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THE ITALIAN NATIONAL ARCHIVAL SYSTEM (SAN – SISTEMA ARCHIVISTICO NAZIONALE ITALIANO): NEW PORTALS

Abstract:

The article outlines goals and general characteristics of the SAN. The author focuses on new portals: Archives to not forget, Archives of fashion, Business and territory archives. In particular, this portal is dedicated to the historical cartography and to the cadastre, was tested by the State Archives of Trieste and Milan, and has interesting and innovative archival and digital solutions.

Key words:
archival system, portals

Izvleček:

Italijanski državni arhivski sistem (SAN - Sistema Archivistico Nazionale Italiani): novi portali

Prispevek predstavlja cilje in splošne značilnosti italijanskega nacionalnega arhivskega sistema SAN. Avtorica se osredotoča na nove portale: "Arhivi za spomin", "Arhivi mode" ter "Poslovni in območni arhivi". Portal je namenjen zgodovinski kartografiji ter katastru, preizkusila sta ga državna arhiva v Trstu in Milanu, prinaša pa zanimive ter inovativne arhivske in digitalne rešitve.

Ključne besede:
arhivski sistem, portali

THE ITALIAN NATIONAL ARCHIVAL SYSTEM (SAN - SISTEMA ARCHIVISTICO NAZIONALE ITALIANO) - www.san.beniculturali.it

The Italian law from October 16, 2003, n. 291 provided the creation of the Information System of the State Archives and Archival Superintendence (SAN) and in this sense directed the efforts of the Administration, who presented the whole project in 2009 in Bologna during the 2nd National Conference of the Archives, organized by Directorate General for the Archives.

The SAN is based on the cooperation between different institutions: the Ministry of Cultural Assets and Activities, regions, provinces, municipalities and private institutions such as Universities and Cultural Institutes. The archival organization based on the legal owners of the account is accompanied by the concept of archives considered as a historical source.

The tool for the development of the SAN is the Agreement for the Promoting and Effecting the National Archival System between the Italian Ministry, Regions, Provinces and Municipalities, March 25, 2010, aiming at the conservation,

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management and promotion of the archival heritage and to ensure the best access conditions for all users, whose target, because of the spreading of computer tools, is becoming wider.

In the SAN the descriptions found in archival information systems of participating subjects and those produced by the Directorate General for Archives and Archival Institutions will be found: General Guide of the Italian state archives, SIUSA, SIAS, which will be merged into a new environment, provisionally referred to as the Unified Information System for Archives (SIUA), through the automatic migration of metadata, their integration and the provision of centralized services for query and search. The SAN aims to create a large virtual database, a database of available files on the national territory to be consulted even by non-specialists, accessible through a search both via traditional way and by more agile alternative routes, (biographies, audiovisual materials, timelines).

Special feature of the SAN is the creation of thematic Portals that will take advantage of resources in the catalog or digital library, but will have their own home page and a dedicated area.

The intent is promoting a wider knowledge of the Italian cultural heritage, which is a priority to ensure its safeguarding, giving consistency to the services to users in order to encourage a more "friendly" use of cultural heritage in the network, increasing the digitization of the documentation, harmonizing the various archival information systems and supporting their interoperability and accessibility.[1]

Seven Portals have already been made in the SAN, their structure being even both from a conceptual and a graphic point of view, so to guarantee their immediate recognition.

The Portals, presented in Pescara on December 17, 2011, are:

- **Archives to not Forget,**

- **Enterprise Archives,**

- **Fashion Archives,**

- **Music Archives,**

- **Ancestors,**

- **Territories,**

  plus the **Multimedia Historical Archives of the Mediterranean Sea.**

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[1] *From the speech given in Trieste by the Director General for the Archives Luciano Scala at the 21st International Conference organised by the International Institute for Archival Science of Trieste and Maribor (IIAS).*

THE PORTALS

1   ARCHIVES TO NOT FORGET (http://www.memoria.san.beniculturali.it/)

On May 9, 2011, the day of memory of the victims of terrorism, the Portal dedicated to the sources on terrorism, political violence and organized criminality was presented, intended to be the first of all a census[2] of documentation (judicial sources, parliamentary inquiries, memorials, newspapers) kept in public and private archives, associations and centers for documentation.

The Portal is structured as follows:

- net: archives taking part in the initiative,

- past and present: chronology of the most important events,

- wall of memory: list of victims of political violence having terroristic and subversive character, starting from the 1960s,

- to deepen: files on the most important terroristic attacks and name of the victims,

- didactics: initiatives, exhibitions, meetings,

- multimedia gallery: images, audio and video files,

- archive search: search engine in the archives taking part in the initiative,

- library: link to OPAC SBN (Online Public Access Catalogue of the Italian National Book Service).

