



Report

on the Activities of the Open Society Archives
between October 2000 and September 2001

Budapest
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I

According to the decision of the CEU Board of Trustees a certain portion (USD 2,000,000 annually) of the income from the endowment that was laid down to support the Central European University is dedicated exclusively to financing the operations of the Open Society Archives.

II Staff and Location

OSA is still comfortably settled within the large downtown CEU complex, though it is constantly looking for new storage place opportunities in the vicinity. This is necessitated both by the space required for storing incoming donations and by OSA's intention to move the external storage facility at Kerepesi Dormitory closer to the main offices.

There have been some changes in the organizational structure of the Archives. The staff of 31 was reduced to 29: two full time posts (those of the junior librarian and the reference services supervisory archivist) were abolished, and the duties belonging to these posts were taken over by other staff members. This of course meant that the job descriptions of the majority of OSA staff had to be revised and rewritten. The Archives decided to streamline its organizational structure in order to increase effectiveness and mobilize its intellectual capital to a greater extent. The cuts proved to be justified: OSA has not only maintained the pace of its daily routine activities but has actually increased the intensity of its related activities both on the local and the international scene.

Mr Leszek Pudlowski, OSA Chief Archivist, took up a new position with the UN in August this year, and OSA is currently interviewing short-listed candidates for his post.

III Equipment

OSA upgraded its entire hardware and software system. All its computers were replaced by Pentium III and IV machines with 17" monitors and the NT system was introduced. OSA donated its used computers to civil organizations (minority groups, homeless centers, handicapped etc.), thus setting an example which has since been followed by a number of private and public institutions.

OSA started its own microfilming program using the KODAK microfilming equipment that arrived from Munich. Two OSA staff members were trained to use the equipment and the first products came out last month.

IV Holdings

1 New acquisitions

(a) Textual materials

- Documents of the late Mr Andras Hegedus, Hungarian Prime Minister 1955–56 were donated to OSA. Mr Hegedus gave his first ever life interview to Radio Free Europe.
- Part of the documents of the late Mr Peter Gosztonyi were donated by his widow to OSA, which is currently negotiating with the Schweitzerische Osteuropabibliothek about the possible transfer of the remainder of the materials to OSA
- Mr Dan Ionescu also donated his RFL/RL documents relating to Romania and Moldova to OSA
- From RFE/RL Prague Archives OSA received the remaining documents of the Research Institute together with original studio equipment.

(b) Library materials

- Books and papers of the late Mr Andras Hegedus
- Books and papers from the RFE/RL Prague Archives
- Testaments to the Holocaust, the microfilm edition of the Wiener Library, London. This unique historical material covers a time span from the early 1930s to the mid-1960s and provides a basis for the study of Nazi Germany, its crimes against the Jews and the post-war life of Jewish communities. OSA library is now the first and only public institution in the Central and Eastern European Region where the collection is available to researchers.

(c) Audio-visual materials

- The entire collection of the Communist Workers' Militia
- A set of interviews with Hungarian "Gulag" victims
- The first portion of the Krasnogorsk Film Archives copies

2. Processing

(a) Textual materials

- Hungarian Biographical Card Files – 27 containers
- Files of Analyst Aurél Bereznai
- Polish Subject Files – 2,050 containers
- Romanian Subject Files – 769 containers
- Yugoslav Subject Files I – 503 containers
- Yugoslav Subject Files II – 82 containers
- Yugoslav Biographical Files I – 80 containers
- Yugoslav Biographical Files II – 16 containers
- Personal Files of Slobodan Stankovic
- Subject Files Related to the USSR and the Russian Federation (Soviet monitoring)
- Subject Files Related to Ukraine (Soviet monitoring)
- Monitoring of Ukrainian Radio (Soviet monitoring)
- Soviet Media Digest Files (Soviet monitoring)
- The Former Soviet Union Countries Media Digest Files (Soviet monitoring)
- Russian Media on East Europe including Baltic States (Soviet monitoring)
- Polish Media on Ukraine and Belarus (Soviet monitoring)
- Television schedules of Russian Television (Soviet monitoring)
- Video Recordings of Moscow Television Program (Soviet monitoring)
- Communist Area Analysis Department (ACA) HU OSA 300-4
- Communist Area Analysis Department: Bulgarian Subject Files
- Communist Area Analysis Department: Czechoslovak Subject Files

