

**WEBINAR 2 · 11 09 2026**



# Central State Scientific and Technical Archives of Ukraine

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**Speaker: Prof. Dr Marat Balyshev**

Director of the Central State Scientific and Technical Archives of Ukraine

# What we'll cover today

- **What the Archives Hold**
- **Why the Archives Matters Today**
- **How War Changed Our Work**
- **How Researchers Can Work with Us**
- **How Documents Get a New Life**



*The repository of the Central State Scientific  
and Technical Archives of Ukraine*

A large, stylized red double quote icon.

*...Today, archivists face the challenge of preserving documents while ensuring their continued accessibility and use, so that they remain understandable to the modern researcher.*

**Marat Balyшев**



# The Central State Scientific and Technical Archives of Ukraine

The TsDNTA of Ukraine is the specialized Archives holding scientific and technical records documenting the development of industry, science, construction, architecture, energy, transport and other fields.

Source: <https://cdnta.archives.gov.ua/історія-архіву/>

# The Archives at a glance

## ESTABLISHED

**1969 Year**

## HOLDINGS

**267 fonds**

*1,387 complexes of documents, more than 700,000 archival storage units*

## LOCATION

**Kharkiv**

*139 Moskalivska Street*

## DATE RANGE

**1851–2024**



## Official website and points of contact

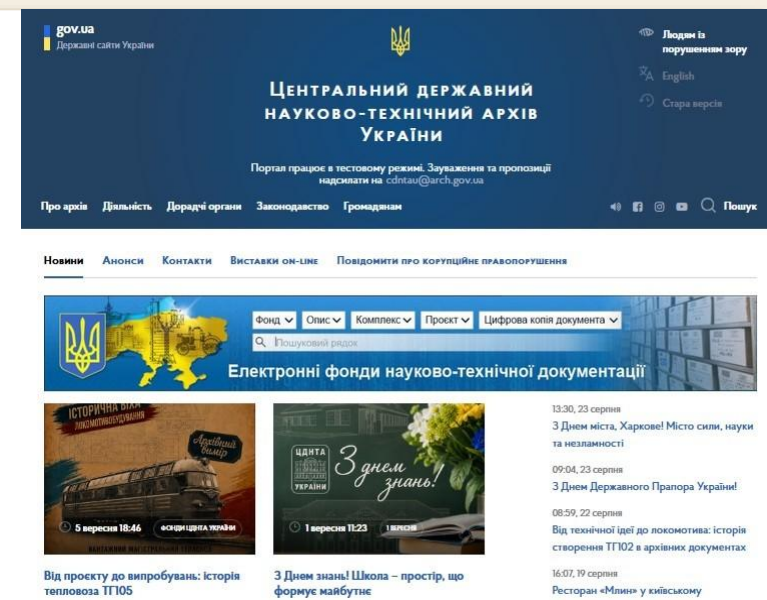
Website: <https://cdnta.archives.gov.ua>

Research enquiries:  
[cdntau@arch.gov.ua](mailto:cdntau@arch.gov.ua)

### Social media / newsletter:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/archiv.gov.ua/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/cdnta\\_archives/](https://www.instagram.com/cdnta_archives/)



# Mission and what precisely it holds

## The Archives' mission

*The mission of the TsDNTA of Ukraine is to collect, preserve, and make available for scholarly and cultural use scientific and technical documentation that reflects the development of industry, science, construction, architecture, energy, transport, and other fields. Unlike other central state archives, the TsDNTA of Ukraine is defined primarily by the nature of its records — scientific and technical documentation — rather than by administrative or territorial criteria.*

### Not held in TsDNTA of Ukraine

- *administrative records;*
- *genealogical sources;*
- *military records;*
- *records of state authorities and local self-government bodies;*

## What it holds (provisional accounting groups)

- 1 *Design documentation: 99 fonds, 383,251 storage units;*
- 2 *Design and technological documentation: 91 fonds, 247,379 storage units;*
- 3 *Research documentation: 45 fonds, 30,470 storage units;*
- 4 *Patent documentation: 2 fonds, 663 storage units;*
- 5 *Oral history records: 1 fonds, 24 storage units;*
- 6 *Personal fonds: 28 fonds, 25,611 storage units*

# Key fonds and research topics

## 1 Architecture and Urban Planning

### **F. R-1. Ukrainian State Design Institute «Ukrmistobudproekt»**

The fonds are of particular interest to architects, urban planners, and urban history researchers, as they contain design documentation for residential and public development projects.

## 2 Energy and Hydraulic Engineering

### **F. R-3. Open Joint-Stock Company «Ukrhydroproekt»**

The fonds are valuable for historians of energy and hydraulic engineering, hydraulic engineers, water resource specialists, and experts in integrated water resource management.