2   ENTERPRISE ARCHIVES (http://www.imprese.san.beniculturali.it/)

The Portal dedicated to the enterprise archives, opened on June 24, 2011, was settled to better save the historical archives of the Italian public and private enterprises and to valorize the enterprises culture.

The enterprise archives are stored in the State Archives, foundations and cultural institutions, enterprises working still. The typologies of the documentation (technical drawings, photos, videos, historical manufactures), of the creators and of the preserving institutions mean preservation and management ways different from the usual: a first step was made beginning census, notifications of historical importance and acquisitions of archival fonds.

The Portal gives access to archival and bibliographic sources, and chronologies, biographies and data about the enterprises; photos, audios and videos are at disposal. The most important Italian enterprises act as partners. The Central State Archives put at disposal the databank of the Italian Office for Trademarks and Patents 1867-1965), having more than 170.000 trademarks; the Experiment Station of Cinematography – Ivrea National Archives of the Enterprise Cinema proposed a web TV with films from enterprise historical archives.

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[2]   *See: Guida alle fonti per una storia ancora da scrivere, by Ilaria Moroni, Viterbo 2010, gathering the results of the first census of sources.*

The Portal is structured as follows:

- partner: list of the enterprise historical archives and of the preservation institutions taking part in the Portal,

- enterprises: list of more than 1100 enterprises, with a link to the description of the historical archives,

- general chronology: chronology from 1861 to the present time,

- territory chronology: cities where the enterprises are,

- protagonists: biographies of 150 Italian entrepreneurs,

- paths: exhibitions organized by archives and enterprises,

- multimedia gallery: audio and video files, digitized documents,

- archive search: search engine in the archives taking part in the initiative,

- library: link to OPAC SBN (Online Public Access Catalogue of the Italian National Book Service).[3]

On this Portal also some fonds from the State Archives of Trieste have been uploaded, particularly those of Stock spa and of the Triestine Arsenal San Marco.

The State Archives of Trieste preserves some fonds of enterprises working in Trieste during the 19th and 20th centuries. The most remarkable is the Stock spa, Triestine enterprise for production and selling spirits, founded in 1884 by Lionello Stock, born in Split (Croatia) in 1866 in a family of Jewish merchants, settled very young in Trieste to continue his studies at the Trading Academy. The enterprise was very lucky, and opened new industries first in the countries of the former Austrian-Hungarian Empire, and then in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Egypt, Israel, Germany, Australia, USA, Chile, Brazil. In this fond there are 480 archival units, and a list of holdings, the arrangement is ongoing.

In the section "paths" one can find the presentation of the exhibition "Distilling Moments of Carelessness", organized in 2009 by the State Archives of Trieste, and a selection of documents exhibited, digitized and with their metadata: most of the material is made by photos of the plants, machinery, workers, advertising stuff (greeting cards, calendars, labels, and so on).

In their activities for the valorization of the enterprise archives, the State Archives of Trieste made an exhibition in 1998 about the Triestine Arsenal San Marco. Settled in 1861, the Arsenal worked until 1962. The documentation deals with the Triestine shipbuilding from the second half of 19th century to nearly the present days, shows shipbuilding, the machinery, the buildings, the working conditions. In the fond are stored the documents produced by the creator (descriptions of the works and calculations, approved drawings, original copies, photo archive, minutes of the Council and the Assembly, registers and documentation related to the personnel) and papers coming from the Triestine Technical Plant, the San Marco Shipyard, the San Rocco Shipyard, and, in general, from United Shipyards of the Adriatic.

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[3] Chiara ARTICO, SAN. Sistema archivistica nazionale, in DOK_SIS 2010 by media.doc, Lubiana 2011.

3   ANCESTORS. ARCHIVES FOR PERSONAL DATA SEARCH (http://www.antenati. san.beniculturali.it/)

The Ancestors Portal stems from the necessity of making available the huge documentation heritage of the State Archives to make personal data and genealogical researches in order to reconstruct the history of families and persons, and also social history in a wider sense. On the Portal one can browse millions and millions of images of registry office registers, retrieving names of people in the acts, getting information on the sources. Thanks to an agreement with FamilySearch International signed in 2011, goal of the Portal is to upload millions and millions of images of registry office registers (part of them taken from microfilms made in the State Archives by the Genealogical Society of Utah starting from the 1970s), to make researches by browsing via computer the acts in the Brows Registers section. Every image is supplied with an archival description with the name of the institution keeping the source, the fond, the sort of the act (birth, wedding, death and related attachments), the place, the date, the registry or box number when existing.

At the same time the Portal will index the person names present in the acts in the Find the Names section. This names databank will be developed also with the help of the users on a voluntary base, by writing to redazione.antenati @beniculturali.it.

