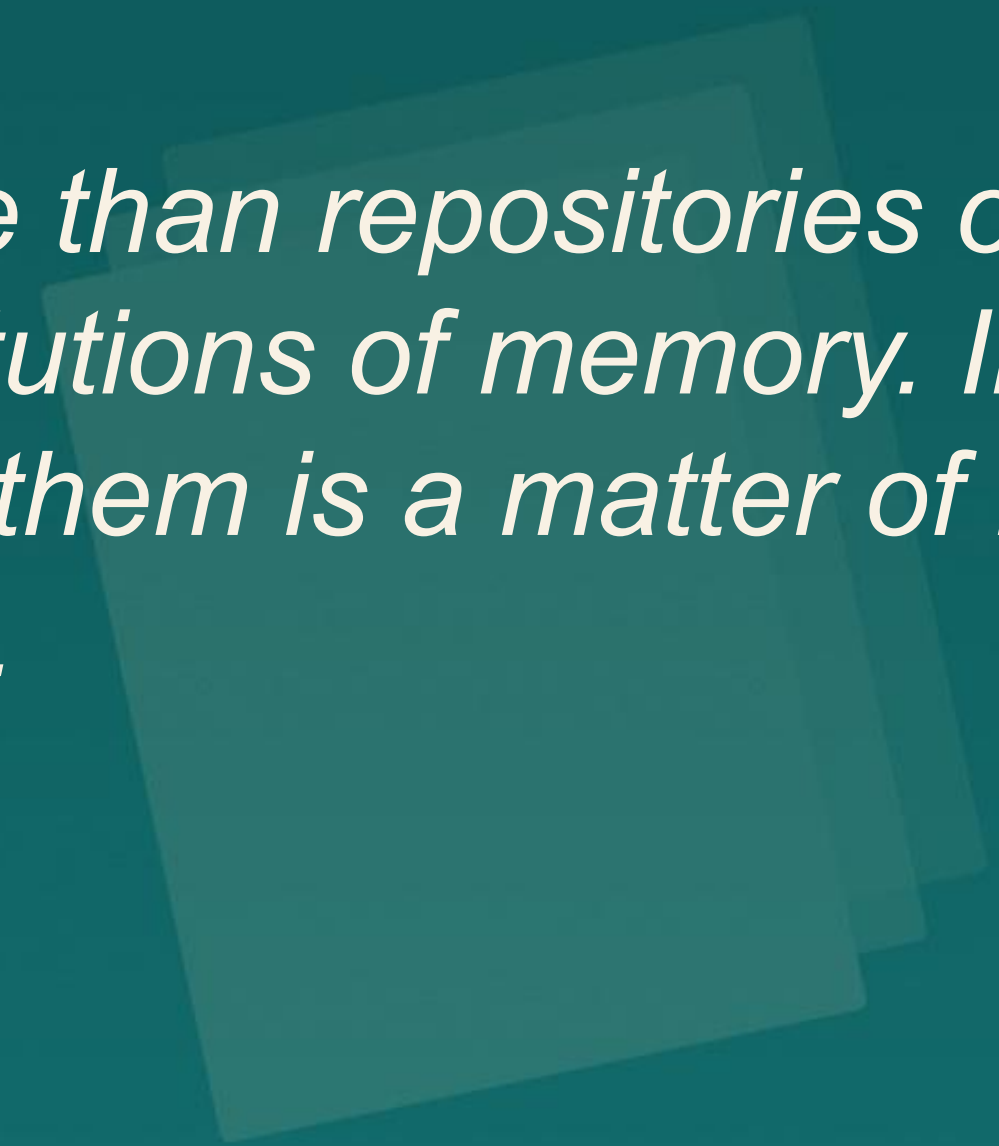


WEBINAR 1 · 28 AUGUST 2026

Ukrainian archives amid the ongoing war

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Archives are far more than repositories of the past — they are institutions of memory. In a time of war, safeguarding them is a matter of identity, and of the state itself.