## 3 Civil Construction and Municipal Infrastructure

### **F. R-32. All-Ukrainian State Trust for Civil Construction Design «Ukrtsivilproektbud»**

The fonds are of research interest to historians of civil construction, architects, and municipal infrastructure researchers, documenting residential and public buildings and utility infrastructure across Ukraine.

## 4 Transport Engineering and Railway Technology

### **F. R-25. Design and Engineering Institute for Locomotive Building**

The fonds are of research interest to transport and engineering historians and railway engineering designers, documenting locomotive design and the development of Ukraine's railway traction stock.

## 5 Locomotive Building and Railway Transport

### **F. R-39. Voroshilovgrad Locomotive Plant**

The fonds are valuable for research on transport and heavy engineering, documenting the plant's role in locomotive and railway rolling stock production.

## 6 Metallurgy and Materials Science

### **F. R-13. Ukrainian Research Institute of Metals «UkrNDIMet»**

The fonds contain research and technological developments in metal production and processing, including experiments and testing of steels and alloys.



# ONE FONDS IN DETAIL

**Fonds 47: «Oleksiy Beketov — Ukrainian architect, educator, professor, academician of the Imperial Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg and the Academy of Architecture of the USSR, and Honored Artist of the Ukrainian SSR»**

|             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Inventories | <b>1</b>                  |
| Files       | <b>475</b>                |
| Date range  | <b>1891–2013</b>          |
| Languages   | <b>Ukrainian, Russian</b> |

## Why this fonds matters

*The collection contains original graphic materials related to architectural projects, project explanatory notes, estimates, calculations, receipts, contracts, preliminary designs, drawings of architectural structures, details of the interior and exterior design of buildings, personal and professional correspondence, brochures issued by construction firms, and documents relating to the architect's biography.*



# Documents on facilities in other countries worldwide

13

ASIA  
countries represented

33

Countries represented

11

EUROPEAN UNION  
countries represented

1

AFRICA  
countries represented

4

MIDDLE EAST  
countries represented

1

NORTH AMERICA  
countries represented

# Threats — and how we answer them



## Principal threats and challenges

- *Damage to the building from shelling and the resulting risk of fire;*
- *Risk of damage or loss of documents due to the war and infrastructure destruction;*
- *Power outages affecting temperature and humidity control in archival storage facilities;*
- *Risks to the safety and lives of archival staff;*
- *Restricted user access to documents due to the closure of the reading room and disrupted transport.*



## Measures taken

- *The activities of the Archives were adapted to the conditions of martial law;*
- *Measures were taken to protect the building and archival storage facilities;*
- *Part of the archival holdings was relocated to a relatively safe location;*
- *Archival digital resources are being backed up to cloud storage;*
- *Assistance was received from international partners.*

# International Partners' Support and Assistance



**Centrum Pomocy  
dla Kultury na Ukrainie**  
Polish Support Center  
for Culture in Ukraine



O B E C N Í D Ů M B R N O



**International alliance  
for the protection  
of heritage  
in conflict areas**



**Das  
Bundesarchiv**



**National Institute  
of Cultural  
Heritage**

# One fonds in detail

FONDS

## No.251

«Ukrainian-Polish cooperation in safeguarding cultural heritage during the period of Russian military aggression»

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Complex     | 5-2       |
| Inventories | 1         |
| Files       | 8         |
| Date range  | 2024      |
| Languages   | Ukrainian |

### Why this fonds matters

*First-hand evidence of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation to safeguard cultural heritage during Russia's full-scale war. It records professional experiences, international support and practical responses to the destruction of heritage.*

### What a file typically contains

*Audio interviews and transcripts with heritage professionals and partner institutions, complemented by photographs documenting cooperation and specific wartime experiences.*

### How researchers can use it

*Start with the interviews and transcripts. Use photographs as contextual evidence. Access is generally open; file No. 8 has restricted use.*

# What is available online

## 1 Finding aids

*1439 archival inventories have been digitized and are available online on the Archive's website.*

<https://cdnta.archives.gov.ua/elfa.php>

## 2 Digitised documents

*The Archive's digital resources comprise 881,500 digital copies. Of these, 81% were digitized during the full-scale invasion.*

<https://elfa.archives.gov.ua/uk/home-top-uk>

## 3 Online exhibitions

*Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the Archives has prepared 66 virtual exhibitions, available on the Archive's website.*

<https://cdnta.archives.gov.ua/category/bucmaeku-on-line-uk/>

## 4 Virtual 3D Tour of the Archive

*A comprehensive virtual 3D tour of the Archive's premises has been developed.*

[https://cdnta.archives.gov.ua/3d\\_tour\\_of\\_the\\_cssta\\_of\\_ukraine/](https://cdnta.archives.gov.ua/3d_tour_of_the_cssta_of_ukraine/)

## 5 Cultural and Artistic Projects of the Archive

*The Archives has implemented a number of cultural and artistic projects, each with its own dedicated web resource.*