The people concerned can get more information in the Territory and Sources section, listing the registry office fonds stored in the institutions. In the same section one can get evidence of the sources for the military service, the notary archives, the cadastre, and so on.

4   20TH CENTURY FASHION ARCHIVES (http://moda.san.beniculturali.it)

The 20th Century Fashion Archives Portal stems in the SAN to share also to non-specialists the results of the project 20th Century Fashion Archives. This project, developed by the ANAI (Associazione Nazionale Archivistica Italiana – Italian National Archival Association) and fostered by the Directorate General for Archives together with other partners, aims to discover, valorize and make usable a large number of sources, unexplored until now, of the archival, book, audiovisual heritage regarding Italian fashion. The project was presented in Florence on January 12th, 2009, in the Sala Bianca in Palazzo Pitti, on the occasion of Palazzo Pitti Gentleman, and spread and implemented in many Italian regions via the initiatives of the ANAI.

The project is structured in a census of the sources, in the cataloguing and digitization of the material held by the archives of some of the most important Italian *maisons*, in organizing courses and meetings. By means of many research possibilities, the 20th Century Fashion Archives Portal gives access to these subjects, from the description of enterprise archives to the visualization of the material held (products, drawings, sketches, photos, administrative and account documentation), and to consult biographies, information about the history of fashion in 20th century Italy and in the world. Fashion has a very high artistic and economic value in Italy, and marked international taste from the second after war age thank to the works made by stylists, *atelier*, dressmakers, which all were the key of success of the "Made in Italy".

The Portal is structured as follows:

- contributors,

- fashion yesterday and today,

- main protagonists,

- research tools,

- multimedia,

- news,

- search.

5   MUSIC ARCHIVES (http://www.musica.san.beniculturali.it/)

The Music Archives Portal aims to give access to the 20th century and contemporary musical sources in a general view giving the historical contest, the main protagonists, going in the deep with the technical aspects and reconstructing the iconographic aspect. The Portal gives the description of the creators and the owners. The first results of the whole work, that begun at the end of 2009, were published in spring 2010 in the Online Guide to the 20th Century Music Archives, made by the Directorate General for the Archives together with La Stravaganza Association. These description have been uploaded on the SAN to be viewed on the Portal.

The Portal is a work in progress to be implemented in the next future by the support of new subjects aiming to let emerge, preserve and valorize a heritage whose intrinsic nature is under risk of loss. The Portal also gives access to the Audio Archives Network, direct to the preservation, description and valorization of folk music, and aiming to create a network on the whole national territory to give fruition of audio, paper, visual and photo documents acquired by specific initiatives.

The Portal is structured as follows:

- institutions,

- music,

- main protagonists,

- to deepen,

- multimedia gallery,

- archive search,

- research tools.

6   TERRITORIES ARCHIVES (www.territori.san.beniculturali.it)

In many Italian State archives are preserved cadastral and cartographic materials, particularly interesting both for a special research about the history of the territories and because of the attractions given by the maps, immediately readable also by non-specialists. This material was in fact already digitized and descript even from the past years.

The Italian Ministry for Cultural Assets and Activities decided to provide a unitary online tool to give access to the cadastral and cartographic documentation preserved in the **State Archives of Genoa, Milan, Trieste and Venice**, and to grant in the meantime a possibility of access also to those of other State Archives.

- archive search: the page dedicated to the visualization of an interactive map listing all the institutions taking part in the Portal,

- creators,

- sources: this page is the fulcrum of the Portal and gives to the users a view on all the documentary groups provided by the Portal; by clicking on them, one can focus on a single source, both cadastral or cartographic, and is also provided of a general scheme of the series in order to know whether the source can be used totally or partially, and in this way the institutions can upload also sections of the sources, without being forced to wait for their completion,

- timeline: chronology of the sources,

- geographical access: this page gives access to non-specialist users, since everyone can check the place she/he is interested in, if there are any maps, and in case consult them,

- research: a research in all the databanks is possible, independently of the preservation institution, the creator, the source,

- paths,

- partners,

- chronology,

- protagonists,

- library.

The main characteristic of the Territories Portal is the possibility of providing users with a direct contact with the sources, since it gives access on line to high definition images of the cadastral and cartographic documents to be researched by many and diversified tools of access.

From a technological point of view the Portal is based on a federate web architecture giving the possibility of searching via web remote databanks just like a unique databank. Every institutions still remains in possession and responsible for its documentation but can in the meantime share it with other institutions in order to facilitate and strengthen its use.

The Territories Portal can therefore valorize the many projects of digitization of the cadastral and cartographic sources which have been going on during the last decades, is the tool that safeguard the total autonomy of the institutions and in the meantime provides users with a whole vision of the cadastral and cartographic sources, in this way perfectly interpreting the aims of the SAN, to which it is related.

