UAL UKRAINE'S ARCHIVAL LANDSCAPE

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The Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine, city of Lviv

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Key points

- A Brief History of the Archives and Its Collections
- General Statistics
- Unique Documents
- Key Fonds
- The Archives During the War
- Support from Partners and Colleagues
- Restoration and Preservation of Historical Documents and the Historic Building
- The Digital History of the Archives
- The Archives on Social Media



Karel Auer's engraving of Bernardine monastery, c. 1840
https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19458086



Entrance to one of the Archives' storage areas

The grod (castle-court) archive in the Bernardine monastery, under the direction of the Land Court, is indisputably the grandest court archive of the Austrian Empire. It comprises 6,944 folio volumes and 1,356 fascicles, thus 14,300 numbers, for which 6,000 folio indexes have been compiled. (Translated from the German)

Beda Dudik, Archive im Königreiche Galizien und Lodomerien, Archiv für österreichische Geschichte, 1868, Bd. 39, nr 1, s. 8.

The Archives at a glance

ESTABLISHED

1784

HOLDINGS

768 fonds

1,120,000 items ·
12,000 linear metres,
1396 inventories,
80% of them digitized

LOCATION

Lviv

Soborna sq., 3A

DATE RANGE

XII-XX c.

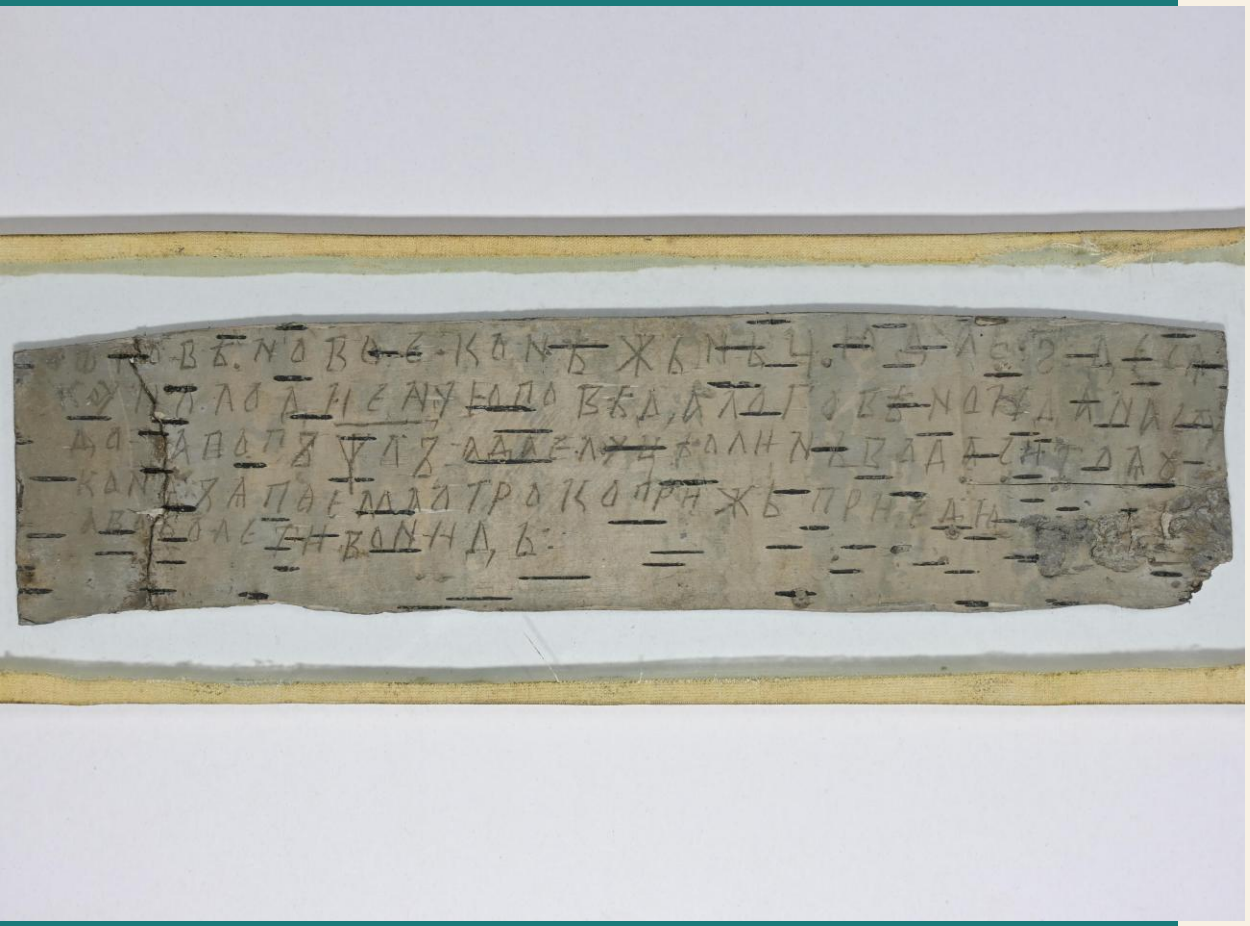
Greek, Hebrew, Latin, German, Polish, Ukrainian, French, Czech languages

