanding between cultures. This made it possible to assess international approaches to the exchange of archival data and their adaptation in the Ukrainian context. The scientific work of O. Maksymchuk (2018) was used for comparative analysis with the electronic archives of Ukraine. The work of M. Kulyk (2022) helped to study the essence and types of state archives.

In addition to analysing legal documents, the researchers studied the modern digital information society, which plays an important role in preserving cultural heritage. Digital archives and databases allow preserving the authenticity of documents and expanding communication opportunities for their use. This study focused on analysing the activities of the State Archival Service of Ukraine, which is responsible for the digitalisation of archives in the country and ensuring their accessibility. The results of the study were achieved by using Wilcoxon's test to compare statistical data between the years 2019 and 2023. For this purpose, the reports on consideration of requests for information in the State Archives of Ukraine from 2019 to 2023 were used (Report on satisfaction..., 2019; n.d.). The materials and methods used provided a comprehensive approach to the analysis of archival policy, allowing to evaluate its effectiveness and identify potential areas for improving archival management.

## Results

### The history of Ukrainian archival practice

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, scientific activity in Ukraine aimed at collecting and preserving manuscript, archival, and museum heritage, as well as at creating memorial collections in private collections, libraries, and museums, reached a significant stage of development. The most extensive and valuable manuscript collections were created in different lands of Ukraine by prominent scholars, educators, statesmen and religious figures. Significant family libraries and archives were formed, and archives, manuscripts, old books, documentary collections and museum values were actively collected, studied and described. Due to the absence of its own statehood, the first official national memory institutions – archives, libraries, and museums – appeared in Ukraine only during the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917-1921. In 1918, the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine was founded by great scientists, including S. Yefremov, A. Krymskyi, V. Vernadsky, V. Kordt, H. Zhytetskyi, and other Ukrainian elite representatives. The Museum-Archive of the War and Revolution of 1914-1917 was founded in 1917 by the Cultural and Educational Committee of the All-Ukrainian

Committee of Military Deputies. To preserve the collections, they were transferred or created under the auspices of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences as museum institutions of Ukraine, which were to become the basis of the future national museum. Other institutions encompass: The Museum of Ukrainian Theatre, the F. Vovk Cabinet Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology, The Kyiv Art Gallery, The Khanenko Museum of Art (1921-1934), and others.

P. Potocki gathered a special collection of art in the Museum of Ukraine. Thanks to the intellectual efforts of O. Hrushevskyyi, V. Miyakovskyyi, V. Modzalevskyyi, and others, in 1917-1918, as part of the development of such a project to preserve the archival heritage, the concept of the National Archives of the Ukrainian State was formulated. This archive was to include a specialised library, archives and archival commissions in the field, a central archaeological commission, and a specialised higher education institution. The concept envisaged the creation of a central institution for the storage of documents of national importance. The main idea of the archival reform was the principle of neutrality of archives, which ensured the preservation of historical documents. The stage of institutional development of national memory institutions – archives, museums, and libraries during the stalinist dictatorship was halted by the imposition of Soviet ideology. The 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed socio-political catastrophes that destroyed the previous system and the integrity of archival, library and museum collections stored in various educational, cultural, religious and scientific organisations. Numerous unique collections from liquidated or reorganised institutions were concentrated in a few main centres that had the right to store historical documents and build archives. These institutions ensured the preservation of cultural heritage. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, cultural heritage is protected by the Law of Ukraine No. 1805-III (2000). About 170,000 immovable cultural heritage monuments located on its territory are registered in the state register.

### Analysis of the legal and regulatory framework

The Law of Ukraine No. 3814-XII (1993) is one of the main documents regulating archival policy in Ukraine. The law defines the principles of organisation, functioning and preservation of the National Archival Fond, as well as the rights and obligations of archival institutions. This law is based on international standards related to the preservation of documentary heritage (Cossack's songs..., 2016). The rules of operation of archival institutions of Ukraine regulate the activities of archival institutions at the level of organising the process of working with documents (Kyseliova *et al.*, 2013). They also provide access to archival materials. This indicates the importance of ensuring a standardised approach to archival management. Law of Ukraine No. 1398/5 (2022) regulates access to archival documents owned by the state and territorial communities. This document has

a direct impact on the exercise of the right to access information. The law was adopted on the basis of European Convention ETS No. 143 (1992), The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011) and the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016). The recommendation concerns the preservation of and access to documentary heritage, including its digital forms. The procedure reflects the need to comply with these principles in Ukrainian archives and takes into account modern approaches to providing access to information, including in digital form.

