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Abstract:	<p>This report focuses on the Deliverable No 5.2: the CENDARI Archival Research Guides. It provides for background context as to the selection process for their themes, the workflow for the establishment of the guides, the challenges overcome and lessons learned.</p> <p>The Archival Research Guides developed by the CENDARI project can be accessed at: http://www.cendari.eu/archival-research-guides/</p>



Concept and topics of the Archival Research Guides

The Archival Research Guides that form the Deliverable 5.2 of WP5 take up cross-sectional issues, lead the CENDARI user through the wealth of sources available in the Archival Directory and present in a prototypical form the transnational and comparative approach favoured by the CENDARI project.

The Archival Research Guides are intended to act as the connective tissues across archival collections with rich and contextualized information and to guide users to different contents as well as to the application of the tools and services available within the Virtual Research Environment (VRE), thus exemplifying the enhancement of the traditional methods of historical research provided by the project.

The Archival Research Guides facilitate the retrieval of collections and complement the descriptions of the holdings within the CENDARI Archive Directory, by providing historiographical context and methodological support to researchers. They allow for a virtual composition and access to comparable holdings across national and institutional borders, bestowing information on dispersed, relocated material belonging to the same historical context. They cover broad thematic areas of historical research and serve also as examples for user-generated annotations, which may also be further developed in a guide format.

The topics of the CENDARI Archival Research Guides have been selected according to criteria in order to have them being written from a transnational, comparative perspective, taking into account a transmedial combination of sources, and at the same time providing complementary material compiled by creators from different administrative levels and stored in different archives. The Archival Research Guides focus on historical concepts, events or developments and enclose recent historiographical subjects. Special emphasis has been laid on the unexplored, smaller archives across Europe and particularly Eastern and South East Europe. The chosen topics do not claim completeness, as they are perceived as paradigmatic and exemplary collections of information to be enriched and complemented by researchers.

The CENDARI Archival Research Guides cover almost all current research questions relevant for First World War studies, focusing on Eastern Europe as the main objective of the project. The authors of the Archival Research Guides have not only contributed to topics related to their major fields of expertise, but researched also on new ones, which are of interest for the academic community and related to the First World War. The medieval Archival Research Guides focus on topics selected as relevant for medieval studies and culture during the Participatory Design meeting held in Florence on 25 January 2013, organised by FEF, SISMEL and INRI, the COST – CENDARI Summer School, held in Florence in July 2013, and the seminar “Medieval Scholarly Research and the Digital Ecosystem” (Florence, March 20-22, 2014) organized by Fondazione Ezio Franceschini, COST and CENDARI.



16 Archival Research Guides have been provided for modern history, i.e. on the First World War, 9 for medieval history, i.e. on Medieval Culture.

The following list of the CENDARI Archival Research Guides introduces the topics according to their domain, with the names of the lead authors presented in the first position and the collaborators provided in alphabetical order.

First World War:

- ❖ [Prisoners of War and their Return Home \(Pavlina Bobič\)](#)
- ❖ [Coercion and Consent in the Belligerent Armies \(Pavlina Bobič\)](#)
- ❖ [Injury and Disease \(Pavlina Bobič\)](#)
- ❖ [Workers and Workers' Movements during the First World War \(Jakub Beneš\)](#)
- ❖ [Private Memories of the First World War \(Francesca Morselli\)](#)
- ❖ [Women During the First World War \(Francesca Morselli, Jörg Lehmann\)](#)
- ❖ [The Fall of the House of Romanov \(Anna Bohn\)](#)
- ❖ [National Narratives of the First World War – Memory and Commemoration \(Aleksandra Pawliczek\)](#)
- ❖ [Parallel Records and Supplementary Material – Poland \(Aleksandra Pawliczek\)](#)
- ❖ [Jews of Eastern Europe in the period 1914–1921 \(Andrei Zamoiski\)](#)
- ❖ [Industrial Development during the First World War \(Francesca Morselli\)](#)
- ❖ [On the ruins of the Russian Empire: Establishment of New States in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, 1917-1921 \(Andrei Zamoiski\)](#)
- ❖ [The Reconstruction of Post-Habsburg East Central Europe, 1918-1921 \(Jakub Beneš\)](#)
- ❖ [Islamic Movements in the Russian Empire during and after the First World War \(Andrei Zamoiski\)](#)
- ❖ [Science and Technology in the First World War \(Jörg Lehmann, Francesca Morselli\)](#)
- ❖ [Methodological Guide on Sources in the Archival Directory AtoM \(Kathleen Walker-Meikle, Jörg Lehmann, Francesca Morselli, Lorenza Tromboni, Andrei Zamoiski\)](#)

