

Moderna  
**arhivistika**

Časopis arhivske teorije in prakse  
Journal of Archival Theory and Practice

Letnik 4 (2021), št. 1 / Year 4 (2021), No. 1

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1.02 Review article

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

## **CULTURAL ACTIVITY OF THE ARCHIVES OF THE TUZLA CANTON DURING THE SARS-COV-2 PANDEMIC**

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### **Abstract:**

*The cultural activity of archives is crucial in terms of presentation of archival material as a cultural and historical heritage. In this way, archives animate the professional, scientific and general public to come to the archives and use the archival material for scientific research and other purposes. The most popular ways of presenting archival material are various archival exhibitions, documents, photographs, and other archival material. In addition, the promotion of professional and scientific publications also enriches the cultural activity of archives, and through them, archival activity and archival material are additionally affirmed. This paper aims to present the cultural activity of the Archives of Tuzla Canton in the year of the coronavirus virus pandemic, 2020, and to analyze, through comparative indicators from previous years, the extent to which cultural activity in the Archives of Tuzla Canton stagnated as a result of the pandemic. Also, the paper will present some new modalities of the work of the Archives of Tuzla Canton, in terms of presenting exhibitions to the general public in the year of the pandemic.*

### **Keywords:**

Archives of Tuzla Canton, cultural activity, corona virus pandemic, 2020, exhibitions, publications, events.

### **Povzetek:**

#### **Kulturna dejavnost Arhiva Tuzelskega kantona med pandemijo**

*Kulturna dejavnost arhiva je ključnega pomena pri predstavitvi arhivskega gradiva kot kulturne in zgodovinske dediščine. Na ta način arhivi animirajo strokovno, znanstveno in splošno javnost, da pride v arhiv in uporablja arhivsko gradivo za znanstvene raziskave in druge namene. Najbolj priljubljeni načini predstavitve arhivskega gradiva so različne arhivske razstave, objavljeni dokumenti, fotografije in drugo arhivsko gradivo. Poleg tega bogati promocija strokovnih in znanstvenih publikacij tudi kulturno dejavnost arhivov, skozi njih pa se dodatno uveljavljata tako arhivska dejavnost kot tudi arhivsko gradivo. Namen tega prispevka je predstaviti kulturno dejavnost Arhiva Tuzelskega kantona v letu pandemije koronavirusa – 2020 – in na podlagi primerjave s prejšnjimi leti ugotoviti, v kolikšni meri je v Arhivu Tuzelskega kantona kulturna dejavnost stagnirala kot rezultat pandemije. Prispevek bo predstavil tudi nekaj novih načinov dela Arhiva v smislu predstavitve razstav širši javnosti v letu pandemije.*

### **Ključne besede:**

Arhiv Tuzelskega kantona, kulturna dejavnost, pandemija koronavirusa, 2020, razstave, publikacije, manifestacije

## 1. Introduction

The cultural activity of the Archives of Tuzla Canton is defined by the provisions of archival legislation.<sup>1</sup> The ultimate goal and purpose of the existence of archives, in addition to protection and preservation, is to put in the function of archival material to end users, whether they are researchers or citizens who use it in certain evidentiary-legal actions. However, in order for the archival material to be used, it is necessary to present it to the professional, scientific and general public, in order to obtain the necessary information about the types of material, availability, procedures. On the other hand, the presentation of archival material animates the public for its use.

There are many ways of presenting archival material as a cultural heritage. However, it is evident that exhibitions are certainly the most interesting and significant type of presentation of archival material. This is for several reasons, because the exhibitions in the content, conceptual sense can be followed and understood by all visitors, regardless of age or qualification structure. In addition, the visual aspect when viewing the exhibition is certainly better than in other forms of presentation of archival material (eg publications, etc.).

In addition to exhibitions, publishing and promotion of publications are certainly a significant form of popularization and presentation of archival material. However, this type is certainly more reserved for citizens who are engaged in research. In the part of publishing, guides, inventories and other scientific-intelligence means are especially important, because they provide important information to potential researchers. Very important are scientific publications that arise as a result of the use and research of archival material, as historical sources in archives.

In addition to the above, the celebration of important dates, holding various professional and scientific conferences, forums, gatherings, certainly contributes to the popularization of archival material and archival activities in general. The organization of various professional and scientific gatherings, events, forums, round tables, also aims to popularize archival material, but also archival activities in the Tuzla Canton and beyond. In this form of activity, the coronavirus pandemic also left significant consequences due to the impossibility of their implementation, in connection with the then valid epidemiological measures, which included a ban or significant restriction on the number of people present at public gatherings, especially those held indoors. This was particularly reflected in international cooperation.

