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*Development of the Idea of Publishing Archival Material  
in the Course of XX Century in Yugoslavia/Serbia*

*Summary*

From the point of view of the archival practice development of the idea to publish archival material preserved in the various archives presents one never-ending process having its roots in the past several centuries backward. Modern archival practice in the previous two centuries have been trying to define more closely the principles to publish relevant historic sources as thematic collected documents or series of collected archival documents. In the course of XX century in Yugoslavia/Serbia, the archivists and the historians contributed greatly to the development of that idea or better to say “final product” of the archival job which consequences are of multiple significance for the archival profession, archives protecting archival material, historical science and complete wider public of the country which cultural heritage is to be presented by the publishing of the archival material. Editors or better to say copy-editors faced various challenges, first of all: missing of any defined rules, methods and principles of publishing, then periodical inaccessibility of archival material, financing problems and finally political and ideology barriers. Besides all those problems, the idea to publish archival material was strongly expressed from many reasons: preventive conservation, made information more accessible, informing wider public of the richness of the archives and great contribution to the historical science. By mid of XX century, archival profession in Yugoslavia started to work more intensively to find methods and principles resulting in passing number of acts and sub-acts defining more closely this activity but also obtaining professional “instructions” of eminent professionals (archivists and historians) from the late sixties up to late eighties of the XX century. Present principles of publishing that are applied in preparing collected archival documents and even idea of their publishing originates from those efforts of the professionals of that time. It is as well noticeable that Yugoslav practice was not unfamiliar with the dominant tendencies in the world of that time. Sending representatives from the archives to the professional meetings, symposiums and conferences enabled them to collect information and ideas from the countries having already developed archival practice such as Soviet Union, United States of America, Great Britain and France and to transfer obtained information into the archival institutions of less developed regions in Yugoslavia such as Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the time of digitizing archival material there is still need for publishing professional publications with substantial critical apparatus being important contribution to the promotion of digitizing archival material but further improvement of historical science.