The Law of Ukraine No. 1805-III (2000) regulates the preservation of cultural heritage, including archival heritage. The law emphasises the importance of protecting cultural resources, including archival documents, which are part of the national heritage. The law defines mechanisms for ensuring the protection, restoration, and storage of archival materials, as well as sets requirements for their accounting and use. In addition, the law promotes the development of a system of public administration in the field of cultural heritage protection, ensuring cooperation between government agencies, scientific institutions and the public to preserve cultural heritage for future generations. The law was adopted

on the basis of the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form (2016). The recommendation defines the principles for regulating the preservation of and access to archival materials in Ukrainian legislation (Law of Ukraine No. 3814-XII, 1993). The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011) emphasises the importance of archives for society and guarantees their accessibility for future generations, and this document also highlights the need to protect archival information at the international level. Ukraine works with these international norms when formulating its own archival policy. European Convention ETS No. 143 (1992), an international document on the protection of archaeological artefacts, covers the preservation of archival data relating to archaeological finds and other aspects of cultural heritage. Ukrainian legislation in the field of archival management is largely based on international standards, in particular, the UNESCO's The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011) and the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016). The data in Table 1 show that Ukrainian legislation compares favourably with the UNESCO standards and meets international criteria.

**Table 1. Compliance of Ukraine's legal framework with international criteria**

Document	Basic principles	Compliance with international standards	International documents
Law of Ukraine No. 3814-XII (1993)	Regulation of organisation and functioning archival institutions; rights and obligations of archives; preservation of documentary heritage	Complies with the principles of UNESCO on the importance of archives for society and accessibility of information	The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011); Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016)
Rules of operation of archival institutions of Ukraine (Kyseliova <i>et al.</i> , 2013)	Standardisation of document management processes; providing access to archival materials	Consistent with UNESCO conservation recommendations of documentary heritage and archive management	European Convention ETS No. 143 (1992); The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011); Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016)
Law of Ukraine No. 1398/5 (2022)	Regulation of access to documents belonging to the state and territorial communities	Complies with the principles of openness and access to information; takes into account modern approaches to digital documents	European Convention ETS No. 143 (1992); The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011); Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016)
Law of Ukraine No. 1805-III (2000)	Protection of cultural heritage, including archival documents; protection of cultural resources	Complies with recommendations UNESCO on preservation of cultural heritage and access to archives	The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011); Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form (2016)

Source: compiled by the authors

The data in Table 2 show that the Ukrainian archival policy generally meets international standards, but

needs to be improved in terms of practical implementation of some recommendations.

**Table 2. Compliance of Ukrainian archives with international standards**

Regulatory act	Main points	Compliance with Ukrainian legislation
The Universal Declaration on Archives (2011)	Principles of preservation and access to archival documents	High
Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016)	Preserving and providing access to documentary heritage	Partial

Continued Table 2

Regulatory act	Main points	Compliance with Ukrainian legislation
European Convention ETS No. 143 (1992)	Protection of cultural and natural heritage	High
European Convention ETS No. 143 (1992)	Protection of archaeological heritage	Medium

Source: compiled by the authors

In 2024, this area remains a priority. This includes further deepening of cooperation with the International Council on Archives (n.d.) and the archival community of the world, continuation of the process of withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Independent States agreements in the field of archives, and promotion of new international agreements, increasing representation of the state archives of Ukraine in the EU archival organisations, active presentation of Ukrainian history and culture through archival documents about the past and present of Ukraine at international archival forums and online on external resources of the state archives of Ukraine and partner foreign resources. The maintenance of the register of elements of the intangible cultural heritage of Ukraine began in 2012 on the basis of Order of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine No. 1521 (2012). New elements are included in the National Register on the basis of recommendations of the Expert Council on Intangible Cultural Heritage, which functions under the Ministry of

Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, by amending the annex to the order.