Opening keynote · Ukraine's Archival Landscape

Key points

- Key point 1 **Organization of the Ukrainian Archival System and the Role of the Central State Archives**
- Key point 2 **Archival Records: Organization, Registration, and Preservation**
- Key point 3 **Archives and Archivists' response to the Challenges of War**
- Key point 4 **Digitization and New Opportunities for Preservation and Access**

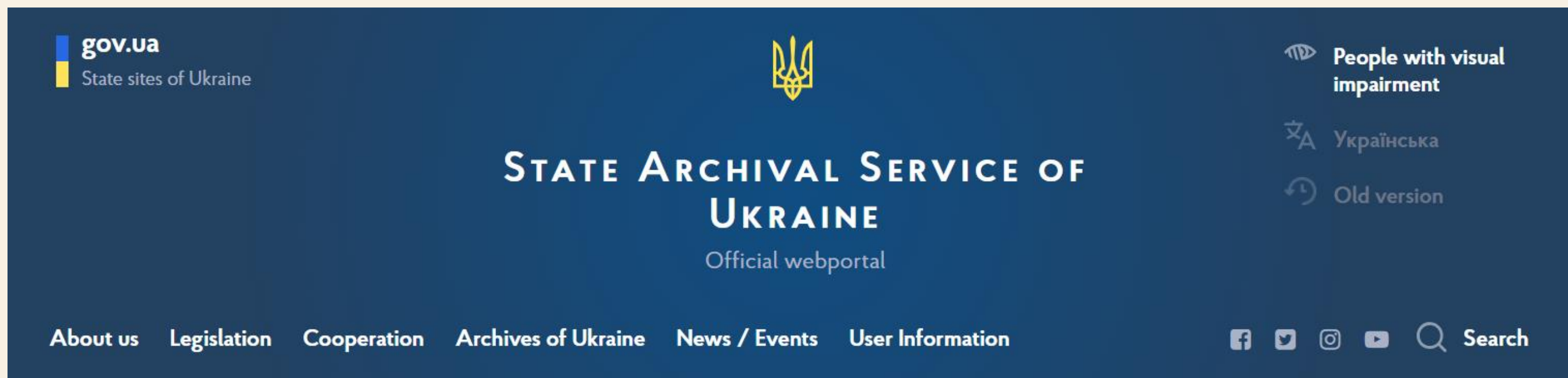


Source: <https://au.archives.gov.ua/index.php/au/issue/archive>

A multi-level network

854 archival institutions as of 1 January 2026

- 01 State Archival Service of Ukraine**
Central executive body responsible for implementing state archival policy under the Ministry of Justice
- 02 Central state archives**
Hold the most significant documentary heritage of the country
24 archives, the State Archive of Kyiv, as well as the State Archives of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol that are currently located in the temporary occupied territories
- 03 Regional state archives**
Fifteen archives, including the Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) — one of the most open security service archives in Europe
- 04 Sectoral state archives**
Archival departments of city councils, district state administrations, local self-government bodies, and other institutions
- 05 Local and labour archives**
Archival units within scientific, library and museum institutions, private archives
- 06 Other public and private units**



At the national level, a key role is played by the **State Archival Service of Ukraine**, the central executive body responsible for implementing state policy in archival field, records management, and the state system of documentary insurance funds.

It is directed and coordinated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine through the Ministry of Justice. Since 2019, it has been headed by Dr. Anatolii Khromov.

Institutions within its sphere of administration include:

- 7 central state archives of Ukraine;
- the Ukrainian Research Institute of Archival Affairs and Records Management;
- the Research Institute of Micrography, currently undergoing reorganization;
- institutions of the State Documentary Insurance Fund;
- as well as the State Scientific Archival Library, the State Center for Preservation of Documents of the National Archival Fonds.



