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Državni arhiv Škotske

THE SCOTTISH ARCHIVE NETWORK[1]

U Škotskoj se javlja sve veći interes za arhive, prije svega na području genealogije i lokalne povijesti. Pristup podacima iz arhivskih fondova otežan je iz nekoliko razloga: istraživači ne znaju koji su podaci dostupni, ne znaju što se nalazi u kojem arhivu, obavijesti o tome često se mogu dobiti samo u matičnom arhivu u Edinburghu, a kada i znaju koje su informacije gdje dostupne, često se ne snalaze s gradivom.

Prijedlog stvaranja računalne mreže arhiva trebao bi povećati dostupnost arhiva. Taj se prijedlog sastoji od tri dijela: stvaranje Mreže škotskih arhiva (SCAN), digitalizacija oporuka iz razdoblja 1500–1875. g. i razvijanje postojećih elektroničkih inventara u Škotskom državnom arhivu.

Jedna od sastavnica mreže SCAN, dostupne preko World Wide Web-a biti će pregled fondova i zbirki svih arhiva u Škotskoj, a u kasnijoj fazi i arhiva koji čuvaju gradivo vezano uz Škotsku, a nalaze se izvan Škotske. Gradivo će biti opisano u skladu s općom međunarodnom normom ISAD(G). Svi arhivi u Škotskoj biti će opremljeni tako, da mogu sudjelovati u mreži. Ostali dijelovi mreže SCAN su odgovori na često postavljana pitanja korisnika arhiva, elektronička knjižara za izdanja arhiva, izložbe, informacije o arhivima i arhivistici, veze sa srodnim ustanovama (knjižnice, ustanove za zaštitu kulturne baštine), mogućnost međusobne komunikacije korisnika i najnovije vijesti za korisnike arhiva.

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[1] Izlaganje s godišnjeg savjetovanja Hrvatskog arhivističkog društva i Odbora za informatičku tehnologiju MAV-a, održanog u Bizovcu u listopadu 1997. godine, s temom Elektronički zapisi i informatizacija arhiva (*Electronic Records and Archival Automation*).

*Oporuke nastale u razdoblju između 1500. i 1875. godine postat će dostupne
digitalizacijom kazala osoba, mjesta, zanimanja i datuma, koja će biti pretraživa
preko mreže. S podacima iz kazala bit će povezane digitalizirane slike oporuka.
Ukupno će trebati digitalizirati oko 3,3 milijuna slika.*

*Treći dio ovoga projekta je razvoj postojećih elektroničkih inventara u Držav-
nom arhivu Škotske. Postoji velik broj takvih inventara, koji su već sada pretraživi
do razine dosjea, svežnja ili pojedinačnog dokumenta.*

Sažetak izradio Tomislav Čepulić

Scotland has a magnficent archival heritage and Scots of every age want access
to it. Every year more and more people visit archives and the two fastest growing ar-
eas are genealogy and local history.

Access to the information available in archives is however hampered for the
following reasons:

– searchers don't know what information is available,
– they don't know which archives hold what information,
– much of the information is only available in central Edinburgh,
– even when people know where to look, old paper catalogues may be almost
   impossible to search, because of their complexity or size.

New technology and the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund provide the op-
portunity to open up our archival heritage to everyone.

This proposal is for the creation of an electronic network and search room
which will link every Scottish archive and make the information in them available
throughout Scotland and world-wide.

The proposal is split into three parts:

1. **the creation of the Scottish Archive Network (SCAN)**

2. **the automation of the register of testaments**, or the wills of Scots from
1500 to 1876, an immensely rich historical source

3. **the development of the existing electronic catalogue in the National Ar-
chives of Scotland (NAS)**[2] so that the wills and the existing automated catalogues
can be made available not just in the search room of the NAS in central Edinburgh
but throughout Scotland and elsewhere.

These 3 parts are described in detail below.

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2 The name National Archives of Scotland (NAS) is used rather than Scottish Record Office, because it is
more widely understood outside Scotland.

Part 1: *The Creation of SCAN, the Scottish Archive Network*

– SCAN will create and maintain the SCAN Electronic Search Room, available through the Internet on the World Wide Web.

