

REPORTS

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THE HISTORY OF UPJŠ AND THE HISTORICAL DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF UPJŠ I. (HIDA): PROJECT REPORT

The founding of the University of Košice in 1657 represents a significant event in the history of university education in Hungary and in the history of the city of Košice. Although this university operated in Košice for a little over a century and, after the abolition of the Jesuit order that administered the university, was replaced by other academic institutions, the university tradition in Košice did not disappear and its manifestations can be traced back to the present Pavol Jozef Šafárik University. A lot of archival material comes from the activities of individual university and academic institutions in Košice, which does not form one unified collection, but is scattered throughout a number of archives in Slovakia and abroad. The effect of recent interest in a scholarly completion of university history and its sources on the activity of individual academic work sites led to the submission and subsequent implementation of a grant project at the Department of History of the UPJŠ Faculty of Arts within the internal university grant scheme of goal-oriented research (VVGS – PCOV) with the onset of solutions from 1 July 2019.¹ The main goal of the project was to plan and implement a comprehensive archival survey of all available sources on the history of university education in Košice from the years 1657 to 1922² in archives in the territory of Slovakia and abroad. After reviewing the archives, the creation of an information database of sources with information on their storage and availability would lead to a subsequent digitalization and the creation of a digital archive. Some of the goals of the project included establishing cooperation with foreign work sites engaged in research into university history, methods of digitalizing sources and submitting another project on the topic of university education in an external grant scheme. The implementation of these goals has been significantly complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has made it impossible to carry out archival research in foreign archives and postponed the project completion date to the end of October 2020.

During the project, an archival survey was implemented in the following institutions: Slovenský národný archív v Bratislave [Slovak National Archive in Bratislava], Štátny archív v Košiciach [State Archive in Košice], Archív mesta Košice [Košice City Archives], Arcidiecézny archív v Košiciach [Archdiocesan Archive in Košice] and in Východoslovenské múzeum v Košiciach [East Slovak Museum in Košice]. Research on sources stored in the Hungarian National Archives [Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár], in particular, those regarding the Jesuit period in university history, failed to be implemented; however, we drew on previous research by members of the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ (Peter Fedorčák). Based on the archives, we verified that the state of the sources' preservation is good and that they are available for the implementation of further research and preparation for digitalization. The disadvantage in further processing these sources is the fact that only one of the archival collections mentioned has an inventory.³

Within the framework of our archival research, we also focused our attention on individual types of sources on the history of university education. Among those most researched are those belonging to university registries.⁴ They provide information about students and teachers working at the university and data from them appear in a number of works devoted to the

1 VVGS-1206-2019: Dejiny UPJŠ a historický digitálny archív UPJŠ I. (HiDA). [The History of UPJŠ and the Historical Digital Archive of UPJŠ I. (HiDA)].

2 The University of Košice (Universitas Cassoviensis), founded by the Bishop of Eger B. Kisdý in 1657 and administered by the Jesuits, operated until 1773, at which time the Jesuit order was abolished. After this milestone, it was transformed into the Episcopal University (Universitas Cassoviensis Episcopalis), which lasted until 1777 and subsequently became the Royal Academy (Regia Academia). After the reform of education in 1850, the Academy of Law, which ceased to exist in 1922, was established.

3 Slovenský národný archív [Slovak National Archive] (hereinafter SNA), Kráľovská právnická akadémia v Košiciach (1777–1922) [Royal Academy of Law in Košice (1777–1922)].

4 Archív mesta Košice [City Archive of Košice] (hereinafter AMK), Košická univerzita (1693–1862) [University of Košice (1693–1862)], Catalogus studiosorum almae ac episcopalis academiae Cassoviensis I., II.

history of university education in Košice.⁵ In addition to university registries, the individual collections also contain record sheets for students and teachers, including classification sheets for individual semesters of teaching.⁶ A specific type of record book is the member book of the Marian Congregation at the University of Košice and the Royal Academy.⁷ Besides their informational value, they also attract attention with their graphics and the depictions of the coats of arms of members and supporters of the congregation, testifying to the representative purpose of this source.

The group of diplomatic sources is relatively large; deeds, mandates, intimates and programmes occur in practically all the collections examined during the period under research. Within the framework of this group, the foundation documents of the university hold a special status within the Hungarian National Archive, relative to those of other academic institutions that are also held there.⁸ As the University of Košice was founded by the Eger bishop and was administered by the Jesuit order, the collections examined include extensive official correspondence between church officials (bishop and chapter) and university dignitaries.⁹ Other types of preserved sources include documents related to the organization and internal affairs of the academy: minutes of faculty meetings, school regulations, final reports, certificates and scholarship documents.¹⁰ A quantitatively extensive agenda is represented by accounts and account ledgers.¹¹ Some of the documents of the university library – protocols, catalogues and accounts – have also been preserved in the State archive in Košice.¹² Books belonging to the university library are currently stored in Štátna vedecká knižnica v Košiciach [the State Scientific Library in Košice].

