

Shared Archival Heritage

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- Definition of ‘joint heritage’
 - “Archive groups (fonds) resulting from the activities of administrations, functions of which are shared between two or more successor States may be declared ‘joint heritage’. Rights and responsibilities connected with the custody of and access to the joint archival heritage are to be specified in the agreement concluded on its establishment by the States concerned.”
(Auer, Leopold. 1998. *Disputed archival claims: analysis of an international survey; a RAMP study*)
- Over the years other terms have been used to describe same or similar issues, for example
 - ‘displaced archives’, ‘migrated archives’, ‘disputed archival claims’, ‘repatriation of archives’ and ‘seized archives’.

Using terms

- How we use terms in discussion on delicate matters such as shared archival heritage affects whether and how we reach a conclusion in many cases
- The use of the concept ‘shared archival heritage’ by ICA shows ICA's focus on considering different points of view in archival claims and the way to solve it is through conversation and collaboration
- The definition of the concept of ‘shared archival heritage’ will be examined in more detail in a new book that will be published next year

Expert Group on Shared Archival Heritage - EGSAH

- Established by ICA in 2016
- To provide a forum for discussion and ultimately the resolution of issues related to archives pertaining to the history and cultural heritage of more than one community, country or region where the custody, ownership and access is unclear or in dispute
- These situations may arise from war, military occupation, the succession of States or other adverse events
- The Group's tasks include the creation of tools and resources to assist ICA members in identifying and acknowledging records of shared archival heritage, the provision of guidance on developing and models of agreements and systems to allow access by all stakeholders in such archives and the establishment of codes and standards of professional conduct to protect themselves and ensure that the archives are appropriately managed

Projects of EGSAH

- Survey on displaced archives that was conducted by James Lowry and Liverpool University Centre for Archives Studies on behalf of EGSAH in 2018 – to be published in the next few weeks
- Cooperation with European Regional Branch (EURBICA) on a special issue of Comma on shared archival heritage to be published in 2021
- EGSAH has participated in conferences and seminars on shared archival heritage
- EGSAH is working on a bibliography on shared archival heritage and will publish it on ICA website as soon as possible