In the past decades, and especially in the last two decades, the Archives of Tuzla Canton have paid relevant attention to the issue of presentation of archival material through various, meaningful and rich projects of cultural activity.<sup>2</sup> In this way, the

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<sup>1</sup> Law on Archival Activity of Tuzla Canton, „Službene novine Tuzlanskog kantona“ broj: 15/00, 2/02, 13/11, 11/21, as well as bylaws (see more at [www.arhivtk.ba](http://www.arhivtk.ba) link „archival legislation“).

<sup>2</sup> On the achievements of the Archives of Tuzla Canton in terms of cultural activities in the past, see more: Omer Zulić, *The impact of cultural and educational content on the openness and affirmation of archives in society (experiences of the Archives of Tuzla Canton)*, Atlanta, No. 26, Trieste 2016, 277-286; available at: <https://journal.almamater.si/index.php/Atlanti/article/download/107/96/>. dr. Izet Šabotić, Omer Zulić, *Exhibitions in the Function of Affirmation of Archival Activity (example of the Archives of Tuzla Canton)*, Proceedings 4. Zagreb Archives Day Archivistics-Culture-Science: Partnership for Development, (Zagreb, November 30, 20212), Zagreb 2013, 9-18, available at: [http://zad.net/arhol/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/\\_4zad-zbornik.pdf](http://zad.net/arhol/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/_4zad-zbornik.pdf), etc. Accessed: 8/31/2021. Dr. Mirjana Marinković-Lepić, *Exhibition activity of archives in Bosnia and Herzegovina on web pages*, Archival practice no. 21, Tuzla 2018, 381-401; Selma Ilić, *Scientific-research and publishing activity of the Archives of Tuzla Canton*, Archival Practice no. 21, Tuzla 2018, 284-306; Saneta Adrović, *Archival exhibitions as a form of improving inter-archival and international cooperation-experience of the Archives of Tuzla Canton*,

Archives of Tuzla Canton made a significant step forward in the public, and became significantly more "visible" to the public, and thus the archival material that it inherits. However, such a trend was stopped by the SARS CoV 2 virus pandemic. As in all other segments of work and life, the pandemic left a big mark on the cultural activities of the Archives of Tuzla Canton.

However, despite the great challenges faced by the management and employees of the Archives of Tuzla Canton, after the initial few months of "lockdown", they managed to evade, and in accordance with the possibilities to continue the mission of spreading and popularizing archival material as historical sources and cultural history. heritage. New modalities of contacts with citizens, users and friends of the archive have been established, and the living word and contacts have been replaced by online networks. Unfortunately, this "communication" took place according to the model "a lot of communication, but (unfortunately) little talk". Therefore, the new approaches in the realization of cultural contents have made it impossible to "live the word" with the citizens and users of the services of the Archives of Tuzla Canton. But, all in all, the ultimate goal has been achieved, and that is that the Archives of Tuzla Canton has managed to maintain an enviable level of cooperation and contacts with the wider community.

However, despite all the challenges caused by the virus pandemic, the Archives of Tuzla Canton achieved notable results during the pandemic year 2020, in almost all fields of activity. In the continuation of our work, we will focus on the cultural activity of the Archives of Tuzla Canton in the year of the pandemic, in 2020.

## 2. A good start and a "pandemic"

In 2020, the management and governing bodies of the Archives of Tuzla Canton have planned a number of significant and substantial projects. As planned, at the beginning of 2020, the Archives of Tuzla Canton was one of the organizers of the International Conference in Sarajevo, entitled Legal and Political Consequences of the Declaration on the Proclamation of the Republic of the Serbian People of Bosnia and Herzegovina, January 9, 1992.<sup>3</sup> Next month, the Archives of Tuzla Canton organized the celebration of the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Archival Practice no. 19, Tuzla 2016, 390-404, available at: <https://www.scribd.com/document/331410762/Arhivska-praksa-broj-19> etc.

<sup>3</sup> The international scientific conference was held on January 8 and 9, 2020 in the City Hall in Sarajevo. The organizers were: Institute for Social and Religious Research Tuzla, Institute for Genocide Research Canada, Institute for Crime Research, University of Sarajevo, Center for Research of Modern and Contemporary History Tuzla, Public Institution Archives of Tuzla Canton, Bosniak Cultural Association "Preporod" and Association Pokret Mothers of the Srebrenica and Žepa enclaves. As part of the event, at the opening of the Conference, an exhibition of the Archives of Tuzla Canton was set up, entitled: Srebrenica - genocide that was not prevented. See more information at the following links: Faktor.ba: <https://faktor.ba/vijest/velika-naucna-konferencija-u-sarajevu-pravne-i-politicke-posljedice-9-januara-ucestvuje-36-predavaca/65094>; Televizija Sarajevo (Snimak otvorenja konferencije): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSHTBctht1M>; BHRT – Radiotelevizija Bosne i Hercegovine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4eUSqOpKyU>; Novum.ba: <https://novum.ba/vijest.php?id=34881>; Anadoluja: <https://www.aa.com.tr/ba/balkan/konferencija-u-sarajevu-progla%C5%A1enje-republike-srpskog-naroda-bih-9-januara-1992-je-potpuno-nelegalan-%C4%8Din/1697786>; Tip.ba: <https://tip.ba/2020/01/08/konferencija-o-posljedicama-9-januara-okupila-svjetske-naucnike/>; Preporod.info: <https://www.preporod.info/bs/article/14030/konferencija-o-pravnim-i-politickim-posljedicama-deklaracije-o-proglasenju-republike-srpskog-naroda-bih>; Oslobođenje: <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/vijesti/bih/dzaferovic-deklaracija-o-proglasenju-republike-srpskog-naroda-bih-9-januara-1992-je-pocetak-svog-zla-u-bih-521303>; Bljesak.info: <https://www.bljesak.info/vijesti/flash/dzaferovic-proslava-9-sijeclja-je-kazneno-djelo/297746>; RTV BPK: <https://rtvbpk.ba/2020/01/08/naucnici-i-politiciari-u-sarajevu-govore-o-posljedicama-proglašenja>