7 MULTIMEDIA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (www.archividelmediterraneo.org)

The Multimedia Historical Archives of the Mediterranean Sea is a national project promoted by the State Archives of Catania and groups some of the most important Italian State Archives that are real capitals of the Mediterranean Sea memory. It has a great cultural value and is based on an elaborate digital system, and fosters a reinterpretation of the history of the Mediterranean Sea in the second millennium via a very large amount of documents and cartographic collections preserved by the historical archives of Italy and the Mediterranean countries conveniently digitized, listed and organized in databanks in an only one multimedia archive usable online through a multilingual portal equipped with innovative research functions and knowledge management. The interoperability of @SSM with external sources is made by an ontology based approach, and this gives the possibility of managing every data model and of guaranteeing a possibility of integration with every external source. The integration of external data can be made by interpreting the data received on the ontology based model of @SSM, or in case the external sources already use an anthology based model by using the imported ontology. Beyond having a very flexible structure, the advantage in using ontology is giving support to reasoning. There exist in fact semantic systems of rules and languages which can be used on structured data following ontology models. This approach gives to @SSM a possibility of opening to future semantic developments not only on its own data but also to those coming from federate external fonts.

CONCLUSIONS

The whole project is ambitious, but it was also developed in a reasonable space of time, thanks to the synergy put into field by the Directorate General of the Archives and the enthusiasm the various Institutions worked with, on one hand in order to retrieve the already existing data and to adapt them to the new system, and on the other hand to make available for the web archival fonds not handled yet.

In this way, that virtual study hall was positively opened, about which much was talked on but couldn't have any implementation yet: it was like if at a certain point, kind of a magic, one could finally reap all the fruits of one's labor, a long lasting patient work yet hidden to most people!

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APPENDIX

Agreement for promoting and effecting the National Archival System

[…]

Para 2

(National Archival System)

In order to give effect to the purposes listed in Para 1, the Ministry, through the Directorate General for the Archives, in agreement with the Regions, the Self-governing Provinces, UPI and ANCI, promotes and effects the National Archival System (hereinafter: SAN).

The SAN is based on the cooperation between the Ministry, the Regions and the local institutions, and with other public and private institutions being in ownership or possession of archives having a particularly important historical interest, with a special attention to Universities and Cultural Institutions.

The SAN, as result of an inter-institutional cooperation, pursues the following goals:

- *promoting ways of coordination and sharing in planning, sustaining and fulfillment of interventions of preservation of the national archival heritage and implementing its knowledge;*

- *implementing the services for the access of users to the research in and the reference of the archives, also online and in digital format;*

- *fostering the circulation at a local, national and international level, of the information about the national archival heritage, the preservation institutions, the ways of reference, the research tools, the content of the documentations;*

- *harmonizing the training courses and the professional development of the archivists and the other operators on the field, also together with Universities and professional associations;*

The SAN promotes the spreading of innovation and good practice and a sgared participation in international projects.

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POVZETEK

ITALIJANSKI DRŽAVNI ARHIVSKI SISTEM
(SAN – SISTEMA ARCHIVISTICO NAZIONALE ITALIANI): NOVI PORTALI

Italijanski zakon s 16. oktobra 2003 je določil pripravo informacijskega sistema državnih arhivov in arhivskih superintendenc (SAN) ter na ta način usmeril napore administracije, ki je celoten projekt predstavila leta 2009 v Bologni med 2. državno konferenco arhivov, ki jo je organiziral Generalni direktorat za arhive.

SAN je nastal s sodelovanjem različnih institucij: Ministrstva za kulturne dobrine in dejavnosti, regij, provinc, občin in zasebnih institucij, kot so univerze in kulturni inštituti.

Orodje za realizacijo SAN je Dogovor o promociji in učinkovitosti državnega arhivskega sistema med italijanskim ministrstvom, regijami, provincami in občinami, ki je bil podpisan 25. marca 2010 z namenom ohraniti, upravljati in promovirati arhivsko dediščino ter zagotoviti dostop vsem uporabnikom.

Portali, ki so bili predstavljeni v Pescari 17. decembra 2011, so: Arhivi za spomin, Podjetniški arhivi, Modni arhivi, Glasbeni arhivi, Predniki, Teritoriji ter Multimedijski zgodovinski arhiv Sredozemskega morja.

Celoten projekt je ambiciozen, pripravljen pa je bil v razumnem času s sodelovanjem Generalnega direktorata za arhive in z navdušenjem raznih inštitucij, ki so z roko v roki delali, da so pridobili že obstoječe gradivo, ga prilagodili novemu sistemu ter ga tako naredili dostopnega.