Narrative sources have an indispensable place in the research of university history. There are several sources of narrative character in the archives examined; perhaps the most famous are the *Annales Universitatis Superioris Hungariae Regiae nunc Academiae Cassoviensis*, whose author was J. Plath.¹³

A variety of methods and procedures were used during the implementation of the project. As part of the application of historical method, heuristics of sources and scientific literature on the history of university education were undertaken. Subsequently, an archival survey was carried out, which critically evaluated the condition of the sources, their preservation and the possibilities of their use in the creation of the Historical Digital Archive (HiDA) and the research into university history. At the same time, an inventory of sources that were in the individual archives was prepared. Based on the archival survey, a proposal for the structure of HiDA was prepared, which respects the principle of provenance and the current storage of documents in archives.

5 For example: HIŠEM, Cyril. Teologické vzdelávanie na Košickej univerzite v 17. a 18. storočí. In: *Človek a spoločnosť*, 2012, vol. 16, no. 4, pp. 1–11. POTEMRA, Michal. Právnická akadémia v Košiciach v rokoch 1848–1922. In: *Slovenská archivistika*, 1973, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 57–87.

6 For example: Arcidiecézny archív v Košiciach [Archdiocesan Archive in Košice] (hereinafter AAK), Košické biskupstvo [The Bishopric of Košice], records of professors and students from 1775–1776 or classification sheets from 1825–1829.

7 Album sodalitatis minoris (1687–1784), Album sodalitatis maioris (1716–1784). ZUBKO, Peter. Mariánska kongregácia pri Košickej univerzite. In: HIŠEM, Cyril – ELIÁŠ, Štefan – FEDORKOVÁ, Dáša (eds.). *Tristopäťdesiate výročie Košickej univerzity*. Prešov: Vydavateľstvo Michala Vaška, 2007, pp. 215–228.

8 For example, the founding charter of the university issued by B. Kisdy can be found in the Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár, Országos Levéltára (MNL OL), fasc. 1, fol. 15, microfilm 14406.

9 AMK, Jággerská kapitula v Košiciach (1664–1700) [The Eger Chapter in Košice (1664–1700)].

10 SNA, Kráľovská právnická akadémia v Košiciach (1777–1922).

11 Štátny archív v Košiciach [State Archive in Košice] (hereinafter ŠA KE), Kráľovská právnická akadémia v Košiciach (1783–1913) [The Royal Academy of Law (1783–1913)].

12 ŠA KE, Kráľovská právnická akadémia v Košiciach (1783–1913).

13 ŠA KE, Kráľovská právnická akadémia v Košiciach (1783–1913).

Although, due to the pandemic, it was not possible to meet all the objectives of the project as expected, we can state that a substantial part of the planned output has been achieved. We consider the most important result of the project solution to be the archival research carried out in the archives in Slovakia, which represents the initial phase of research into university history and at the same time enables the preparation of the digitalization of sources intended for HiDA. Another output of the project is the design of the basic structure of the digital archive. Its main objective is to create a digital repository of sources on the history of UPJŠ and university and academic institutions, which we can consider as its historical predecessors. Sources for the history of these institutions can be divided into written (archival documents), material and pictorial. The goal of HiDA is to create digitalizations of all relevant sources on university history with metadata that will enable their use in historical research. The bulk of sources for the history of the university are the written sources that have been the subject of the current project and will be digitalized in the first instance.

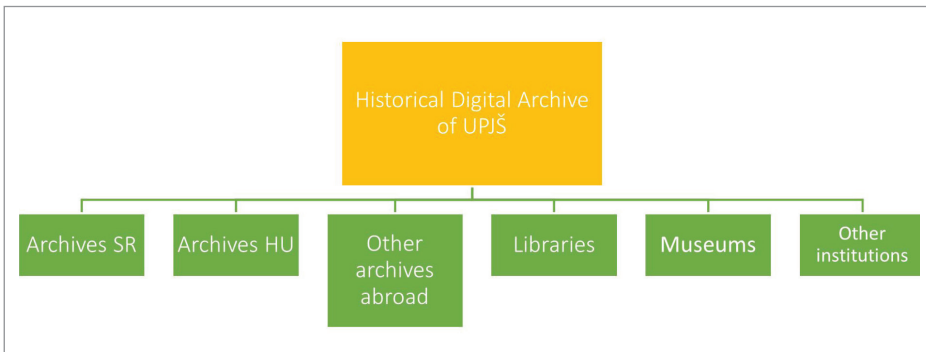


Figure 1: HiDA – Basic Chart

Table 1: HiDA – archives and archival collections in the Slovak Republic

HiDA SR	Archives	Funds
	Slovenský národný archív	Kráľovská právnická akadémia v Košiciach (1777–1922)
	Štátny archív v Košiciach	Kráľovská právnická akadémia v Košiciach (1783–1913)
	Archív mesta Košice	Jágerská kapitula v Košiciach (1664–1700), Košická univerzita (1693–1862)
	Arcidiecézny archív v Košiciach	Košické biskupstvo
	Archív Univerzity Komenského	Maďarská právnická akadémia v Košiciach (1923–1933)
	Archív Prešovskej univerzity	
	Registratúrne stredisko UPJŠ	