THE CENTRAL STATE ARCHIVES OF UKRAINE

TsDIAK

**Central State Historical Archives of
Ukraine in Kyiv**

Kyiv

TsDIAL

**Central State Historical Archives of
Ukraine in Lviv**

Lviv

TsDAVO

**Central State Archives of Supreme
Bodies of Power and Government of
Ukraine**

Kyiv

TsDAHOU

**Central State Archives of Public
Organizations and Ukrainica**

Kyiv

TsDAMLM

**Central State Archives Museum of
Literature and Art of Ukraine**

Kyiv

TsDAEA

**Central State Audiovisual and Electronic
Archives**

Kyiv

TsDNTA

**Central State Scientific and Technical
Archives of Ukraine**

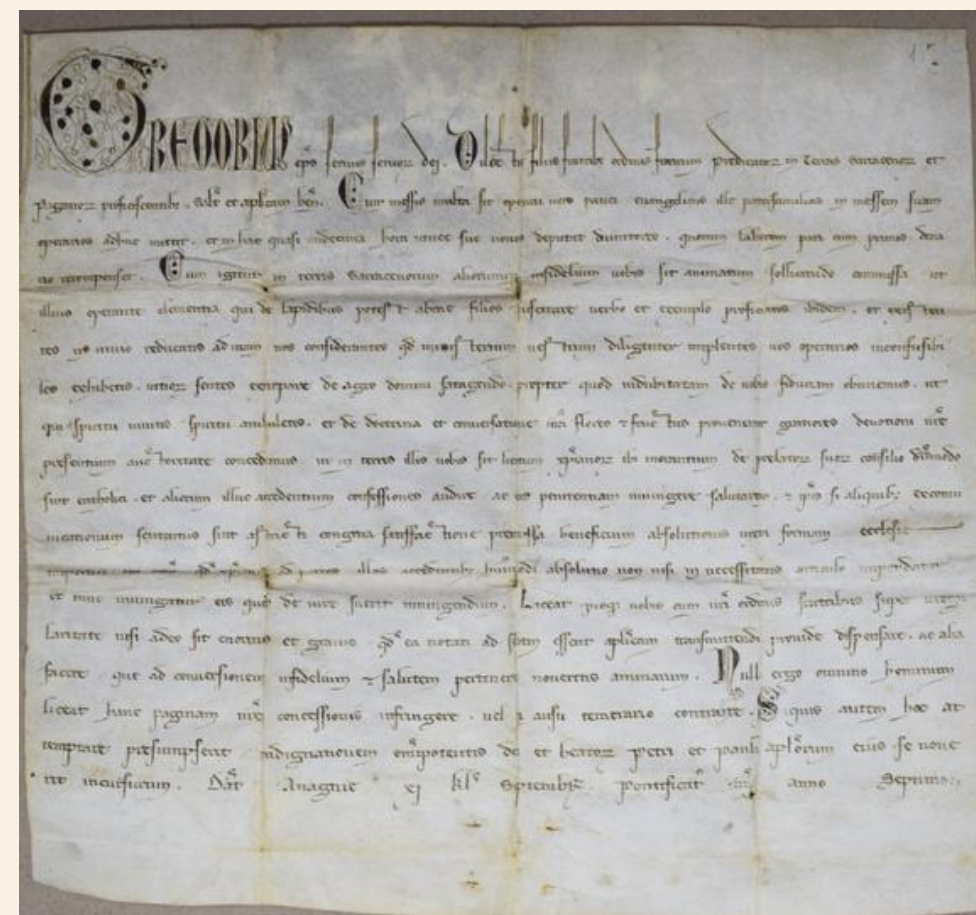
Kharkiv

Their holdings reflect the political, socio-economic, cultural and intellectual history of Ukraine across successive periods.

The oldest documentary heritage

Historical archives – TsDIAK in Kyiv and TsDIAL in Lviv – preserve the earliest records of the National Archival Fonds, dating back to the 12th–14th centuries and later.

Their fonds hold royal charters on parchment, papal bulls, hetman universals, court record books, family archives and metric books in many languages – among them documents of exceptional value to Ukraine and to Europe.



