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*Archival Material as Cultural Heritage*

*Summary*

The material of the Archive of Serbia and Montenegro presents supreme cultural heritage and as such has to be rated as cultural legacy of national importance. In order for this work to be finalized appropriately several preconditions have to be created: insight into the entire archive material of the federal material; based on that, a precise register or inventory; followed by the formation of a scientific commission that would deal with the scientific valorization and categorization of the archive material.

Legislation has to determine a new role of the Archive – its considerably bigger rights over the material under its domain, but also bigger obligations with regards accessibility of processed and categorized material. A new approach to archive material requires a new profile of archivists. Subsequent to this comes the valorization of the archive material as the most complex work in the archivist profession, both because of objective social circumstances and a deficit of certain profiles of archivists. Only an archivist of scientific and expert education will, on the basis of comparative and analytic-synthetic methods rooted in contemporary social scientific achievements, be able to determine the significance of archive material and its culture and value category.