Medieval Culture:

- ❖ [Italian Books of Poetry \(Irene Tani\)](#)
- ❖ [Italian Vernacular Bibles \(XIIIth-XVth c.\) \(Caterina Menichetti\)](#)
- ❖ [Medieval Miscellanies – Homiliaries \(Lidia Buono, Eugenia Russo\)](#)



- ❖ [Dominican Lectores in Florence during the 14th century \(Lorenza Tromboni\)](#)
- ❖ [Medieval Preaching \(Zdeněk Uhlíř, Martin Hlouch\)](#)
- ❖ [Dispersed Medieval Monastic Archives in Florence \(18th-19th c.\) \(Roberta Giacomi, Vinicio Serafini\)](#)
- ❖ [Medieval Collections of Saints Lives \(Silvia Nocentini\)](#)
- ❖ [Science in Medieval Central European Sources \(Tomáš Klimek, Miroslava Hejnová, Tomislav Kolar\)](#)
- ❖ [Transcribing Medieval Manuscripts and Archival Material \(Kathleen Walker-Meikle\)](#)

All the Archival Research Guides developed by the CENDARI project can be accessed at: <http://www.cendari.eu/archival-research-guides/>

The content of the CENDARI Archival Research Guides does not claim to be exhaustive. Rather they are provided in a way that enables the future users of the Virtual Research Environment (VRE) to further enlarge and enrich them. The Guides are perceived as a starting point within the CENDARI Research Infrastructure for research on a given topic and a framework in which to work. As the Archival Research Guides are not intended to be merely a static digital addition of sources and information, the WP5 team conceives them as closely related to the development of the CENDARI Virtual Research Environment and thereby also as tools for the management of user-created content.

Although the CENDARI Archival Research Guides differ to a certain extent concerning their focus and methodological target, there are nevertheless several common components essential for both research domains (the First World War and Medieval Culture), in regard to their function as guides to topics and materials, while at the same time providing historiographical and editorial context.

Workflow used for the establishment of the Archival Research Guides

The workflow included the following components:

- Definition of a relevant topic for the Archival Research Guide, identification of the relevant research literature and generation of a bibliography, search for primary sources by checking the CENDARI data store or the repositories of aggregators or cultural heritage institutions.
- Researching relevant archival collections and institutions online and on site (for collections without a digital representation at hand as well as for so-called “*hidden archives*”) and describing them using the Archival Directory AtoM software that is part of the CENDARI Virtual Research Environment. In this way the basis of archival descriptions was broadened according to the needs of each individual Archival Research Guide, thus providing a model for the future users.



- Request the technical partners in the project to ingest archival descriptions available from cultural heritage institutions into the CENDARI repository.
- Authoring context information for the chosen topics and providing the text of the Archival Research Guide as well as images, multimedia sources and links according to a common structure (title, authors, abstract, introduction, major research issues, sources, bibliography).
- Linking to resources within and outside of the CENDARI infrastructure, using links to the CENDARI Archival Directory AtoM, the sources available in the CENDARI repository (and retrievable through the faceted search), to resources available on the web (such as f.ex. dossiers on a certain topic) and the ontologies at hand within the Virtual Research Environment. The latter allows for the discovery of items that were not included with the Virtual Research Infrastructure at the time when the research guide was created.
- The CENDARI Archival Research Guides give access to the CENDARI Archive Directory (<https://archives.cendari.dariah.eu/>) and to information about institutions and collections collected by the CENDARI team.
- All the Archival Research Guides have been revised internally, then submitted to a linguistic reviewer, and all of them have been submitted to a final review provided by the work package leader Prof. Oliver Janz (FUB), Dr. Jonathan Gumz (UOB), and Prof. Agostino Paravicini (FEF).