Sources: <https://archives.gov.ua/?uniq=1&s=&r=238&a=7&f=1>
<https://archives.gov.ua/?uniq=1&s=&r=26&a=8&f=1>

The largest collections on the 20th and early 21st centuries are held by:

Central State Archives of Supreme Bodies of Power and Government of Ukraine

Central State Archives of Public Organisations and Ukrainica

Their collections cover the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917–1921, the Soviet period and political repression, World War II, political emigration and the diaspora, civic movements, and Ukrainian statehood after 1991.

Some central archives hold specialized collections and documents in various formats:

Central State Archives Museum of Literature and Art of Ukraine

literature, art, theatre, cultural figures and institutions

Central State Scientific and Technical Archives of Ukraine

scientific and technical documentation, including materials relevant to infrastructure and industrial reconstruction

Central State Audiovisual and Electronic Archives of Ukraine

audiovisual and electronic documentary heritage; established in its current form in 2022

Legal and Strategic Framework of Ukraine's Archival System

1

The Law of Ukraine “On the National Archival Fonds and Archival Institutions”

regulates the acquisition, preservation, and use of the National Archival Fonds, defined as part of national and world cultural heritage and an information resource protected by the state.



2

A new draft law, “On National Archival Information Resources and Archival Management,”

reflects the digital transformation of archives, extending the concept to electronic records, websites, databases, registers, and other digital resources.

3

The Strategy for the Protection of Documentary Heritage until 2027

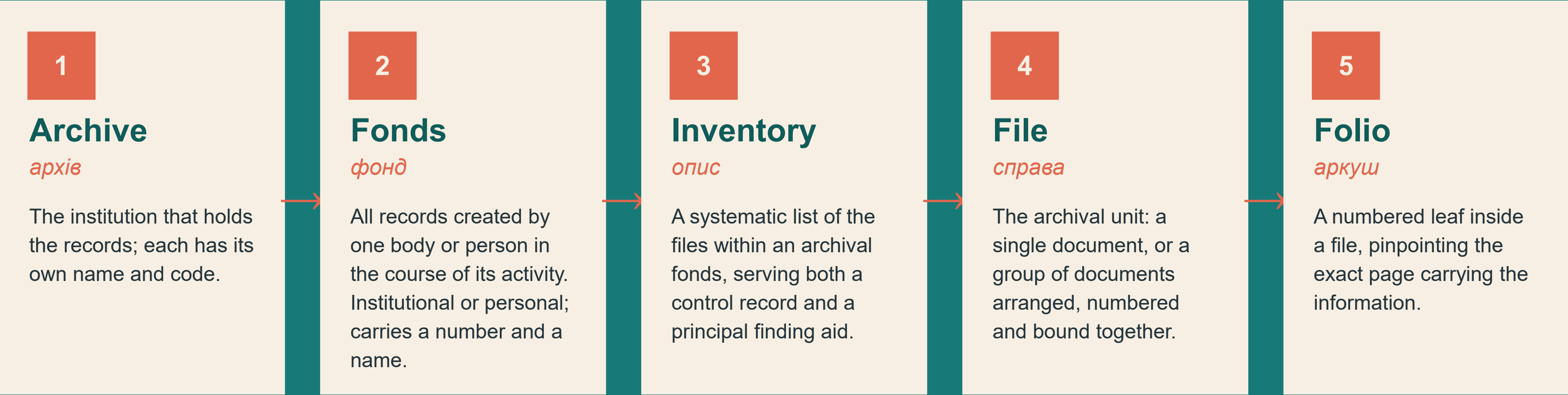
defines documentary heritage protection as part of state policy and national security, with a focus on resilient, accessible, and digital archives.



From Fonds to Folio: How Archival Records Are Organized

Ukrainian archives primarily organize records according to the principle of provenance (respect des fonds): records created or accumulated by an institution, organization, individual, or family form a distinct archival fonds.

