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Slovensko predsedovanje Svetu Evropske unije
Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
ARCHIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

42nd EBNA Meeting

"Green and Digital Archives in the European Union for Everyone"

Ljubljana, November 4th, 2021, on-line meeting

Slovenian Electronic Archives: e-ARH.si Information Solutions for Creators, Archives and End Users

Tatjana HAJTNIK, Ph. D.

Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, Head of Electronic Archives and IT Support Division, Head of e-ARH.si Project

Summary:

In 2016, Slovenian public archives set out on a journey of creating Slovenian electronic archives. After decades of facing challenges of digital age individually, the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia and six regional Slovenian archives from Ljubljana, Maribor, Celje, Ptuj, Nova Gorica and Koper finally joined forces and began cooperating in their dealings with issues of digital transformation of archival services. This was the beginning of a project called e-ARH.si under the slogan »The past is just a click away«.

Establishing Slovenian electronic archives is much more than just providing digital storage for e-archival records. It is accumulation of ambitious information solutions that refer to the entire life cycle of archival records; spanning from creation of records by records creators, to transferring of records to public archives, ensuring their long-term preservation, and making them accessible and available for use. The e-ARH.si solution is organized in accordance with internationally established OAIS model (ISO 14721) and operates on its own organizational and information infrastructure. It represents a safe, reliable and legally coherent system for preservation of Slovenian cultural heritage in Slovenian public archives.

By implementing information solution e-ARH.si, Slovenian public archives managed to standardize management and description of archival records and create a shared database of all public archival records in Slovenia. To records creators, e-ARH.si offers tools developed on the basis of their own knowledge and experience which enable them to prepare and transfer their records in e-ARH.si. By implementing Virtual Reading Room, we provided our users, even those with disabilities, with online portal, a single point from where they can access the entire database of public archival records and make use of our common archival cultural heritage.
In her presentation, the author presents key solutions of e-ARH.si project, which enable digitization of archival work and provide remote access to archival records.

CV:

Tatjana Hajtnik graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ljubljana (1986), gained her MA in information management from the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana (1998), and her PhD in computer and information science from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Maribor (2016). She started her professional career as a systems engineer on large computer systems and continued it as a chief information officer at the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, Regional Unit of Krško. She also worked (1999 - 2006) on issues of information security in state administration and encouraged implementation of modern standards on information security at the Governmental Centre for Informatics (part of the Ministry of Public Administration).
She participated in developing strategy for the Slovenian Electronic Archives (e-ARH.si) and its action plan which was approved by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. Currently, she is the head of the EU funded project e-ARH.si in 2016 – 2021. She is assistant professor at Alma Mater Europaea – European Centre Maribor for the program Archives and Records Management. She regularly holds lectures and publishes articles and books on the subject of digital preservation.

GDPR Implementation on National Level
The forthcoming Slovenian law on personal data

Andrej TOMŠIČ, Ph. D.

Deputy Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia

Summary:

The presentation of Deputy Information Commissioner will focus on the proposed Slovenian implementation of GDPR and the foreseen approach towards regulation of archives vis a vis personal data protection. Sadly, Slovenia has still not adopted a national law (Personal Data Protection Act; ZVOP-2) that would accompany the GDPR into Slovenian legal system, though there have been several attempts and versions of the draft law. The main draft proposals include a ban on storing particular data filing system outside of the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, provisions on retention times, the limitations of the rights of the individual regarding his/her own data, the procedure of granting access to personal data for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes. In general, the foreseen provisions regulate that access to personal data filling system are to be subject to the archiving law (ZVDAGA) as lex specialis. According to the latest information from the Ministry of Justice the new law should be sent to parliamentary procedure before year-end.

CV:

Andrej Tomšič obtained his MA in Information management from the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana. Since 2006, he has been employed by the Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia, where his field of expertize has been dealing with legal, technological and social-economical challenges concerning privacy in information society. He is a representative of the Information Commissioner in the international work group IWGDPT and in the European Data Protection Board – Technology Expert Group. He has passed the course and the exam for the chief auditor of information security standard ISO/IEC 27001:2013.

Open Data in Slovenia. Where, How and Why?

Aleš VERŠIČ, MA

Ministry of Public Administration, Information Society Directorate, Division for the Development of the Information Society

Summary:

In Slovenia, we have been actively involved in providing free and open access to public sector data ever since 2016. By doing so, we have encountered several challenges that have since dictated the direction of our journey. In his presentation, the author presents Open Data Portal Slovenia (OPSI) where citizens can gain access to data created by public sector institutions. Opening of data is an ongoing process, which is why OPSI portal is currently providing access only to part of the content and the process of publishing new content is expected to continue in the future. Published data comes in different formats. The portal is currently moving in the direction of providing access to data for the API use (through Application Programming Interface (API)).
The goal of our effort is to provide access to all such data and enable our users to gather and use it to create something new, something that would be beneficial for society as a whole.

CV:

Aleš Veršič, MA has years of experience in the field of data opening. His first project of this kind was providing access to geospatial data, the result of which was Environmental Atlas of Slovenia (Atlas Slovenije) that he and his team set up. Years of acquiring experience and knowledge eventually enabled him and his team to set up Open Data Portal Slovenia /that is the national, governmental portal od open data) and they are especially proud of the fact that Slovenia ranks 10th in OECD in regard to openness of public sector data.

Access is Just a Click Away

Mojca KOSI, MA and Mr. Antun SMERDEL

Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, members of e-ARH.si Project group

Summary:

The main inspiration and motivation behind the 2016 to 2021 development of Slovenian electronic archives (e-ARH.si) is a vision that everybody should have remote access to all the best digital solutions in order to preserve and use electronic archival records. Access to electronic archival records has, in fact, been one of the priorities of e-ARH.si between 2016 and 2021. Providing such access also demonstrates our observance of various regulations that have entrusted Slovenian public archives with a task to provide access to archival service for people with disabilities as well. In their presentation, the authors present the solutions achieved in this field of work so far; development and use of Virtual Reading Room, which is available also for people with disabilities, and modifying of archival records, such as charters, films, models, audio recordings, and photographs so as to meet the needs of our disabled users. The latter posed the biggest challenge and was as such an important experience in our continuing effort to provide access to archival materials for people with disabilities.

CV:

Antun Smerdel was born blind. An economist by profession, he has been involved in issues of enabling physical, communication and online access for the blind since 2012, when he began working with organizations such as Belatrina Press, Urban Planning Institut of the Republic of Slovenia, Geodetic Institute of Slovenia, etc. He has also worked as a consultant in making many Slovenian websites, such as gov.si, e-uprava, NLB banka, Cankarjev dom, Na sodišču, EU državljan, etc. accessible for the blind and visually impaired. He has collaborated with most of the Slovenian state museums as well. Since 2018, he has been employed by the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, where he is involved in e-ARH.si project and focuses on enabling physical, communication and online access to archival records for people with disabilities.

Mojca Kosi, MA is an archivist and records manager by profession. Since 2016, she has been employed by the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia to take part in e-ARH.si project and work on issues of managing access to digital archival records. She is particularly involved in issues of enabling access to and use of archival records for people with disabilities (mostly for the blind, visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing). She is regularly presenting her research results at numerous Slovenian and international archival expert meetings. In 2018, she was nominated for the Aškerc Prize for her contribution in popularization of archives and archival science.