The data presented in Table 3 demonstrate that Ukrainian mechanisms for the protection of cultural heritage are in line with European standards. Italy, France, Poland, and Ukraine, each of these countries, demonstrates specific approaches and faces different problems in the field of cultural property protection. Italy attaches considerable importance to institutional support for the protection and restoration of heritage, actively cooperating with specialised organisations. France has a robust system for the preservation and restoration of national monuments, encouraging public participation and cooperation with international organisations. Poland is dynamically developing and funding heritage protection programmes in partnership with international institutions and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Ukraine faces challenges related to insufficient funding and insufficient coordination of cultural heritage protection activities.

Table 3. Mechanisms for the protection of cultural heritage in Europe

Criterion	Italy	France	Poland	Ukraine
Institutional support	Specialised organisations, coordination and control over the preservation of cultural heritage	System security and recovery on national and at the local level is well-developed. Availability of specialised organisations and agencies	Local organisations play a key role in preserving cultural heritage	Limited support at the state level
Legal regulation	Developed legal framework for the protection and restoration of cultural heritage	Many laws defining legal status cultural monuments and the rules for their use	Availability of legal standards organisations in the preservation of cultural heritage	Insufficient legal regulation of the protection and use of cultural heritage
Financial support	A significant number of investors for preservation and restoration	Financing of programmes and projects heritage protection and co-financing by the European Union	Financing of national and regional programmes, co-financing from international organisations	Insufficient financial support that can lead to deterioration objects heritage and limit opportunities recovery
Public involvement	Active role of the public in heritage preservation and project implementation	Active role of the public in conservation heritage and development projects in the cooperation with the state	NGOs are actively cooperate with security cultural heritage and restoration authorities	NGOs and experts cooperate in the preservation of heritage and project implementation
International cooperation	Cooperation with international organisations, exchange of experience	Active participation in international initiatives, joint projects in cooperation with the state	Partnerships with international organisations and countries for preservation of the common heritage	Cooperation with international organisations and the implementation of joint projects

Source: compiled by the authors

During the meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, it was decided, based on the consideration of the Ukrainian element "Petrykivka painting – Ukrainian

decorative and ornamental art of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries", to include this element in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (Petrykivka decorative painting..., 2013). In 2016, the list included Cossack's songs of Dnipropetrovsk Region (2016).

Table 4 shows that intangible cultural heritage includes oral folk art, music, singing, dancing, theatre, customs, rituals, and holidays related to nature and the universe, and folk medicine. The intangible cultural heritage is

connected with the tangible cultural heritage and is an important component of the traditional life of the Ukrainian people, and is a carrier of historical memory and a source of cultural diversity around the world.

**Table 4. Key elements of the intangible cultural heritage of Ukraine and their brief description**

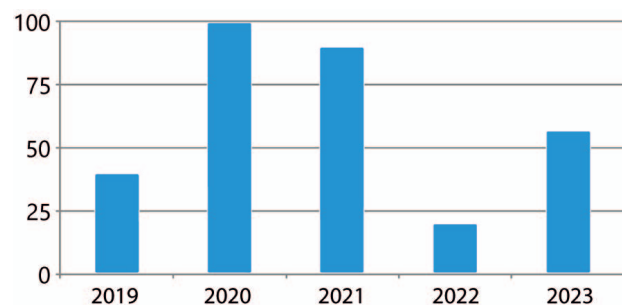
Intangible cultural heritage	Brief description
The tradition of Kosiv painted ceramics	A unique style of painted ceramics that includes traditional ornaments, symbols and rich colour
Krolevets weaving	Traditional weaving with distinctive geometric patterns, known for its red and white colour scheme
Opishnia ceramics	A type of ceramic art that uses ancient techniques and various folk motifs
Petrykivka painting is a Ukrainian decorative and ornamental painting of the 19 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> centuries	A vivid pictorial style of painting with floral motifs, symbolising life, prosperity, and the beauty of nature
Cossack songs of the Dnipropetrovsk Region	Historical songs celebrating the exploits and life of the Ukrainian cossacks are preserved in the folklore tradition
The song tradition of Luka Village, Kyiv-Sviatoslyn District, Kyiv Region	A local musical tradition that includes ceremonial and folk songs passed down from generation to generation
The technology of white-on-white embroidery in Reshetylivka Village	A special type of embroidery where only white threads are used to create delicate textured patterns
Traditions of vegetable carpet weaving in Reshetylivka Village	Traditional weaving of vegetable carpets from natural materials with floral motifs
Ornek – Crimean Tatar ornament and knowledge about it	A Crimean Tatar ornament symbolising the traditions, beliefs, and nature of the Crimean Tatars
The tradition of ornamental painting of Bubnivka ceramics	A type of ceramic painting with bright floral patterns typical of Bubnivka
Bordering	An ancient craft of wild honey harvesting that requires knowledge of the nature and behaviour of bees