NATIONAL ARCHIVAL FONDS OF UKRAINE (NAF) · c. 100 million archival units · 12th century to the present · included by appraisal of value, subject to state registration



The same sequence read off an archival reference code:

TsDIAK · fond 127 · opys 1012 · sprava 45 · arkush 12

Updayting the classification: the 2023 Decommunization Reform

Order No. 3541/5 of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, 5 October 2023 (registered No. 1749/40805; in force from 25 November 2023) - amendments to the Rules for the Operation of Archival Institutions of Ukraine concerning the decommunization of archival records management.

Ancient acts records created before 1917	1917	Modern acts records from 1917 onward — classified by alphabetical index
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Content-neutral alphabetical indices now replace the inherited Soviet-era classification markers, signalling the provenance of each documentary complex:

Index	Fonds of	Period
N	the occupation administration of Nazi Germany and its allies	Second World War
O	the Russian occupation administration in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine	since 2014
P	communist party bodies	1917–1991
R	Soviet authorities, institutions, enterprises and organizations	Soviet era
U	bodies, organizations and formations that operated in Ukraine or in exile and fought for Ukraine’s independence	20th century



The State of Ukrainian Archives during the War

- Since 2014: control over ~2 million NAF records in Crimea and 3.5+ million records in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia has been lost.
- Since February 2022: archival buildings and repositories in 8 regions have been damaged by missile, aerial and drone attacks.

Chernihiv

- Major losses: more than **12,000** former KGB files were destroyed in Chernihiv in February 2022.

Odesa

- **The State Archives building was damaged** by a Russian drone attack in June 2025 despite bearing the Blue Shield emblem.

Kherson

- ~**360,000** archival files were **removed** during the Russian occupation; Ukrainian archivists estimate that ~40% of archives' holdings

Lviv

- The complex housing the **Central State Historical Archives** of Ukraine was damaged by a Russian attack in March 2026.



**The building of the State Archives of Kherson Region after being shelled by Russian forces on February 3, 2023.
Photo published by Radio Svoboda.**



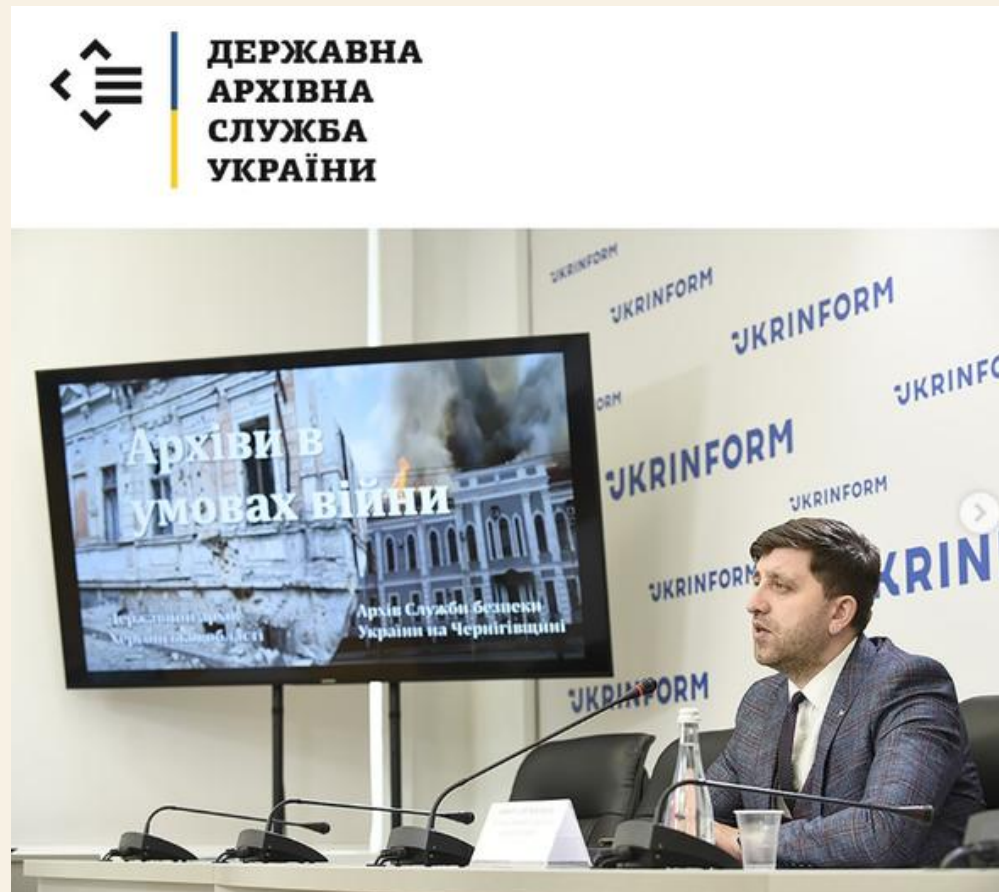
**Damage to the building of the State Archives of Kharkiv Region caused by Russian shelling, March 2022.
Facebook post by Anatolii Khromov.**