It is a project in which the Archives of Tuzla Canton includes primary and secondary school students from the area of Tuzla Canton. With a rich cultural program and a historical lesson, with this project the Archives of Tuzla Canton strives to strengthen and further develop the feeling of belonging to the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also a sense of the importance of archival material as a memory of society and the state.<sup>4</sup> (annex 1.)

[republike-srpskog-naroda-bih/](https://www.saff.ba/pravne-i-politicke-posljedice-deklaracije-o-proglasenju-republike-srpskog-naroda-bosne-i-hercegovine-9-januara-1992-godine/); Saff.ba: <https://saff.ba/pravne-i-politicke-posljedice-deklaracije-o-proglasenju-republike-srpskog-naroda-bosne-i-hercegovine-9-januara-1992-godine/>; Akos.ba: <https://akos.ba/konferencija-o-posljedicama-deklaracije-o-proglasenju-republike-srpskog-naroda-bih/>; Klix.ba: <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/naucnici-i-politicari-u-sarajevu-govore-o-posljedicama-proglasenja-republike-srpskog-naroda-bih/200108061/>; Faktor.ba: <https://faktor.ba/vijest/konferencija-u-sarajevu-proglasenje-republike-srpskog-naroda-bih-9-januara-1992-je-potpuno-nelegalan-cin/65761/>; Dnevni avaz: <https://avaz.ba/vijesti/bih/540401/krajnje-je-vrijeme-da-se-donese-zakon-o-zabrani-negiranja-genocida/>; Tačno.net: <https://www.tacno.net/banja-luka/464777/>; Slobodna Bosna: [http://www.slobodna-bosna.ba/vijest/139759/sb\\_na\\_licu\\_mjesta\\_konferencija\\_pravne\\_i\\_politichke\\_posljedice\\_deklaracije\\_o\\_proglasenju\\_republike\\_srpskog\\_naroda\\_bosne\\_i\\_hercegovine\\_9\\_januara\\_1992\\_godine\\_foto.html](http://www.slobodna-bosna.ba/vijest/139759/sb_na_licu_mjesta_konferencija_pravne_i_politichke_posljedice_deklaracije_o_proglasenju_republike_srpskog_naroda_bosne_i_hercegovine_9_januara_1992_godine_foto.html); RTV USK: <http://www.rtvusk.ba/vijest/9-januar-dna-pocetka-genocija-nad-bosnjacima/35881/>; RTV TK: <https://rtvbk.ba/ramic-pozvati-prijatelje-istine-i-pravde-da-slijede-primjer-kanade-video/>; Radio Slobodna Evropa: <https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/dan-rs-mimo-ustava/30366435.html>; Index.ba: <https://www.index.ba/uklanjanje-dokaza-o-opstojnosti-bosnjaka-na-ovim-podrucjima/>; Intelktualno.com: <http://intelektualno.com/dr-sc-sedad-dedic-vjerujem-u-mlade-ljude-i-znam-da-mladi-imaju-zelju-da-se-bavimo-temama-koje-su-vazne-za-svakodnevni-zivot-gradana/>; Dnevni list: <https://www.dnevni-list.ba/9-sijecanj-jedni-slave-drugi-ogorcen-treci-sute/>; Hercegovina.in: <https://hercegovina.in/proslava-9-sijecnja-neustavan-je-cin-i-kazneno-djelo/>; Danas: <https://www.danas.rs/svet/dzaferovic-proslava-9-januara-kao-dana-rs-neustavan-cin-i-krivico-delo/>; Preporod.info: <https://www.preporod.info/bs/article/14047/otvorena-konferencija-o-pravnim-i-politickim-posljedicama-deklaracije-o-proglasenju-republike-srpskog-naroda-bih/>; RTV7: <https://rtv7.ba/arhive/229997/>; Face TV: <https://www.face.ba/vijesti/bih/sarajevo-konferencija-o-posljedicama-9-januara-okupila-svjetske-naucnike/37862/>; Hrvatski medijski servis: <https://hms.ba/dzaferovic-proslava-9-sijecnja-neustavan-cin-i-kazneno-djelo/>; N1: <http://ba.n1info.com/Video/Info/a402895/Hariz-Halilovic-U-BiH-na-djelu-je-trijumfalizam.html>; Izdvojeno.ba: <http://izdvojeno.ba/zakljucci-naucne-konferencije-o-obilježavanju-9-januara-pocetka-genocida-nad-bosnjacima-ukloniti-prefiks-srpski-iz-rs-a-i-naziva-svih-gradova/>; Radio Sarajevo: <https://www.radiosarajevo.ba/vijesti/bosna-i-hercegovina/svjetski-naucnici-na-konferenciji-o-9-januaru-u-sarajevu/363375/>; Federalna televizija: <http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/301041/obilježavanje-9-1-kao-dana-rs-neustavan-cin-i-krivico-djelo>; N1: <http://ba.n1info.com/Vijesti/a402624/Zasto-se-Bosna-i-Hercegovina-treba-ugledati-na-Ruandu.html>; <http://ba.n1info.com/Vijesti/a402797/Zakljucci-Konferencije-o-posljedicama-proglasenja-Republike-srpskog-naroda-BiH.html>; Vijesti.ba: <https://vijesti.ba/clanak/474848/obilježavanje-9-januara-kao-dana-rs-neustavan-cin-i-krivico-djelo/>; BHRT: <https://bhrt.ba/konferencija-u-sarajevu-o-posljedicama-slavljenja-9-januara/>; Klix.ba: <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/zbog-neustavnog-dana-rs-a-s-konferencije-u-sarajevu-pozvali-inzka-i-tuzilastvo-da-reaguju/200109120/>; Agencija SANA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FjSBYfLqOI>; Bošnjaci.net: <http://www.bosnjaci.net/prilog.php?pid=69234>; Hayat.ba: <https://hayat.ba/konferencija-o-posljedicama-9-januara-poziv-da-se-donese-zakon-o-zabrani-negiranja-genocida/89859/>; . Pristup: 16.8.2021.