Source: compiled by the authors based on National list of elements of intangible cultural heritage of Ukraine (2023)

On 26 February 2024, the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications added 4 new elements to the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ukraine: traditions of cooking and eating “zozuli” porridge in Vinnytsia Region; the tradition of making “zatyрка” in the Kryva Luka Village in Donetsk Region; the coffee tradition of the Crimean Tatars; “Agyr ava ve Kaitarma” is a traditional dance of the Crimean Tatars. As of 2023, 93 elements of intangible cultural heritage were recorded in Ukraine (National list..., 2023). The Order of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine No. 158 (2024) was signed by the Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine R. Karandiev. The new elements are included based on the recommendations of the Expert Council on Intangible Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine (Order of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine No. 1521, 2012).

In 2018, to ensure the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the Internet project “Virtual Museum of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ukraine” was presented. The digital archival structure is as follows: digital archives, main components of the system, data storage system, databases, storage servers, backup, Integration of new documents, upload procedures, quality control, metadata, document security, encryption, role-based access, access audit, technical support, helpdesk, error correction, system updates (Batanova *et al.*, 2021). The system of the Virtual Museum of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ukraine has a well-developed structure for data storage, but there are problems

with the integration of new documents and ensuring their security. Figure 1 shows an increase in the number of requests, which indicates an increase in interest in archival documents in 2020. In 2022, the number of decreased requests for archival documents shows a sharp decline. In 2022, in order to preserve archives, they were evacuated from combat zones and dangerous areas. To control the preservation of cultural heritage during the period of hostilities, the state of preservation of documents of the National Archival Fond in state archives was regularly monitored, this event has been held since 2022 in April. During this period, the study recorded the acceleration of the process of digitalisation of archival information resources with their subsequent publication.



**Figure 1. Statistics of requests for access to archival documents**

Source: compiled by the authors based on Report on satisfaction of requests for public information in December 2019 (2019), Report on satisfaction of requests for information (n.d.)

Also, with the help of foreign partners, cloud storage was used to preserve digital information. The analysed results of the evacuation of archival documents to safe regions revealed that 11,758 storage units (93%) of documents of the National Archival Fond of the State Archives of Donetsk Region were moved from Kostiantynivka and 31,298 storage units (90%) of documents of the National Archival Fond of the State Archives of Luhansk Region were moved from Siverskodonetsk. A part of documents of the National Archival Fond of the Central State Scientific and Technical Archive of Ukraine, which were stored in Kharkiv, were transferred for temporary storage to the State Archives of Cherkasy Region. The study also found that the aggressor country had caused damage to archival documents. Despite the problem, the archival institutions replaced eleven buildings with a total area of 1,124.6 m<sup>2</sup> and added fifteen additional facilities with an area of 2,636.6 m<sup>2</sup>. In 2022, archival institutions implemented measures to strengthen security and fire protection (Report on satisfaction..., n.d.). Despite significant challenges, archival institutions made substantial efforts to safeguard and preserve Ukraine's historical documents, ensuring their protection through evacuation, secure storage, and infrastructure improvements.

#### Consideration of the web platform of the State Archival Service of Ukraine

The web platform of the State Archival Service of Ukraine is a tool for preserving and accessing documents and archival materials. Through this platform,

users can access various archival resources, including digital copies of documents, as well as information about archives and their collections. The platform of the State Archival Service of Ukraine provides access to numerous archival documents and digital resources, which contributes to the preservation of historical materials. The information resource was developed as part of a project to create electronic resources for online access to the funds of state archives of Ukraine on the ARCHIUM platform, which was first presented on 30 June 2020 at the Central State Archive of Public Associations of Ukraine. On 11 May 2022, Ukrinform hosted a presentation of the Interarchival Search Portal, which operates on this platform and provides access to digital archival resources. Further work in this direction will continue, and all state archives of Ukraine are expected to join the process.