The license applied to the content in the Archival Research Guides is the CC-BY Creative Commons attribution – <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> following general rules of scholarly attribution practices. This means that the CC-BY Creative Commons Licence will be applied to the existing content of the Archival Research Guides and all content that users add.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

While working on the Archival Research Guides, the WP5 team met several challenges related to the fluctuation of authors and the necessity for more collaborative action in regard to the establishment of the Archival Research Guides and to ensure that they be written from an international and comparative perspective.

The fluctuation of personnel caused some difficulties to finalize the Archival Research Guides and bring them to a publishable quality. Since 2013, Klaus Richter, Anna Bohn and Aleksandra Pawliczek, all three responsible for the development of CENDARI Archival Research Guides for the modern period, left the project. During the project, Andrei Zamoiski and Jörg Lehmann were hired at FUB in Berlin and have provided for four Archival Research Guides and collaborated in two more.

A major challenge to meet was the collaborative establishment of Archival Research Guides. Historians have a strong tradition of single authorship, ranking among the highest among the academic disciplines. It proved therefore to be a fruitful exercise and good example for the colleagues in this discipline to establish an Archival Research Guide collaboratively. This



necessitated a lead author, a clear structure of the respective guide and a clear division of tasks within the authoring team.

The need for a collaborative establishment of Archival Research Guides became especially evident in the field of modern history: Cross-sectional issues like the role of women, problems of prisoners of war or the international cooperation between a broad range of scientific institutions during the First World War made it very clear that certain topics can best be explored and represented by a team of authors who can cover a broad range of relevant subjects and languages.

For authors of medieval Archival Research Guides, one of the obstacles has been the use of the Notes Taking Environment itself, considering that for the most part of them it was the first research experience within a digital environment. A major challenge consisted in harmonizing traditional and digital sources, printed bibliography and data coming from databases and digital repositories in an accessible way, easily understandable even for early stage scholars and students. The Archival Research Guides focus principally on primary sources, manuscripts and documents: for this reason, it was fundamental to give the most complete information of the available resources, for each Archival Research Guide, and therefore authors needed to have the best knowledge of the Note Taking Environment and its potentials.

The collaboration of an international team of authors working on the same Archival Research Guide helped to overcome the problem of the multilinguality of primary and secondary sources. This is obvious while searching for relevant cultural heritage institutions and the description of their holdings, the description of archival collections within the texts of the Archival Research Guides, and in respect to the sharing of knowledge on national cases, information on regional specificities etc.

While working on the research topics for their Archival Research Guides, the authors contacted cultural heritage institutions such as archives, libraries, and museums with relevant holdings. During the research undertaken, existing databases with rich descriptions in different languages like Europeana were used and recently published scholarly articles on relevant topics were incorporated, such as f.ex. links to 1914-1918-online.net, the International Encyclopedia of the First World War.

For the medieval domain, the authors of Archival Research Guides had the possibility to use repositories of primary sources such as manuscripts, documents, critical editions, references to libraries, archives, collections, etc., and secondary sources such as selected critical studies and bibliography concerning every possible issue related to medieval studies: the databases of Medioevo Latino, CALMA – Compendium Auctorum Latinorum Medii Aevi, and TRAME.

Tacit knowledge gained during the work on the Archival Research Guides was shared in two documents: First in the collaboratively established Archival Research Guide “Methodological Guide on Sources in the Archival Directory”, where the main emphasis was placed on how CENDARI users can exploit the potential of the CENDARI Archival Directory. Secondly, the



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“CENDARI White Book of Archives” was written collaboratively, where technical details and experiences made in the exchange with cultural heritage institutions can be found. This document will be published on the CENDARI website before the end of the project.





Summary

The CENDARI Archival Research Guides work as paradigmatic approaches to research on digital information on the level of collections, holdings and single documents or manuscripts. The distribution of the sources across Europe and the other countries that had participated in the First World War enables the identification of previously unknown sources and connections and provide for a transnational, comparative approach. The Archival Research Guides are designed to let researchers investigate the wealth of available sources; at the same time they allow users to enlarge, enrich, annotate and comment on them, thus providing a model for users for collaboration and for the creation of their own research paths or archival research guides beyond the two case studies chosen, the First World War and Medieval Culture. The Archival Research Guides written by the WP5 team can be considered as a good example of how traditional methods of historical research can be combined with the methodologies typical for digital humanities.