<https://miscsprotivu.archives.gov.ua/>

## 6 Interactive Maps

*The "Interactive Maps: Exploring Ukraine and Exploring the World" project was launched.*

[https://cdnta.archives.gov.ua/category/interactive\\_maps/](https://cdnta.archives.gov.ua/category/interactive_maps/)

# How to locate documents remotely

## 1 Start here

*“Digital Archival  
Fonds of the TsDNTA  
of Ukraine” section on  
the homepage of the  
official website.*

## 2 Narrow down

*Find the fonds →  
Check the inventory →  
Identify the file →  
Record the full archival  
reference.*

## 3 Read the description

*Key archival  
accounting units:  
fonds, inventory,  
documentation group,  
complex, and storage  
unit or file.*

## 4 Verify

*Complex title → Project  
title → Phase /  
modification →  
Chronological scope →  
Documentation type →  
Design organization →  
Submit an enquiry*



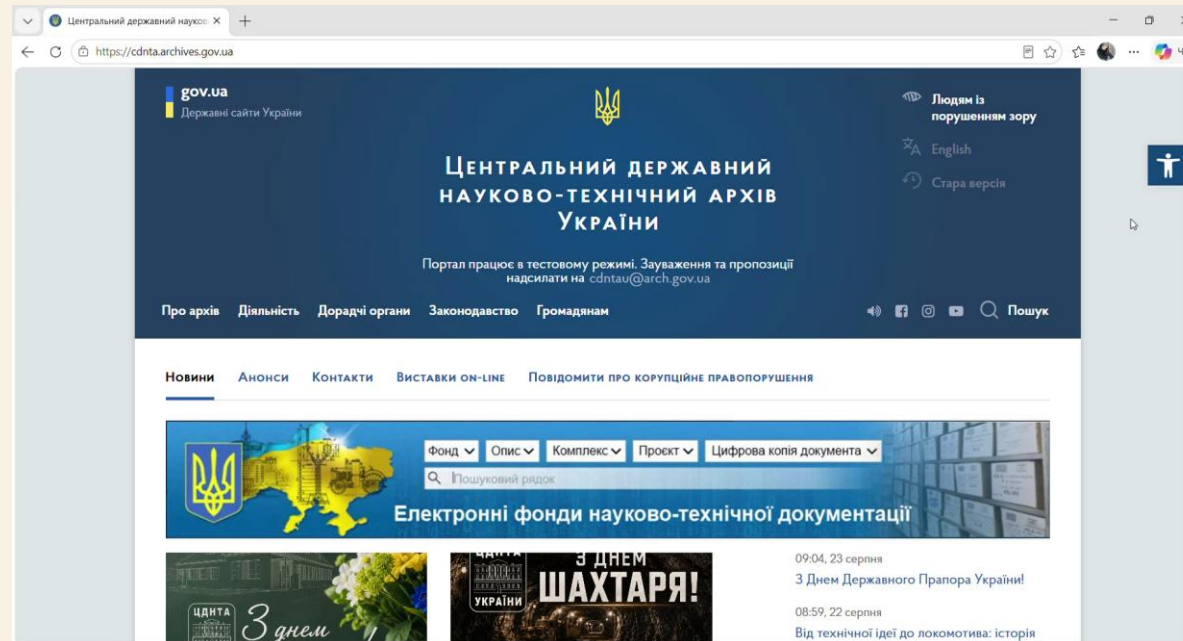
# How to locate documents remotely



VERIFY DETAILS →



# How to locate documents remotely



## ! Common mistakes foreign researchers make

- *Transliteration problems caused by the use of Russian in much Soviet-period documentation;*
- *Historical changes in the names of institutions and administrative units;*
- *Confusing a digitized inventory with digitized documents;*
- *Confusing the administrative and geographical levels of the record creator.*

# How to request documents remotely

1

## Submit an enquiry

*Send an enquiry to the Archives' official email.*

2

## What happens next

*Archives' staff conduct the search.*

3

## Confirm and pay

*Confirm the scope and cost in writing.*

4

## Receive the copies

*Receive the digital copies by email.*

## Important considerations

- *Archival information use*
- *Personal data protection*
- *Copyright and other intellectual property rights*

## Limits worth knowing

*Legal restrictions may apply to:*

- *Archival information use*
- *Personal data*
- *Copyright & intellectual property*

# Payment from abroad and practical details

## How payment works

### 1 Invoice

*Payment details are provided after the request, scope and cost are confirmed.*

### 2 Methods

*Payment is normally made by bank transfer using the archive's official bank details.*

### 3 Currency & fees

*Currency, payment details and applicable bank fees should be confirmed before transfer.*

### 4 Proof of payment

*Send the payment confirmation to the archive, quoting the invoice or order number.*