The Pshenychnyi Central State Film and Photo Archive of Ukraine and the Central State Electronic Archive of Ukraine were reorganised through their cooperation to form the Central State Audiovisual and Electronic Archive. As a result of this optimisation, the number of employees of central state archival institutions decreased by 6%. Indicators from Tables 5-6 show a decrease in funding and expenditures of the State Archival Service of Ukraine and its subordinate institutions. In particular, the decrease in expenditures for the general fund is 9.0%, and for the special fund – 32.7%. In 2022, the utilisation of the general fund reached 99.0%, which encompasses expenses for salaries and wages, utilities, and accounts payable that arose at the end of 2022.

**Table 5.** Analysis of expenditures of the general fund under budget programmes 3609000 "State Archival Service of Ukraine", 2021-2022, UAH thousand

No.	KPKVK	Approved in 2021	Cash expenses in 2021	Approved in 2022	Cash costs in 2022	Reduced allocations
1	3609010	26,755.7	26,692.1	25,527.1	24,846.4	2,836.3
2	3609020	10,223.9	10,224.5	9,764.5	9,689.8	1,073.8
3	3609030	23,334.0	232,513.9	212,317.4	210,619.7	23,590.8
Together		270,329.6	269,430.5	247,609	245,155.9	27,500.9

Source: compiled by the authors based on State Archival Service of Ukraine (2022)

**Table 6.** Analysis of expenditures of the special fund under budget programmes 3609000 "State Archival Service of Ukraine", 2021-2022, UAH thousand

No.	KPKVK	Approved in 2021	Cash expenses in 2021	Approved in 2022	Cash costs in 2022	Reduced allocations
1	3609010	3,113.5	3,099.9	144.1	144.1	144.2
2	3609020	331.3	247.5	372.9	272.3	0
3	3609030	23,410.2	18,689.5	20,363	14,419.6	5,641.2
Together		26,855.0	22,036.9	20,880	14,836.6	5,785.4

Source: compiled by the authors based on State Archival Service of Ukraine (2022)

On the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, the State Archival Service of Ukraine presented documents from the National Archival Fond, which cover the process of formation of Ukrainian statehood. These materials are stored in the Central State Archive of Supreme Authorities and Governments of Ukraine. Among the presented documents, a special place is

occupied by Decree of the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian SSR No. 1427-XII (1991). This important political and legal act marks a key moment in the history of Ukraine, laying the foundations for the further development of sovereign Ukraine. The resolution was adopted by a majority vote at an extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada on 24 August 1991. As a sign of independence,

at the suggestion of Member of Parliament V. Chornovil, blue and yellow flags were brought into the session hall and raised above the dome of the Verkhovna Rada.

These documents can be viewed on the web portal of the State Archival Service of Ukraine in the relevant section, which confirms the convenience of the archive's online work and the provision of access to information and preservation of cultural heritage. It was found that, despite the growing problems and increasing threats caused by the aggressor's military aggression against Ukraine, archival institutions, through the implementation of initiatives to protect and provide access to documentary evidence of the past, contribute to the development of the state and Ukrainian society, as well as strengthen its identity. The research has shown that archives of Ukraine continue their activities in the field of creation, accumulation, storage, and use of archival information resources that serve the legitimate interests of citizens, promote sustainable development of cultural and socio-economic life.

In August 2024, American partners delivered and installed equipment in one of the archives to implement a project to digitise genealogy-related documents of the National Archival Fond of Ukraine and create a fund for their use. This project involves the creation of colour images from about 2.5 million pages of documents in metric books stored in Uzhhorod and Berehove (State Archival Service of Ukraine, 2022). In addition to the metric books, filtration, district insurance, thematic, and personal files will also be digitised, which is approximately 100,000 cards. The archives inform about the project through its official website and provides an opportunity to follow updates on the website of the State Archives of Zakarpattia Region.

### **Analysing the impact of archives on the preservation of cultural heritage**

Archives play an important role in shaping national memory and maintaining cultural traditions. Archival policy defines the legal and organisational framework for providing access to archival documents. One of the main principles of modern archival policy is openness and accessibility of information. This principle is implemented through the establishment of clear access criteria, digitalisation of archives, and the introduction of innovative technologies for digitalisation and information retrieval. However, ensuring access to archival information faces certain challenges. These include issues of confidentiality, personal data protection, and the preservation of physical and digital media (Bosher *et al.*, 2020; De Bari, 2024).