**Empty shelves in the repositories of the State Archives of Kherson Region following the looting of archival records by Russian forces in November 2022.
Photo: Suspilne Kherson.**



Priorities in activity of the State Archival Service of Ukraine and archival institutions



Anatolii Khromov

Head of the State Archival Service of Ukraine



- providing assistance to the state archives in carrying out the evacuation of archival holdings and employees from war zones and dangerous territories;



- monitoring of situation regarding the preservation of archival documents in all regions, especially in zones of active hostilities;



- taking additional measures for preservation of documents in conditions of war



- increasing the pace and volume of digitization of archival documents with the help of international partners

Source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CowujTpstPb/>

Ukrainian archivists have extensive experience of living and working under wartime conditions, amid bombardments and power outages, while continuing to preserve the country's cultural heritage and national values.

Protection of Archival Buildings



Source: <https://archive.od.gov.ua/budivlya-derzhavnogo-arhivu-odeskoyi-oblasti-pid-zahystom-yunesko/>

- Archival buildings are marked with the international **Blue Shield protective emblem**, established by the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.
- The emblem identifies sites of historical, scientific, or cultural value that require protection during armed conflict.
- As of 1 January 2026, **57 buildings of state archival institutions had been marked**, including all 7 central state archives, all regional state archives and the State Archive of Kyiv, as well as several sectoral and local archival institutions.

Proactive Documentation of Russia's War against Ukraine

- Ukrainian archives are proactively documenting the war, creating new collections on its course, civilian experiences, and the consequences of Russian aggression.

- In 2022, **Central State Archive of Public Organisations and Ucrainica** (TsDAHOU) launched the “**Collection of Documents on the Events of the Russian-Ukrainian War**,” gathering photographs, publications, eyewitness accounts, wartime diaries, and other testimonies.

- Its “**Refugee Stories**” project documents the experiences of Ukrainians displaced abroad.

- The **Central State Audiovisual and Electronic Archive** (TsDAEA) and other central and regional archives systematically collect audiovisual and other wartime materials.

These initiatives are building a source base for future research, fact-finding, justice, and accountability.



Збір документальних свідчень військової агресії
російської федерації проти України

Collecting documentary evidence of military aggression
by the russian federation against Ukraine



Interinstitutional Coordination and Protection of Documentary Heritage

1

In October 2025, the government established an **Interagency Working Group** to coordinate the preservation of documentary evidence of Russia’s armed aggression as part of the National Archival Fonds.

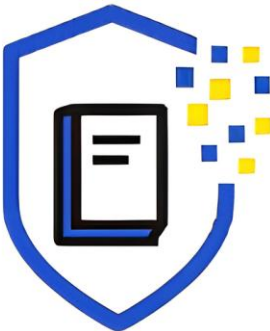
2

The **State Archival Service of Ukraine** is developing a unified digital space for institutions documenting the war and potential records creators for the “**Archive of the War for Independence.**”

3

The “**Stolen Heritage**” section of the War & Sanctions portal documents cultural property looted by Russia, including the ***illegal removal of Ukrainian archival records*** from temporarily occupied territories and their integration into the Russian archival infrastructure.