Official website and points of contact

Website: https://www.tsdial.archives.gov.ua

E-mail for enquiries: tsdial@arch.gov.ua; dovidka.tsdial@arch.gov.ua

Social media: Facebook Instagram YouTube



UNIQUE DOCUMENTS IN DETAIL

Fonds no. 131 — Collection of parchment documents

Inventories	***1***
Files	***895***
Date range	***[1110]-1923***
Languages	***Latin, Polish, German, Greek, Ukrainian, Italian and others***

Why this fonds matters

This collection includes international treaties, papal bulls, and privileges granted by patriarchs, metropolitans, kings, tsars, and princes to cities and villages, churches, and monasteries, as well as private agreements.

Source: f. 131, in. 1, f. 892



The 1596 charter of the Union of Brest, a document that profoundly shaped the course of Ukrainian history

Source: TsDIAL, f. 131, in. 1, f. 627

Key fonds and research topics

1 **History of Local Self-Government in the Cities and Towns of the Rus' and Belz Voivodeships**

F. 52 — Lviv City Council

Key source for urban, local and legal history.

2 **Ego-documents**

F. 132 — Collection of Letters

Documents reflecting the social, political, and economic life of Ukraine and Poland in the 16th–19th centuries.

3 **Social and Economic History**

F. 1-18 — Castle and Land Courts

Exceptionally well preserved complex, continuous across time and territory, and written in Latin, Europe's common language of record

4 **Religious history**

F. 201 — Greek-Catholic Lviv Consistory

Widely used in research on church history, education and culture, and in genealogy

One fonds in detail

FONDS

146

Galician Governorate, city of Lviv

Inventories (описи)	**17**
Files (справи)	**211,859**
Date range	**1448–1938**
Languages	**Polish, German, Latin, Ukrainian, Russian, French**

Why this fonds matters

The most important fonds of the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian period, the archive's largest group of holdings, with over 200,000 files for 1772–1921. Its documents reach back as far as 1448: communities, organisations and private individuals submitted older records to the Vicegerency to prove their property rights or social rank.

Research potential

Many documents bear on international affairs and offer an excellent basis for studying the system of government, the economy, social and political life, science, culture, healthcare and more.

How to approach it

It is best to start with this guide to the collection: The Galician Governorate (1772–1921): Archival and Bibliographic Collection Index / [compiled by U. Ya. Yedlinska, O. Ya. Matsyuk]. Kyiv, 1990. 212 pp., available online (pdf, in Ukrainian)

Key fonds and research topics

1 Historical geography and demography

F. 19-20 — Josephinian and Franciscanian Cadastres

Unique collections of the first land cadasters of Galicia in the 18th-19th centuries.

2 Finance and Taxes

F. 159, 160, 161 — Galician Financial Prosecutor's Office, Regional Financial Directorate, Financial Department

The Economic and Financial History of Galicia, the Development of Industry.

3 Courts and Law

F. 149, 150 — Noble Court in Lviv, Higher Regional Court

The collections of judicial institutions are rich in information about social, political, and national liberation movements.

4 History of Education

F. 178 and 179 — Regional School Board and Lviv School District Board of Education

Widely used in research on church history, education and culture, and in genealogy

5 History of Ukrainian Science

F. 309 — Shevchenko Scientific Society

Members of the Society included Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, Max Planck, Ivan Puluj and Ivan Franko, among other prominent figures

Threats — and how we answer them

! Principal threats and challenges

- *Physical risk: shelling, blast damage, fire, water*
- *Climate control, power cuts, generators*
- *Staff — mobilisation, fire*
- *Digitization and restoration of documents*

✓ Measures taken

- *Relocation of the most valuable and unique fonds to the ground floor*
- *Relocating part of the unique collections to fireproof cabinets*
- *Protecting the buildings and storage areas*
- *Ensuring fire safety in the archive*
- *Emergency digitisation and back-up copies*
- *International support, equipment, partnerships*
- *Keeping the reading room and enquiries running*

The Archives During the War: Key Priorities

- preservation and security of documents of the National Archival Fond;
- restoration and digitisation of archival documents as an additional layer of protection;
- development of the ARCHIUM digital platform, which gives users access to digitised documents and the archive's finding aids;
- ongoing publication of fonds descriptions and digital copies of documents;
- expansion of the archive's databases: 'Jewish Communities of Galicia', 'Joint Military Registration Office, Vienna' and the library catalogue built on the open-source Koha integrated library system;
- reopening and continued operation of the reading room;
- accessioning of documents for permanent preservation;
- promotion of archival heritage.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