Many countries have developed special legislation regulating these aspects, but their effectiveness depends on proper implementation and updating in accordance with modern requirements. The Heritage Code of France (2004) defines the legal framework for preservation and access to archival materials, especially

emphasising the importance of ensuring public access to documents of cultural value. In the United States of America, there is The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (2016), which provides citizens with access to federal archival documents, except when this information is subject to restrictions due to national security or confidentiality issues. Federal Law of Germany BGBl. I p. 410 (2017) defines the procedure for access to archival documents, including their digitalisation. This law also protects personal data and strikes a balance between openness and protection of confidential information.

Preservation of cultural heritage is one of the key tasks of archives. This includes both physical preservation of documents and their digitalisation to reduce the risk of information loss. Archival policy involves the development of standards and norms for the storage of archival materials that take into account the specifics of different types of media (Gorbul, 2022). The digitalisation of archives has become an important step in preserving cultural heritage, as it allows storing information in new formats and providing access to it regardless of the location of users. However, it also poses new challenges to archival policy, such as ensuring long-term preservation of digital documents and protecting them from tampering (Zahara & Salim, 2022). The use of information resources of archival funds becomes extremely important at the stage of archival growth. The use of information content becomes extremely crucial. The need for 2024 is to provide users with access to archives through information databases and reading rooms. The basic terms about documentary information and archival documentation, systematisation of documents have acquired a certain history and knowledge in different fields of science. In the field of electronic information technologies, along with the concepts of "electronic information", "electronic documents" and "electronic document information systems", related terms such as "web document", "web resource" and "website" are increasingly used. A website is a type of document information system created as a collection of documents and links between documents.

Based on the results, the following recommendations were developed to improve archival policy: expanding the possibilities of digitalising archives – it is necessary to increase the pace of digitalisation, ensuring the preservation of information in case of damage to physical media; updating the policy of personal data protection in digital archives to meet modern security requirements, for example, as in the national data protection laws of Germany (Federal Law of Germany BGBl. I p. 410, 2017); improving the processes of cataloguing and integrating metadata to facilitate search and interaction with archival documents; establishing cooperation networks with international archival institutions to share experience and best practices in the digitalisation and preservation of archives; using artificial intelligence and machine learning to automate the processes of

classifying, analysing and searching for documents in archives; updating the legislation governing access to archival documents to meet technological changes and modern requirements for confidentiality and accessibility.

This study confirmed that archival policy is a key tool for ensuring access to information and the preservation of cultural heritage. The thought about the effectiveness of digital archives systems has proven to be effective, but needs to be improved in technical and organisational aspects. The recommendations developed in this study will help improve archival management and ensure proper preservation of the national heritage. This article provided a comprehensive overview of the research findings, including an analysis of the legal framework, an assessment of the digitalisation of archives, the functionality of the web platform, and the impact of archival policy on national identity. The study demonstrated the importance of archival policy for the preservation of cultural heritage and suggests ways for further improvement.

## Discussion

The results obtained in this study of archival policy as a tool for ensuring access to information and preservation of cultural heritage indicate the importance of a comprehensive approach to archival management in the context of digital transformation. The results of the study confirmed that archival policy is a key element not only for preserving cultural heritage, but also for ensuring access to it in the context of rapid digitalisation. In particular, the analysis has shown that existing archival platforms, such as the website of the State Archival Service of Ukraine, play a significant role in preserving historical materials and making them accessible to users. This research helped to identify archival issues that emerged in 2022 and clearly reduced requests to the archives. This problem was the clash between Ukraine and the aggressor country. But it was also found that despite the martial law, Ukrainian archives did not stop their work, but rather increased their efforts to preserve cultural heritage and showed their mobility.

In 2022, archives from the occupied territories were transported to the territories of free cities and directly transferred to local archives. The study confirmed the findings of other researchers in this area. For example, the study by O. Maksymchuk (2018) emphasised the importance of archival management for the preservation of national heritage, but their work is more focused on the legal aspects of archival activities. This study extended this knowledge by including practical aspects of archival digitalisation and assessing the effectiveness of existing platforms by including their accessibility and usability in the analysis. After analysing the work of M. Kulyk (2022), the theoretical foundations of archival science were considered, but they do not fully cover the current challenges of the digitalisation of archival systems. This study integrated these theoretical foundations with the practical aspects of digitalisation, which allowed to draw

conclusions about the effectiveness of archival policy in the context of new technological realities.