## Practical details

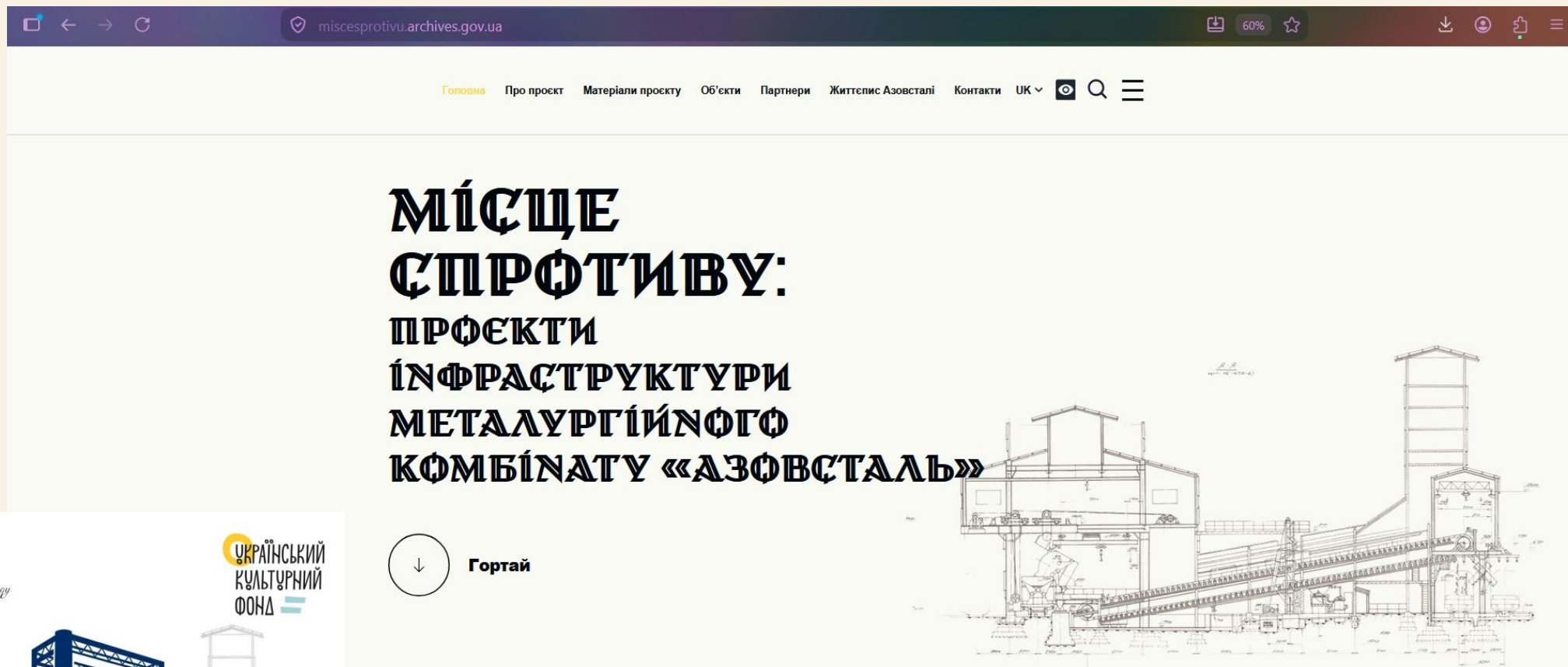
- *Cost per scanned page determined according to the current official tariff.*
- *Minimum order depends on the archive's applicable terms.*
- *International transfers may take additional time to clear.*



### If the transfer fails

*If a transfer fails, check the details with the archives and your bank, and resend it with the exact invoice number and payment purpose.*

# Cultural and Artistic Project “A Place of Resistance: Infrastructure Projects of the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant”



Website: <https://miscesprotivu.archives.gov.ua/>

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/p/61577990362425/>

# Cultural and Research Project “Industrial Utopia: The Unrealized Project of the Kharkiv Nuclear Heat and Power Plant”



Artistic Interpretation



3D Reconstruction



Social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/61570707414103/>

[https://www.instagram.com/industrial\\_utopia/](https://www.instagram.com/industrial_utopia/)

# Three things to take away

1

## Start with

### *Your research question*

*The best way to discover the archives is to start with your own research topic. It can lead you to sources you may not have expected — and to new ways of working with archival documents.*

2

## Remember

### *Check before you request*

*The one thing that saves the most time is checking the archival description carefully. An online description helps you find the document — but it is not the document itself.*

3

## Contact

### *We work for you*

*Write to [cdntau@arch.gov.ua](mailto:cdntau@arch.gov.ua) in Ukrainian or English. If you know the archival reference, include it. If not, simply describe your research topic — and we will help you find the right direction.*



# Thank you!

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

DISCUSSION

# Q&A

*Questions, comments, exchange of experience*