<sup>4</sup> The Archives of Tuzla Canton realized the commemoration in cooperation with the Gymnasium "Ismet Mujezinović" from Tuzla and the Elementary Music School in Tuzla, on February 28, 2020. The program of the commemoration included musical performances, a history lesson and the showing of videos on the topic of the referendum for independence in 1992, a tour of the exhibition "Referendum for the independence of BiH in 1992 in the print media" and others. See more at: <http://www.arhivtk.ba/?p=3796> Accessed: 16.8.2021.





**Annex 1. Students of the Meša Selimović Tuzla High School, with a history lesson and appropriate recitals, participate in the realization of the celebration of the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Archives of the Tuzla Canton, 2020.**

However, already at the beginning of March 2020, in accordance with the development of the epidemiological situation in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, restrictive measures are introduced in order to prevent the emergence and spread of coronavirus. Accordingly, the Crisis Staff of the Federal Ministry of Health issues an Order to act in a pandemic. Among other things, the order suspended teaching in primary, secondary and higher education facilities, suspended cultural and sports events, etc. On the same day, the Public Health Institute of Tuzla Canton issued a Recommendation on action in a pandemic.<sup>5</sup> As early as March 16, 2020, the Crisis Staff of the Ministry of Health of Tuzla Canton issued an Order ordering, among other things: cancellation of all public gatherings in Tuzla Canton, suspension of all cultural institutions: cinemas, museums, theaters, art galleries, etc. in Tuzla Canton, suspension of public swimming pools and bathing areas, all catering facilities, except those dealing with food delivery, operation of shopping centers, hairdressing and beauty salons, gathering on public playgrounds, playrooms, parks and other public areas, etc.<sup>6</sup> A total of 23 measures were ordered, most of which were valid for 15 days, but were later extended.

According to the development of the epidemiological situation, the Government of Tuzla Canton on March 23, 2020. passed a Conclusion according to which managers must send workers on annual leave, taking care to ensure the performance of the work of those employees whose work is necessary for the smooth functioning of the body / institution. Pursuant to the aforementioned conclusion of the Government of the Tuzla Canton, the Archives of the Tuzla Canton issued a Decision by which from 23.3.2020. introduces minimal and immediate performance of work processes in the Archives of

<sup>5</sup> Recommendation no: 01-193-118/20. from 11.3.2020, which provides instructions on how to act, in order to prevent the emergence and spread of coronavirus, and which relate to maintaining physical distance, washing hands, disinfection of work areas and surfaces, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Order of the Crisis Staff of the Ministry of Health of Tuzla Canton no: 13/1-33-2027-10-1/20 from 16.3.2020.