Besides archives in the Slovak Republic, documents on the history of the university in Košice can be found mainly in Hungarian archives. The older period, covering the activity of the University of Košice (from 1657 to 1773/1777) is recorded by sources stored in the Magyar Nemzeti

Levéltár [Hungarian National Archives], in the collections of the Districtum Cassoviensis, Acta Jesuitica Collegii Cassoviensis and Szepesi Kamarai Levéltár – some thousand individual items. Prospectively, after an improvement in the epidemiological situation, we assume the implementation of an archive survey in Egri Főegyházmegyei Levéltár [the Archives of the Diocese of Eger].

Table 2: Archives and archive collections in Hungary

HiDA HU	Archives	Funds
	Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár	Districtum Cassoviensis
		Acta Jesuitica Collegii Cass.
		Szepesi Kamarai Levéltár
	Egri Főegyházmegyei Levéltár	Archivum vetus

Research into sources on university history in Košice in other foreign archives has yet to be undertaken. We assume that valuable sources could be found in Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Haus-, Hof und Staatsarchiv [the Austrian State Archives], in Archivum Provinciae Austriae SJ [the Archives of the Austrian province of the Society of Jesus], in the Vatican archives and in Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu [Roman archives of the Society of Jesus]. Since archival research in these archives could not be undertaken at this time, we can only count on the digitalization of these sources at a later stage in the creation of HiDA.

Besides gaining evidence from archival sources, we have recorded the existence of written sources on university history held in libraries. These are the library collections of Budapesti Egyetemi Könyvtár [ELTE University Library], Országos Széchényi Könyvtár [National Széchényi Library] and Österreichische Nationalbibliothek [the Austrian National Library]. With regard to this type of source, we are counting on the digitalization of those documents that are of particular importance for research into university history.

Besides written sources, we have recorded other types of sources that are part of museum collections, archival collections or located in the field. These are pictorial sources (photographs, plans and maps), material sources (insignia and objects associated with university education), epigraphic sources (inscriptions and tombstones), sphragistic and heraldic sources (respectively seals and coats of arms). The inclusion of these sources in HiDA will enable research into university history by interdisciplinary methods. Research into them is planned within the project VVGS-2020-1661, which seamlessly follows up on the goals and outputs of our recently completed project.

Digitalization of sources and metadata creation is the main phase of HiDA creation. It will be preceded by a proposal for the technical solution of the digital archive, which will take place in cooperation with the UPJŠ Centre for Information and Communication Technologies. At the same time, legislative conditions will be defined and contracts with individual institutions will be concluded in accordance with applicable laws. In this area, the methodological instruction of the Department of Archives of the Public Administration Section of the Ministry of the Interior from 2011¹⁴ on the procedure of state archives in digitalization, and the European Commission's recommendations concerning the digitalization of cultural material, its online availability and digital preservation, are crucial.¹⁵ From the point of view of the time schedule

14 „Metodický pokyn odboru archivov,” Ministerstvo vnútra SR, sekcia verejnej správy, odbor archivov. Accessed February 1, 2020. http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/verejna_sprava/odbor%20archivov/dokumenty_na_webe/metodicke_pokyny/MP_digitalizaciaAD_metadata.pdf.

15 „Odporúčanie komisie z 27. októbra 2011 o digitalizácii,” Európska komisia. Accessed February 1, 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011H0711&from=EN>.

and the sequence of digitalization, we assume that sources from institutions in the territory of the Slovak Republic will be digitized first; secondly, after agreement of conditions, sources from Hungarian archives and memorial institutions. In the later stages of HiDA's creation, we assume the inclusion of sources from other foreign institutions.

Besides the defined goals and outputs of the project, its researchers participated in a media presentation of university history research during the European Cultural Heritage Day event (21 September 2020). It was a series of professional lectures devoted to various topics, including the founding of the University of Košice, sources for university history, university education in the second half of the twentieth century, university buildings, and the division of UPJŠ in 1997. The lively discussion that followed the series of lectures testifies to the fact that these topics also resonated among the listeners and memorials of recent events from the history of UPJŠ. The event included an exhibition of historical photographs of university buildings from the collections of the East Slovak Museum. A further media output concerning the results of the project was the presentation of the finding of the seal of the Royal Academy from 1791. Although it is still a unique finding without the context of the sphragistic development of the seal symbols of individual university (academic) institutions, it expresses the current intention of the UPJŠ leadership to actively learn about the history, traditions and symbols of university education in Košice. Part of this plan is the currently completed project, as well as its continuation focused on other types of sources on the history of UPJŠ and its historical predecessors.

Translated by James S. Smith

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