(b) Library materials

- Romanian periodical collection (hard copies): cataloguing completed
- Bulgarian periodical collection (hard copies): cataloguing completed
- Hungarian periodical collection (hard copies): cataloguing & revision completed (518 records)
- Ukrainian Independent Press (microfiche collection): cataloguing of the last 410 titles completed
- RFE/RL publications (microfiche collection): cataloguing completed
- Books: 506 new records

(c) Audio-visual materials

- Fonds 305 Fekete Doboz RFE/RL related interviews – 35 VHS
- Fonds 307 VIN Independent Belgrade TV Studio – 83 VHS
- Fonds 300-81-9 TV Monitoring – 183 VHS
- Fonds 320-0-1 Forgács Péter private film collection – 260 VHS
- Fonds 309 Monitoring of Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina) – 132 VHS

Copied

- Fonds 308 Monitoring of Yugoslav Television – 113 VHS
- Fonds 300-81-9 Video Recordings of Moscow Television Program – 228 VHS
- Fonds 208 OSI New York films – 25 VHS
- Munkásőrség (Workers' Militia) – 60 VHS
- Fonds 320-0-2 Forgács Péter's interviews – 218 audiocassettes

(d) Microfilming

- Records of the Hungarian Soros Foundation
- Hungarian biocards

(e) Slide film project – Editing and proofreading the slide film database and converting it into Windows friendly version was completed.

V Research Related Activities

1 Reference Services

In the period from October 2000 – September 2001, the Open Society Archive continued its multifaceted activities; as an archive, research institution and library, and as an exhibition and public program organizer.

During the same period the OSA Reference Service has been engaged in regular activities providing direct on-site assistance at the Reading Room as well as off-site information on OSA holdings and various special programs (on-line, telephone, fax, e-mail and mail). In figures, OSA saw 176 new on site researchers and 714 on site visitors – CEU students and researchers from the region. 1,836 archival units (archival boxes, microfilm/fisches, VHS tapes and library materials) were served and 12,427 copies produced.

There is no doubt that OSA reached its golden climax in visits by researchers and their interest in the materials on the topics and themes that OSA covers. OSA has experienced a change of taste and interest towards topics other than the Cold War and Communism, and is shaping its acquisition and PR policy accordingly.

2 Grants

- (a) *Research Grants* – Between October 2000 and September 2001 OSA offered 18 research grants for grantees from 9 different countries
- (b) *Internship* – this special two week program, launched in November 2000, is open to graduate Hungarian archivists with at least three years of practical experience who are currently employed with an archive, in order to enhance and promote good relationships with other archives in Hungary. In the first year OSA had three visiting colleagues and received warm words of appreciation in the Journal of the Hungarian Archivists.
- (c) A *Research Support Grant* is offered to scholars, artists or journalists who wish to carry out projects related to topics covered by the Archives' programs. Accepted grant applications cover a range of areas including the electronic catalogue project of the Polish KARTA Foundation, an archival project resulting in a set of life interviews with Mr Arpad Göncz, ex-President of Hungary, or an analysis of 20th century life interviews in order to identify the main paradigm of social changes. OSA also supported research by Mr Bela Revesz of the Historical Office into materials related to Radio Free Europe. Mr Bela Revesz deposited copies of the documents he found with OSA.
- (d) "*Recent History Research*" Grant supports research related to the history of communism and the representation of the inter-war period in the historiography of the communist regimes. Its mission is not strictly limited to historical studies, but includes works on history of art, history of science, legal history, and historical anthropology. Several grants were offered in this category: the largest one supports the production of a Balkan history textbook, while another, substantial grant went to the Russian "Memorial" Foundation to support research into the number of the victims of the communist era.