Tuzla Canton, and a larger number of workers are sent to use the annual leave (vacation).<sup>7</sup>

In the following months, the work and activities of cultural institutions, as well as all other public and private legal entities, were significantly reduced, and the number of workers in the workplace was reduced. During that period, the Archives of Tuzla Canton had to cancel the planned activities for the preparation of the Conference of Archival Workers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was to be held in May 2020 in Tuzla, and which was to be hosted by the Archives of Tuzla Canton.<sup>8</sup> In addition, the planned activity on the education of archivists in the field of administrative bodies and local self-government, which was planned for the month of April 2020, was canceled.

### **3. Organization of professional and scientific gatherings during the pandemic**

Despite numerous challenges caused by the corona virus pandemic, the Archives of Tuzla Canton has successfully realized several important and high-quality professional and scientific gatherings. At the same time, notable cooperation has been achieved with numerous cultural institutions, institutions and associations. In addition to the above-mentioned international conference Legal and Political Consequences of the Declaration on the Proclamation of the Republic of the Serbian People of B&H, on January 9, 1992, the Archives of Tuzla Canton was a co-organizer, partner of the following professional and scientific gatherings, forums and events:

1. Participation in the organization of a round table on the topic: The importance of the art colony Vršani, for the affirmation of the cultural and historical heritage of Tuzla, which was held on 19 and 20 September 2020, in Vršani. The Archives of Tuzla Canton was a partner in the realization of this round table and thus continued the long-standing cooperation and supported the continuity of this event,
2. The Audiovisual Heritage Days event was held in the period from October 26 to 28, 2020. years. The Archives of Tuzla Canton was the co-organizer of the event. The event ended with a panel discussion "Culture of remembrance of the period of defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cultural institutions and the media." The panel discussion, which was held on October 28, 2020, was attended by representatives of cultural institutions from the Tuzla Canton, media, institutions, and the academic community. (Annex 2),
3. Participation in the Scientific Conference entitled: Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Dayton Peace Agreement - 25 years later, 11/19/2020. year, organized by the Center for Research of Modern and Contemporary History Tuzla. The conference was held in Tuzla,
4. Participation in the realization of the round table entitled: Famous personalities of Tuzla - 135 years since the death of Mayor Ibrahim-beg Jinda, held on December 23, 2020. years.

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<sup>7</sup> *The conclusion of the Government of the Tuzla Canton on the referral of workers to the annual and the introduction of minimum work processes was repealed by the Conclusion on the termination of the validity of the Conclusion no. 021-04-10323-2/20. from 19.5.2020, after which the employees of the Archives of Tuzla Canton were returned from their vacations to their jobs.*

<sup>8</sup> *Information on the cancellation of the Conference of Archival Workers of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be viewed at: <https://www.arhivtk.ba/?p=4095>.*

It is important to emphasize that the Archives of Tuzla Canton in 2020 was involved in the organization and implementation of a total of five scientific and professional conferences. For the sake of comparison, in 2019, unfortunately, the Archives of Tuzla Canton did not implement any project in the field of organization of professional and scientific events, forums and the like.



**Annex 2. Poster of the Manifestation "Days of Audiovisual Heritage", held on 26-28.10.2020.**

#### **4. Exhibition activity of the Archives of the Tuzla Canton during the pandemic**

Since the orders of the competent bodies suspended gatherings and the realization of cultural and other contents, the Archives of Tuzla Canton tried to maintain the trend of presence and visibility in the public to a certain extent. Exhibition activity has emerged as one of the possibilities in the given conditions. The exhibitions are set in the exhibition space of the Archives of Tuzla Canton. However, due to the small area of the exhibition space, it was not possible to organize the opening of the exhibition in the classical sense, in front of the audience, due to epidemiological measures.<sup>9</sup>

Consequently, further activities in the field of exhibitions took place mainly through online digital presentations of exhibitions through the website of the Archives of Tuzla Canton. In order for associates, friends and users of the services of the Archives of Tuzla Canton to have timely information about the set and available exhibitions, the previously established, good practice of cooperation with the media from the area of Tuzla Canton was continued. Namely, through announcements in shows, and guest appearances in open programs and television shows, the public was given timely information about all planned activities and cultural events that took place in the Archives of Tuzla Canton. (Annex 3). Thanks to the media, all interested citizens received timely information about cultural events in the Archives of Tuzla Canton.<sup>10</sup> In this way, all interested citizens had relevant information, and they themselves, individually, could come and see the exhibitions in the hall of the Archives of Tuzla Canton or on the website. Namely, a large number of citizens came and visited the exhibitions individually, so that in the end, physical contact was maintained with many associates and users of the services of the Archives of Tuzla Canton. In this way, we took very responsible care of the health of citizens, and at the same time worked on the cultural uplift of the same.