The SCAN electronic search room will comprise 8 elements:

a) the top level finding aids of every archive in Scotland

b) the answers to questions frequently asked in archives

c) book shop

d) exhibitions

e) Yellow Pages

f) links to Sister Sites

g) Coffee Machine

h) What's New Noticeboard.

a) The Top Level Finding Aids of every Archive in Scotland

SCAN will hold electronic copies of the top level finding aids (the catalogues or lists that describe the overall holdings) of every archive in Scotland, and later of archives outside Scotland holding Scottish material. All will be searchable by computer.

To achieve this SCAN will use the General International Standard for Archival Description or ISAD(G) and the National Council of Archives (NCA) name authority files.

Each top level finding aid will be marked up to show whether further more detailed level catalogues are available and in what form.

If contributing archives already have a web site there will be hypertext links at this level to their own electronic search rooms.

If an archive has not automated SCAN will provide equipment (a PC, software, modem and appropriate training) to allow it to send and receive electronic mail and to search the electronic search room.

SCAN will provide links to the network at local telephone rates to all participating archives.

Every archive in Scotland can participate in the network and information on the network will be available equally throughout Scotland.

b) Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to questions frequently asked in Scottish archives on

– **subjects**, e.g. suffragettes, Jacobites, Stone of Scone, Tay Bridge Disaster etc.

47

– **how to**, e.g. how to trace your family tree, how to trace local history, how to use archives in school projects

c) **Book Shop**

This will be an electronic "shop window" for any publications: books, resource packs, leaflets produced by any of the participating archives.

d) **Exhibitions**

This will be an electronic exhibition space open for material produced by participating archives. For example:

– a hypertext link to The National Archives of Scotland will provide image, text and an explanation of the Declaration of Arbroath;

– a hypertext line to Aberdeen University Archive will provide images and explanations of the Aberdeen Bestiary.

e) **Yellow Pages**

These will carry reference information about archives, for example:

– information about the Scottish Records Association, the Society of Archivists, the International Council on Archives, etc.

– the text of ISAD(G) and other reference documents

– publicity for archival events and organisations.

f) **Sister Sites**

Links to related sites will be provided, for example to the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN), to libraries, conservation news groups.

g) **Coffee Machine**

Creating the conditions in which people meet around a coffee machine, this facility will allow archive users, who will obtain a password from SCAN, to talk to each other and swap information and experiences.

h) **What's New Noticeboard**

This will carry the latest news for archive users.

Part 2: *The Automation of the Register of Testaments, or the Wills of Scots, from 1500 to 1875*

– **The aim is to automate the indexes to 1875 and to link the index entry to the electronic image of the testament or will to which it refers.**

This will be done in three stages:

– converting existing paper indexes to electronic form;

– creating digital images of the testaments or wills;

– linking the image to the electronic index.

There are approximately 475,000 index entries for wills from 1500 to 1875 to
be converted to electronic form. The indexes of persons, places, occupations and da-
tes will be searchable electronically on the network. It will be possible to search in
the electronic search room for, for example:
- all the wills of the residents of Falkland from 1600 to 1700
- all the wills of Glasgow bakers between 1800 and 1850
- the wills of specific people, famous or not.

There are about 3.3 million images to be digitised. The electronic image of the
will, electronically linked to the index entry, will be available in the NAS historical
search room or on payment of a fee.

Part 3: *The Development of the Existing Electronic Catalogues in the NAS*
The wills and other existing automated catalogues can be made available not
just in the search room of the NAS in central Edinburgh but throughout the whole of
Scotland and elsewhere.

The holdings of the NAS comprise:
- Records of the central government institutions of the pre-Union Kingdom of
   Scotland, parliament, privy council and the great offices of state such as   chan-
cery and exchequer;
- Some of the records of the post Union government of Scotland including
      - Records of all the Scottish Office departments as well as UK departments
   which have a separate body of Scottish records;
      - Records of the Scottish divisions of nationalised industries and their earlier
predecessors - rail, coal, gas, steel etc.;
      - Records of the central courts, both criminal and civil, the High Court and the
Court of Session;
      - Records of local courts, the sheriff courts, commissary courts etc.;
      - The two great registers of private rights and property in Scotland, the Register
of Deeds and the Register of Sasines;
      - Local authority records, the community charge and valuation rolls;
      - Records of the Church of Scotland and the Free Churches;
      - Special collections of shipbuilding records, of maps and plans and of seals;
      - Over 500 collections of private papers, including large collections of papers
of both families and businesses.

The NAS has already automated many of its catalogues and they can already be
searched electronically to file, bundle or item level. These also will be made availa-
ble to the network.