HUB for Potential Contributors



**ARCHIVE OF
THE WAR FOR
INDEPENDENCE**



International Cooperation and Archival Resilience

International cooperation has become a key factor in strengthening the resilience of Ukraine's archival system during the full-scale war, coordinated by the State Archival Service of Ukraine and individual archival institutions.

Since 2022, Ukrainian archives have received substantial international assistance, including

- computer and restoration **equipment**,
- **preservation materials**,
- specialized **safes**, and
- **generators**

with support from partners across Europe, North America, and Asia.

The **International Council on Archives (ICA)** and **ALIPH Foundation** support emergency digitization, technical equipment, expert assistance, and professional training for Ukrainian archivists.

FamilySearch International cooperates with more than 20 Ukrainian archives to create digital copies of documents from the National Archival Fonds and ensure their long-term preservation.



Archives of Ukraine Journal

- The scientific and practical journal *Archives of Ukraine* is a leading professional periodical covering the development of Ukraine's archival sector, activities of archival institutions, and the research potential of their collections.
- Today, it is a peer-reviewed journal publishing research in Ukrainian and English, with an editorial board that includes scholars from Ukraine, Poland, Italy, Finland, and the United States.
- Its digital edition is available online, and the journal is open to new publications and scholarly participation.



Digitization as a Key Priority for the Development

- Preserving archival information resources and accelerating digital transformation have become critical priorities amid Russia's war against Ukraine.
- Since 2022, Ukrainian archives have implemented the 2022–2025 ***Programme for the Digitization of Archival Information Resources***, aimed at creating digital copies, ensuring long-term preservation, and expanding access to archival information.
- ***Over 100 million digital copies*** of archival records have been created under the Programme.
- *In 2025* alone, archives digitized 782,715 archival units, producing *near 50 million scans*.
- Digitization has become a crucial tool for reducing the risk of physical loss, creating digital backups, and enabling remote access to archival resources.



*Digitization of archival documents in Ukraine. Source: Official Facebook page of the State Archival Service of Ukraine.
<https://www.facebook.com/archives.ua>*

Remote access: the Inter-archival search portal

1 Inter-Archival Search Portal

A single window to Ukrainian archives — launched by the State Archival Service of Ukraine on May 11, 2022, and open 24/7.



Information on 43,657 fonds, 49,419 inventories, 1,050,590 files, and 17,447,080 digital images is available.

2 ARCHIUM

is a specialized software platform developed by Archival Information Systems that integrates:
archival description → metadata → digital copies → search → content management → online access
within a single information environment.

3 Digitised documents

Today, it brings together a substantial body of digital resources from Ukrainian archives and provides 24/7 access to them.

It currently provides access to the holdings and search resources of five Central State Archives, five regional archives, one sectoral archive - the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, as well as the archive of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences in the United States and the “Digital Archive of the Western Ukrainian People’s Republic” collection.

How the Interarchival Search Portal Works

The Interarchival Search Portal operates on a “single window” principle, allowing users to search the digital resources of multiple archival institutions at once.



One search. Many archives.
Open access to our documentary heritage.

1



Enter a search query.

The user enters a keyword or phrase – for example, the name of an institution, a person, a place, an event, or another concept.

2



Refine the search.

If needed, the search can be customized using available filters and limitations, including by archival institution, fonds, inventory, and other parameters.

3



Review the results.

The user receives a list of results that may include information about an archive, fonds, inventory, file, or digital collection. Results can be refined by adjusting the query or applying additional filters.

4



Access the archive's local resource.

If the relevant information is available on the local electronic resource of an archival institution, the user can go to that resource for more detailed information.

5



View the digital copy.

If the file or document has been digitized and is available online, the user can view the digital copy remotely.

6



If a digital copy is not available,

the information about the fonds, inventory, and file can be used to contact the relevant archive or order the file according to the established procedure.

DISCUSSION

Q&A

Questions, comments, exchange of experience



Thank you!

The recording and presentation slides will be available
on our website shortly. Scan the QR code to visit the
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