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<sup>9</sup> Namely, by partial mitigation of measures, after the first "lockdown", by orders of relevant state bodies (Order of the Crisis Staff of the Ministry of Health of Tuzla Canton, number: 13 / 1-33-2027-30-1 / 20 of June 1, 2020) , it is possible to gather people under the condition "that all gatherings inside the facilities must take place in a space that allows a physical distance of at least two meters between people." Applying a specific provision to the exhibition space of the Archives in Tuzla, this would mean that a very small number of people can gather in it. After all, the governing bodies agreed that the health of the citizens and employees of the Archives of Tuzla Canton is certainly a priority of all priorities, and it was against this background that action was taken.

<sup>10</sup> The Archives of Tuzla Canton expresses its sincere gratitude to the media for the promotion and presentation of cultural events in the Archives of Tuzla Canton, without which the engagement of employees of the Archives of Tuzla Canton would not have such an effect and public effect.



**Annex 3. Guest appearance of Selma Isić, archival advisor of the Archives of Tuzla Canton in the open program of RTV TK, 11.12.2020, on the occasion of marking the Day of Archives and Archival Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the exhibition "Architectural Symbols of Tuzla".<sup>11</sup>**

The result of such activities is the fact that the Archives of Tuzla Canton in the year of the pandemic, had more exhibitions than during the previous year. Thus, during 2020, the Archives of Tuzla Canton set up a total of 11 archival, thematic exhibitions, as follows:

1. Exhibition Srebrenica – Genocide that was not prevented, set up in Sarajevo on January 8 and 9, 2020, within the International Conference entitled "Legal and Political Consequences of the Declaration on the Proclamation of the Republic of the Serb People of Bosnia and Herzegovina", January 9, 1992,
2. Exhibition on the occasion of the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina entitled "Referendum for the Independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992 in the print media." The exhibition was presented in the Archives of Tuzla Canton, 28.2.2020. years,
3. Exhibition "Kapija 25.5.1995. - exhibition of documents and photographs", the exhibition was set in the Archives of Tuzla Canton 22.5.2020. on the occasion of commemorating the loss of Tuzla's youth at Kapija in 1995,
4. Exhibition "Oriental Collection of the Archives of Tuzla Canton", on the occasion of marking the International Day of Archives on June 9.
5. Exhibition: The wealth of the archives of Tuzla Canton - National Treasure of Bosnia and Herzegovina, set on July 1 to mark the 66th anniversary of the Archives of Tuzla Canton,
6. Exhibition: Srebrenica: genocide that was not prevented, placed in the Archives of Tuzla Canton, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica,
7. Exhibition setting: The First World War in documents and photographs of the Archives of Tuzla Canton, 30.8.2020. in the Public Institution BCC Kalesija, on the occasion of marking the 831st anniversary of the Charter of Kulin Ban,
8. Exhibition "Oriental Collection of the Archives of Tuzla Canton - a selection of documents" set up on the occasion of the European Heritage Days Manifestation,
9. Exhibition "Historical railway through historical sources" on the occasion of marking the anniversary of the opening of this railway, Archive of Tuzla Canton, 6.11.2020. years, .

<sup>11</sup> <https://rtvtk.ba/arhiv-tk-izlozboj-obilježava-dan-arhiva-i-arhivske-sluzbe-bih/> Accessed: 26.8.2021.



10. Exhibition "Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Second World War through the historical sources of the Archives of Tuzla Canton", on the occasion of the Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Archives of Tuzla Canton, 23.11.2020. years,
11. Exhibition "Architectural Symbols of Tuzla", on the occasion of marking the Day of Archives and Archives Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the exhibition was set on 11.12.2020. in the hall of the Archives of Tuzla Canton.<sup>12</sup>



**Annex 4. Visit of the Director of the Archives of Tuzla Canton in the open program of RTV 7, 24.11.2020, during the celebration of the Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the exhibition "Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Second World War"<sup>13</sup>**

All realized exhibitions are exclusively of thematic character, and are thematically related to the setting, ie the theme of the exhibition was mainly related to certain dates, anniversaries, public holidays, events, etc. This type of thematic exhibition has proven to be effective, because it is more interesting to a wider circle of people, and not only to professional researchers, historians and the like. Namely, the thematic exhibitions are more interesting and understandable to the general public, and accordingly, the Archives of Tuzla Canton, works exclusively on the preparation and installation of thematic exhibitions.

If we compare the activities of the Archives of Tuzla Canton with a comparative method in terms of the realization of exhibitions in relation to 2019, then we come to the fact that in 2019 a total of five exhibitions were realized in relation to 11 in 2020. Therefore, the number of archival exhibitions in the year of the pandemic has increased by more than 100%. Consequently, we can state that enthusiasm and dedication are a very important driver of archivists, when it comes to cultural activities, even in difficult times full of challenges, such as the corona virus pandemic.

<sup>12</sup> Information regarding the exhibition settings during 2020, you can see on the website of the Archives of Tuzla Canton: [www.arhivtk.ba](http://www.arhivtk.ba).