01	**Finding aids**	*1,103 inventories are digitised; c. 80 %*	*https://tsdial.archives.gov.ua/index5.html*
02	**Digitised documents**	*35,992 files, available 39,768 items, 4,934,589 files*	*https://tsdial.archives.gov.ua/index14.html*
03	**ARCHIUM**	*100 inventories, 17,029 items*	*https://archium.tsdial.archives.gov.ua/*
04	**Online exhibitions**	*52 online exhibitions on the website*	*https://tsdial.archives.gov.ua/index5_1.html*
05	**Partner projects**	*FamilySearch International*	*https://www.familysearch.org/uk/global*

Support from Partners and Colleagues

ALIPH

NARODOWY INSTYTUT POLSKIEGO DZIEDZICTWA KULTUROWEGO ZA GRANICĄ
POLONIKA

SIEMENS

Awagami Papers®



FamilySearch

Historia Iagellonica

Towarzystwo Wydawnicze

Restoration and Preservation of Historical Documents

Our partners in Japan provided five types of high-quality conservation paper for restoring archival documents.

Because our records span several centuries, different groups of documents require paper of different weights.

The Archives runs the region’s largest microfilming and conservation laboratory.

Our conservators are highly skilled professionals, each of whom has saved hundreds, even thousands, of documents.

What we restore

1. *Cadastral maps, 18th–19th centuries*
2. *Parish registers (metrical books), 17th–20th centuries: the largest collection in Ukraine*
3. *Town court records from the Rus’ and Belz Voivodeships, 15th–18th centuries*

How the Archives operates today

1. **On-site visitors** — *The reading room reopened on a limited basis on 1 September 2026. Owing to renovation work in the storage areas, documents from some fonds are temporarily unavailable. Reading room hours: Tuesday–Thursday, 09:00–12:00 and 13:00–16:00 (break 12:00–13:00)*

2. **Remote enquiries** — *Processing times depend on the type of enquiry: 15 days if no archival search is needed, 30 days if it is. Archival searches are a paid service.*

3. **Air-raid alerts** — *During an air-raid alert the reading room closes and everyone must go to the nearest shelter. Staff remain in the Archives' own shelter until the alert is over.*

4. **Capacity** — *24 staff handle enquiries. Between 2022 and 2026 the archives processed 24,716 enquiries. The annual number has risen significantly every year, by 92% over the period.*



Damage to the Bernardine Monastery complex in Lviv after a Russian drone strike, 24 March 2026.

Photo: National Police of Ukraine.URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Police_of_Ukraine

The Digital History of the Archives

- The Archives began building a digital collection in the 1990s.
- FamilySearch International, a well-known international organization, collaborated with the Central State Archives of Ukraine from 1994 to 2008 and again in 2012.
- Other long-standing partners include the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, the State Archives in Przemyśl (both in Poland) and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem.



Source: FamilySearch International, f. 13, in. 1, f. 214

Three things to take away

1

Start with our website and the ARCHIUM digital platform: search by keyword or browse the inventories

2

No registration is needed: all documents published online are freely accessible

3

If you need help, contact us by email. Enquiries in English are welcome. Please allow up to 30 days for a reply.

Payment from abroad and practical details

How payment works

1. **Invoice**
   Sent by email as a PDF

2. **Methods**
   Bank transfer; within Ukraine, also via the Privat24 app

3. **Currency & fees**
   Payment in US dollars; all bank charges are paid by the sender

4. **Proof of payment**
   The bank confirms to the Archives that the funds have arrived

Practical details

- *Already digitised files: UAH 1.10 per image*
- *Files not yet digitised: UAH 5.60 per image*
- *Before any work begins, we send you a preliminary invoice for approval.*
- *ou are free to decline once you know the cost.*

? If the transfer fails

- *Check the bank details on the invoice.*
- *Ask your bank why the payment was rejected.*

Where to Find Documents and Information

1

E-archive

https://tsdial.archives.gov.ua/index14.html

2

Digital platform ARCHIUM

https://archium.tsdial.archives.gov.ua/

3

FamilySearch International

https://www.familysearch.org/uk/home/portal/

4

Other applications and digital archives

http://szukajwarchiwach.pl

What a good enquiry contains

- *Your full name*
- *The purpose of your search (e.g. genealogy, submission to public authorities, apostille)*
- *A specific date range and subject*

Limits worth knowing

- Searches spanning a long period
- Searches with no names, places or dates specified
- Several unrelated topics in one enquiry

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DISCUSSION

Q&A

Questions, comments, exchange of experience

Ukraine Art Aid Center · FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN · KIU COMPETENCE NETWORK INTERDISCIPLINARY UKRAINIAN STUDIES FRANKFURT (ODER) – BERLIN · STATE ARCHIVAL SERVICE OF UKRAINE · ukrainian institute · INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION · MNOZHYNA FOUNDATION · Cultural Diplomacy Foundation

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Thank you!

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

Ukraine Art Aid Center

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