Through the analysis of the legal framework, the results demonstrate a high level of compliance of Ukrainian legislation in the field of archival management with international standards, in particular, the European Convention ETS No. 143 (1992) and the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016). This demonstrates Ukraine's efforts to integrate international norms to ensure preservation of and access to documentary heritage. For example, the Law of Ukraine No. 3814-XII (1993) clearly regulates the legal aspects of archival management, which is in line with international approaches, such as the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2016). The importance of these results lies in the fact that they show Ukraine's commitment to the implementation of universal standards for the preservation of information, especially in digital form. This meets the current challenges of globalisation and the rapid development of digital technologies, which require new approaches to archival preservation and management. In addition, the compliance of the regulatory framework with international standards creates opportunities for closer cooperation with international archival organisations (Noonan, 2021; 2022).

The data revealed regarding the inclusion of Ukrainian elements in the Representative List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity emphasises the role of archival materials in ensuring the continuity of cultural traditions and maintaining historical memory. It is also worth noting that the process of preserving intangible heritage, as demonstrated by the example of the Petrykivka painting, is carried out in close cooperation with international organisations such as UNESCO, which reflects the integration of Ukrainian traditions into the global context (Petrykivka decorative painting..., 2013). However, as M.A.D. Mendoza *et al.* (2023) indicated, Ukraine faces problems at the level of practical implementation of these standards. Lack of funding and insufficient technical support for archival institutions create barriers to the full implementation of legal requirements, which requires further improvement. M.A.D. Mendoza *et al.* (2023) research also showed that Ukraine may face challenges related to the return of cultural heritage that was exported or stolen during the war. This process requires coordination between institutions, organisations and international partners, as well as financial support (Boboc *et al.*, 2022).

The preservation of cultural heritage during and after the war is becoming a challenge that requires the consolidation of efforts of the whole society to protect historical memory and cultural diversity. In this context, the introduction of a digital archiving system for cultural monuments can be an effective mechanism for preventing losses and providing access to cultural heritage,

contributing to its preservation. The study revealed significant changes in the number of requests for archival documents during the war, which indicates the importance of external factors, such as military conflicts, on the work of archival institutions and access to cultural heritage. The decline in the number of requests in 2022 is a logical consequence of the outbreak of aggression against Ukraine and the need to evacuate archives from dangerous areas. This study confirmed the findings of researcher M.G. Masciotta *et al.* (2022), who also noted the impact of military conflicts on access to cultural heritage. Their work showed that war significantly complicates access to historical documents, but at the same time stimulates new approaches to their preservation, in particular through digitalisation.

The results are consistent with the findings of V. Montalto *et al.* (2019) and M.M. Salameh *et al.* (2022), who emphasised that cultural archives play a pivotal role in maintaining the cultural and creative vitality of cities, even in crisis situations. The authors pointed out that archives not only preserve historical memory, but also contribute to the formation of the identity of local communities through access to cultural heritage. Their study pointed out that in times of crisis, such as economic downturns or natural disasters, archives become important resources for restoring and sustaining cultural activity. The analysis of the impact of archives on the preservation of cultural heritage has shown that archives facilitate the transfer of knowledge between generations and the formation of national memory. The impact of archival policy on national identity is also confirmed by the example of the opening of the Ukrainian Museum in Bologna, which emphasises the importance of archives for cultural diplomacy and the dissemination of national values abroad, providing access to Ukrainian heritage both in Ukraine and abroad (Ojamaa & Torop, 2020; Petti *et al.*, 2020).

The findings of the study also revealed clear parallels with the conclusions presented in the work by K.M. Rebec *et al.* (2022). In particular, the study confirmed the effectiveness of the use of digital technologies in archival institutions, which is also an essential aspect in the context of integrating the latest approaches to the preservation of cultural heritage. The study emphasised that the digitalisation of archival resources not only ensures the preservation of information, but also greatly facilitates access to it for users. The results of the study of the impact of archives on the preservation of cultural heritage highlight the pivotal role of archival documents in shaping national memory and providing access to key historical moments. For example, the document recording the declaration of Independence of Ukraine is preserved in the National Archival Fond. This demonstrates the importance of archival materials as a critical source for understanding the historical context and political development of the state. Archival documents are the foundation for studying and promoting historical events that shape national identity. The im-

portance of this study is the demonstration of how archival materials not only preserve important historical facts, but also facilitate their integration into contemporary culture through digital platforms, which greatly facilitates access to them.