<sup>13</sup> Izložba u povodu Dana državnosti BiH u Arhivu TK, available on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsH-5o2f-Kg&ab\\_channel=RTV7Tuzla](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsH-5o2f-Kg&ab_channel=RTV7Tuzla).

## 5. Marking significant dates and anniversaries in the year of the pandemic

Although in the year of the pandemic, the Archives of Tuzla Canton, as in previous years, remained persistent in marking important dates in the rich history of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and dates in the field of archival activities and cultural heritage. Therefore, the Archives of Tuzla Canton during 2020, respecting all prescribed measures by the Crisis Staff of Tuzla Canton, adjusted its activities and the above exhibitions, marked the following important dates:

1. Marking the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
2. Commemoration of the loss of Tuzla's youth at Kapija,
3. Celebrations of June 9, International Archives Day,
4. Marking the 66th anniversary of the Archives of Tuzla Canton,
5. Marking the Day of Remembrance of the Srebrenica Genocide,
6. Marking the Manifestation "Charter of Kulina Ban",
7. Marking the event "European Heritage Days",
8. Celebrating the Audiovisual Heritage Days event,
9. Marking the anniversary of the construction of the Brčko Banovići railway,
10. Marking the Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
11. Marking the Day of Archives and Archival Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>14</sup>

All these contents, in addition to celebrating holidays and anniversaries, contributed to the popularization of archival services and archives, as cultural heritage, and better communication between the Archives of Tuzla Canton and professional, scientific and cultural public and the wider community in general. If we compare the results in terms of marking significant dates from 2020 with the previous year, then we come to the data that the Archives of Tuzla Canton in the year of the pandemic realized several events of commemoration, and almost three times more, namely, in 2019, the Archives of Tuzla Canton realized a total of four significant dates, and in the year of the pandemic a total of 11.

## 6. International cooperation in the pandemic

In the segment of international cooperation, the Archives of Tuzla Canton, despite the pandemic, managed to complete the first phase of international cooperation of the archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the archives of the Republic of Turkey. Namely, international cooperation with the archives of the Republic of Turkey, through the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, resulted in the donation of modern scanners for cold scanning of large format documents, archives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, individual values over 30,000.00 KM. The Archives of Tuzla Canton received the said scanner for permanent use, and it was financed by the Turkish Development Agency

<sup>14</sup> Information regarding the celebration of important dates during 2020, you can see on the website of the Archives of Tuzla Canton: [www.arhivtk.ba](http://www.arhivtk.ba). The celebration of significant dates and anniversaries was realized with appropriate exhibitions and events, which are listed in the paper, as well as the dates of realization.



Tika as part of the implementation of the first phase of cooperation of the said international project with the archives of the Republic of Turkey.<sup>15</sup> (annex 5.).



**Annex 5. The directors of the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Archives of Tuzla Canton, Saša Klepić and Omer Zulić, sign the Agreement on the handover of the scanner to the Archives of Tuzla Canton, 14.9.2020.**

## 7. Publishing and promotions during the pandemic

Unfortunately, the publishing activity of the Archives of Tuzla Canton during 2020 was not represented. It is important to note that during 2020, active work was done on the preparation of the second, supplemented, expanded edition of the Guide through the archives and collections of the Archives of Tuzla Canton. However, due to lack of funding for printing, it was not published. Consequently, the Archives of Tuzla Canton had only one promotion of the book in 2020, in which the Archives of Tuzla Canton was a partner of the same.<sup>16</sup> Namely, taking into account the fact that "live" contact with the audience is necessary for the realization of promotions, due to the "lockdown" and the epidemiological situation, there was no significant activity at book promotions.

<sup>15</sup> The following archives also participated in the realization of the project: Archives of Republika Srpska, Cantonal Archives in Travnik, Archives of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton in Mostar, Historical Archives in Sarajevo, and Archives of Una-Sana Canton in Bihać. See more about the realization of this project at: <http://www.arhivbih.gov.ba/node/395>; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmgcWc7fq4I&ab\\_channel=FederalnaNovinskaAgencija-FENA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmgcWc7fq4I&ab_channel=FederalnaNovinskaAgencija-FENA) and <http://www.arhivtk.ba/?p=4321>.

<sup>16</sup> On October 20, 2020, in the Blue Hall of the Bosnian Cultural Center Tuzla, organized by the Library "Behram-beg" Tuzla, the Archives of Tuzla Canton and the Institute for Social and Religious Research, the book titled „From Contemporary Literature - Apriori readings“ by Sead Husić was promoted. See more at: <http://www.arhivtk.ba/?p=4433>.