3 Finding Aids

OSA is continually engaged on the enlargement of its Reference Information Paper series. The existing set was posted on the OSA web site last month. The opportunity for research work was extended to CEU MA and PhD students, many of whom have already declared their intention to contribute to a new RIP for OSA.

VI Records Management

- A workshop on ER and legal problems relating to ER held in October 2001 for records managers of the Soros Network.
- A Draft Records Management Policy was prepared for CEU.
- The inventory of the departmental files held by the CEU was completed.
- The Network automation project (Intranet, consolidated grants lists) was started.
- An OSA Records and Retention schedule was prepared
- Consultations with the National Foundations and programs (LGI) were ongoing throughout the year.
- Records and documents of several National Foundations that were closed during the year were transferred to OSA.

VII OSA Outreach Projects

A International Archival Projects

- 1 *Catalogue Projects*** – OSA runs electronic catalogue projects in five archives: in the Krasnogorsk Film Archives, the Russian Space Archives, the Polish KARTA Archives, the COMECON Archives and the international Comintern Archives in order to help and enhance the free flow of information. Within the framework of these projects OSA receives copies of materials from these archives for research and educational purposes.
- 2 *Kosova Aid Project*** – OSA initiated an international drive to save the endangered Kosovar Archives and as a result archival boxes to the value of 4,000 USD were sent to Kosova. OSA itself donated computers and boxes to the Kosova archives, and also sent an expert to help assess the current needs and assist with the preparations of a new archival policy.
- 3 *Recommendations*** – OSA initiated a joint project between NATO and the members of the former Warsaw Pact in order to promote the declassification and cataloguing of the Warsaw Pact Archive, the setting up of an International War Crimes Repository, and the setting up of an International Federation of Human Rights Archives and Documentation Center.
- 4 *Cooperation Projects*** – OSA helped set up the Gorbachev Archives in Russia, the opening ceremony of which is scheduled for November 18. Also, OSA has a close working relationship with the National Security Archives in Washington.

B Summer University 2001

OSA offered a course on the Archives of Political Parties after the Collapse of Communism. The course provided a kind of continuation of previous year's highly successful "Access to Information" by focusing on the documentary heritage of political parties.

C Galeria Centralis

Galeria Centralis organized six exhibitions during the past year, as it has done every year since it was opened. The poster exhibition from the period of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, and the exhibition of the Embassy of the Chinese Republic which ran parallel with this and was held in the CEU building presented two opposing views of the same topic. The exhibition on the history and political use and abuse of the "Spartakiads" was supported by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, while the photographic exhibition of architectural landmarks of Chicago and New York was sponsored by the US Embassy. As in previous years, Galeria Centralis has welcomed over 10,000 visitors during the past twelve months.

VIII Publications and Conferences

1 Conferences

The staff of OSA regularly attend and give conference presentations both at home and abroad. This year more than 15 conferences welcomed at least one member of OSA staff, including among others the conference organized by the Human Rights Center at Berkley in May. Here OSA initiated a "DNA and Human Rights Program" which aims at developing an international standard for using and archiving DNA fingerprints as forensic evidence. Also, on the invitation of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), OSA participated as a guest exhibitor in the International Archives & Information Technology Exposition organized in Washington D.C. in August. In September OSA was invited to a conference on the Parallel History Project in Florence, Italy and to one organized by the Hungarian municipal archives.

2 Publications

This year several articles were published by and about OSA, hard copies of which will be attached to this report together with a list of topics of the Research Grants.

OSA's main publication is the Research Information Paper series, which was the most popular item at the Washington exhibit and can now be accessed on the OSA web site.

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