The study also confirmed the findings of international experts such as T. Giannini & J.P. Bowen (2023) and L. Jaillan & A. Rees (2023), who drew attention to the importance of digital tools and cloud technologies in preserving cultural artefacts in crisis situations. The use of cloud storage for preserving archival documents, which was implemented with the support of international partners, is in line with current trends in global archival affairs and highlights the prospects for further research in the area of digitalisation of archives. The importance of these results lies in the fact that they confirm the effectiveness of digitalisation and international cooperation in providing access to archival information. The study has confirmed that archival policy is a critical strategic tool for the effective preservation of cultural heritage and access to archival materials. The findings are consistent with previous studies, but also significantly expand the existing knowledge about the impact of digitalisation on archival policy in the face of modern challenges. The results of the study are of significant practical importance for further improvement of archival management in Ukraine and may be useful for other countries facing similar challenges in the context of globalisation.

## Conclusions

The study determined the effectiveness of the use of digital technologies in archival institutions of Ukraine, as well as their accessibility for future generations. It was found that the archival policy of Ukraine meets international standards in the field of preservation and access to archival materials, but requires further improvement. The study revealed that despite the restrictions caused by the war, the international activities of the State Archives of Ukraine and archival institutions have become more intensive compared to previous years. In 2024, this direction remains one of the priorities. This involves further strengthening cooperation with the International Council on Archives and the global archival community, continuing the process of existing agreements related to archives within the Commonwealth of Independent States, and advancing new international agreements. It also includes enhancing the representation of the State Archives of Ukraine in EU archival organisations, actively showcasing Ukrainian history and culture through archival documents about Ukraine's past and present at international archival forums, as well as on external platforms of the State Archives of Ukraine and its international partners.

Based on the reporting documents of the Ukrainian State Archives for 2022, it was found that in the first days of the aggression against Ukraine, the main measures to

preserve the documents of the National Archival Fond were the provision of methodological recommendations that facilitated the evacuation of documents from state archives from combat zones and dangerous areas. The result of the link between archival policy and national identity confirmed that archives contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage, and they help to increase national identity and pride, which is important for the transmission of cultural values to the future generation. The study revealed the need to explore the

integration of archival data with other cultural resources, such as libraries and museums. This will create a unified information system that will provide expanded access to cultural heritage.

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#### ■ Conflict of Interest

None.

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## **Архівна політика як інструмент забезпечення доступу до інформації та збереження культурної спадщини**

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**Анотація.** Метою статті було дослідити ключові аспекти функціонування архівів, їхньої ролі в охороні культурної спадщини та впливу на соціальний розвиток. Особлива увага була приділена проблемам доступу до архівних даних в умовах цифровізації та розробці стратегій їх вирішення. Проаналізовано вебплатформу Державної архівної служби України, яка є одним зі знарядь для збереження та розповсюдження культурного надбання України. Окрему увагу приділено аналізу сучасних підходів до діджиталізації архівних документів. Досліджено перспективи використання новітніх технологій для створення онлайн музеїв, що підвищує ефективність доступу людей до культурної спадщини. Проаналізовано один із вебсайтів онлайн музеїв України, на якому зберігається нематеріальна культурна спадщина України, а також була розглянута архівна політика у сфері збереження нематеріальної культурної спадщини. Був знайдений перелік нерухомих пам'яток культурної спадщини України на сайті Державного архіву, що допомогло розглянути, яким чином контролюється кількість збережених нематеріальних культурних спадщин. Отримано результати зі статистичних даних про запити на доступ до архівних документів. Досліджено дані найбільш актуальних запитів до архіву, а також методи звернень. Дослідження онлайн музею підтвердило актуальність у модернізації музеїв і їх переходу в онлайн режим. Подальше вдосконалення архівної політики є важливим для забезпечення збереження культурних цінностей та історичних даних. Результати дослідження вказують на те, що архівна політика має вирішальне значення для підтримки національної пам'яті, а ефективність діяльності архівних інститутів значно впливає на збереження культурної спадщини

**Ключові слова:** управління документами; національне надбання; захист історичних даних; довідковий апарат; цифровізація