## 8. For the sake of comparison

We can state that the cultural activity of the Archives of Tuzla Canton in the conditions of the pandemic had good and noticeable results. Of course, the challenges caused by the pandemic have influenced different approaches, forms and models of realization of cultural contents. However, all in all, based on the presented parameters, we can be more than satisfied with the achieved results, in terms of the realization of cultural content during 2020. This is best shown by comparative results, compared with the results achieved in 2019, which are shown in the following table.

Year	Number of exhibitions	Marking of significant dates	Book promotions	International projects	Professional and scientific conferences, round tables, forums
2019.	5	4	1	0	0
2020.	11	11	1	1	5

**Annex 6. Comparative data on the realization of cultural contents of the Archives of Tuzla Canton in 2019 and 2020.<sup>17</sup>**

## 9. What we learned from the "pandemic"

The challenges that humanity has faced have driven people to take different approaches and to think differently and find solutions different from the usual ones. We have experienced the reality that citizens no longer have to come to cultural institutions for "culture", but that archives enter their homes, thanks to the achievements of technological development in the 21st century. We have learned that communication and cultural upliftment can be realized successfully in the virtual world of online presentations. These new insights have opened new vistas for us and set new ranges for future action. From the above experience, the idea of setting up and realizing exhibitions in the open air, in parks, squares and the like arose. Accordingly, the Archives of Tuzla Canton has already planned for 2021 the purchase of the necessary props in the form of exhibition stands and showcases for outdoor exhibitions. Even after the pandemic, we believe that this model represents a step forward in the forms of bringing culture, cultural heritage closer to a wider circle of citizens. In this way, they would be able to satisfy all the important parameters of the cultural activities of archives, namely: presentation of archival material as cultural heritage, communication with citizens, but also "live conversation" with citizens, which is regardless of all the advantages of "digital world and communication", an unsurpassed form of communication.

<sup>17</sup> Data taken from the annual reports on the work of the Archives of Tuzla Canton for 2019 and 2020. Namely, it is important to note that due to certain personnel changes in the management segment, which occurred at the end of 2018, there was stagnation in the implementation of many planned contents, including cultural activities in the Archives of Tuzla Canton in 2019.

## 10. Conclusion

From the above, it is evident that even in difficult times, good results can be achieved in the organization, preparation and implementation of cultural activities. All this confirms the fact that people are a key factor influencing the degree of realization of the planned activities. Depending on the challenges he faces, everything ultimately depends on the man or worker. Of course, times that bring with them difficult temptations and challenges, can affect the modalities, and even the degree of realization of certain projects and contents, but in the end they cannot completely prevent the realization of contents and projects in the field of culture.

Therefore, the experiences of the Archives of Tuzla Canton actually show how important the enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of archivists is in terms of realization of cultural activities, even in difficult times caused by the corona virus pandemic. Of course, people's determination and commitment to work and achieving the best possible results are best expressed in difficult moments and working circumstances, which complicate the possibility of realizing cultural content. Ultimately, all the challenges additionally awaken in people creativity and new ideas for overcoming the given difficult circumstances. Therefore, it is important that regardless of the circumstances in which they work, archivists remain consistent in their mission, preservation, protection, presentation and giving to the use of archival material, to all interested citizens, under any circumstances.

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## POVZETEK

### KULTURNA DEJAVNOST ARHIVA TUZELSKEGA KANTONA MED PANDEMIJO

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Iz navedenega v prispevku je razvidno, da je tudi v težkih časih mogoče doseči dobre rezultate pri organizaciji, pripravi in izvajanju kulturnih dejavnosti. Vse to pa pritrjuje stališču, da so ljudje tisti ključni dejavnik, ki vpliva na stopnjo realizacije načrtovanih aktivnosti. Med kopico pojavljajočih se izzivov je vse na koncu odvisno od človeka oziroma delavca. Seveda lahko časi, ki s seboj prinašajo težke skušnjave in izzive, vplivajo na način in celo stopnjo realizacije določenih projektov in vsebin, vendar na koncu ne morejo popolnoma preprečiti uresničevanja vsebin in projektov na področju kulture.

Izkušnje Arhiva Tuzelskega kantona konkretno prikazujejo, kako pomembni so navdušenje, zavzetost in predanost arhivistov pri izvajanju kulturnih dejavnosti, tudi v težkih časih, ki jih povzroča pandemija koronavirusa. Seveda se odločnost in zavzetost ljudi za delo in doseganje najboljših možnih rezultatov najbolj izražata prav v težkih trenutkih in v delovnih okoliščinah, ki otežujejo uresničevanje kulturnih vsebin. Navsezadnje lahko izzivi in skušnjave v ljudeh dodatno prebudijo ustvarjalnost in nove ideje za premagovanje danih neugodnih okoliščin. Zato je pomembno, da arhivisti, ne glede na okoliščine, v katerih delujejo, ostanejo dosledni pri svojem poslanstvu, ohranjanju, zaščiti, predstavitvi in dajanju v uporabo arhivskega gradiva vsemu zainteresiranemu prebivalstvu.