



Value categories of archival documents in Ukrainian archival science

Vita Boyko

PhD in Historical Sciences, Senior Researcher
Ukrainian Research Institute of Archival Affairs and Records Management
04085, 77 Lukyanivska Str., Kyiv, Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5725-9641>

Abstract. The study addressed the issue of identifying the key stages in the research of value categories of archival documents in Soviet times and during the period of Ukraine's independence. The purpose of this study was to highlight the major events in the history of Ukrainian archival research on the problem of defining and studying the value categories of documents of the National Archive Fund. The study determined priorities in the identification and study of value categories of archival documents by Ukrainian archivists at various stages of its history. The activities of Ukrainian state archives to identify and record the value category of archival documents – especially valuable ones – have been carried out since the early 1980s as a result of the adoption of regulatory documents on this archival technology by the all-Union archival leadership. In independent Ukraine, with the adoption of laws concerning the National Archive Fund and archival institutions, the priority in identifying and organising work was given to another valuable category of archival documents – unique ones. It was vital to analyse the methodology of monetary evaluation of documents of the National Archive Fund. Based on monetary evaluation of documents of the National Archive Fund, the study determined their value categories, describing the procedure of such evaluation step by step. Specifically, the study considered an approximate scale of documents' evaluation by various characteristics and features, an indicative scale of documents' value, as well as forms of reporting documentation on the results of monetary evaluation. The approximate scale of prices was correlated with value categories of archival documents, but they were not outlined in this regulatory document. In addition, by analysing regulations, the study examined the government-approved procedure for classifying documents of the National Archive Fund as unique, their accounting and storage, the methodology for classifying documents of the National Archive Fund as unique, as well as amendments to this document. It was this document that became the basis for organising the identification of unique documents and compilation of their annotated lists. The practical significance of this study lies in the fact that its findings can be used to recreate the history of studying archival documents by Ukrainian archivists from the standpoint of their differentiation by value categories as a new area in the development of the theory of expert valuation of these documents

Keywords: particularly valuable archival documents; unique archival documents; monetary valuation of documents; examination of the value of documents; archival institutions

Introduction

Modern world archival science lacks a classification of archival documents by value categories. The relevance of the study of the history and differentiation of archival documents by value categories in Ukraine is conditioned by the new situation in the organisation of archival affairs in connection with the full-scale armed

aggression of Russia against Ukraine, which began on 24 February 2022. Specifically, the issue of planning the evacuation of the most valuable part of archival documents in state archives has emerged. However, despite the total number of archival documents in the National Archive Fund of 86 mln. storage units,

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*Corresponding author



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archival science in Ukraine operated with only two value categories of archival documents – valuable and unique. Unique documents included in the State Register of National Cultural Heritage (SRNCH) in some state archives numbered from three to five. Therefore, it became vital to investigate a differentiation of archival documents by value categories in greater depth. At the same time, the basis for such study was the historiography of identifying and recording value categories of archival documents in Ukraine, starting in the 1980s in the Ukrainian SSR and during the years of Ukraine's independence.

Among the researchers, who dedicated their publications to this problem, which helped to establish a general research picture on the issues of identifying unique documents and entering them into the State Register of National Cultural Heritage; presentation of unique documents in the State Register of National Cultural Heritage in comparison with other unique objects; legal certainty of unique archival documents; historiography of studying value categories of documents in Soviet archival studies and substantiation of classification of documents of the National Archive Fund by value categories according to their monetary value, it was worth mentioning V. Boiko (2023b), who analysed the principal approaches to determining the value categories of archival documents in Soviet archival studies in different periods. V. Boiko (2023a) investigated the monetary valuation of archival documents as a method of determining their value categories. The researcher noted that apart from unique and valuable documents, it was necessary to identify additional value categories of archival documents, specifically those related to evacuation plans under martial law. V. Boiko & S. Kuleshov (2023) carried out a comparative analysis of the sections containing movable monuments in SRNCH and identified problems with their existence. The researchers also noted that there were problems related to the clarification of the term “unique document of the National Archive Fund” from the standpoint of legal certainty. L.M. Popova & A.V. Khromov (2021) outlined the problems of legal certainty of unique documents of the National Archive Fund. The researchers concluded that it took more than two years to adopt a specialised archival law that defined a separate category of unique documents of the National Archive Fund. S. Kuleshov (2008) started a discussion on the problems of classification of documents of the National Archive Fund as unique, considered methods of monetary evaluation of documents. L.A. Kyselyova (2011) identified the problems of formation of the State Register of Unique Documents of the National Archive Fund. Since the issue was related to national problems of forming the register of unique documents, foreign researchers did not raise these issues.

The purpose of this study was to analyse the key stages of studying the issue of defining and researching

the value categories of documents of the National Archive Fund by Ukrainian archivists. The objectives of the study were: 1) to investigate the reporting archival documents of Ukrainian state archives on their activities on identification and organisation of work with value categories of archival documents; 2) to analyse the regulatory documents adopted in Ukraine on identification and organisation of work with value categories of archival documents; 3) to review scientific publications on identification and organisation of work with value categories of archival documents and to determine the evolution of changes in the identification and organisation of work with value categories of archival documents.

Scientific originality of this study lies in the fact that it was the first to present the findings of research on the key events in the identification and organisation of work with value categories of archival documents in Ukrainian archival science.

Materials and Methods

Since the work on identification, registration, description, and storage of especially valuable documents in the Ukrainian SSR began in 1980, at the initial stage of the study examined the content of reporting documents of archival institutions of the republic, stored in the 14th fund “Main Archival Directorate of Ukraine” of the Central State Archives of Higher Bodies of Power and Administration of Ukraine on the implementation of this work. The historical and source method helped to outline the quantitative characteristics of the identified particularly valuable documents. In addition, information on the creation of insurance copies of especially valuable documents in state archives was analysed. Subsequently, the historical and source research method of processing archival documents was implemented during the study of documents on this issue of the said fonds in 1990-1995, as well as during the processing of relevant regulations and subordinate legislative acts adopted by the Main Archival Department at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The application of historical and comparative analysis helped to draw a conclusion about reorientation of state archives' work to identify and organise work with another valuable category of documents of the National Archive Fund – unique ones. Subsequently, the content of regulations adopted by the central executive body of Ukraine in the field of archival affairs and record keeping was aimed at improving this work. In addition, the study focused on changes in the content of the wording of definitions of valuable, especially valuable and unique document in Ukrainian regulatory and reference sources, which helped to apply the method of conceptual analysis. The analysed regulations included the Law of Ukraine No. 3815-XII (1993), the Order of the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine, State Property Fund of

Ukraine No. 34/683 (2005), the Order of the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine No. 34 (2008).

It was not reasonable to define a higher value category of archival documents through a lower one. The analysis of conceptual problems led to the conclusion that the term “unique documentary monument” was unlawful to use. The creation of the Ukrainian people’s national identity and its contribution to the global cultural legacy were both influenced by the phrase “unique document”, which was used to describe a document of the National Archive Fund that had extraordinary cultural significance. As a result, the characteristic of unique cultural worth gained importance.

Results and Discussion

Active work on identifying particularly valuable documents in the state archives of the Ukrainian SSR began in 1980-1981. For example, according to the appendix to the report on the work of archival institutions of the Ukrainian SSR for 1981, according to the “Instruction on the identification, accounting, description, and storage of especially valuable documents”, the Order of the Main Archival Department under the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR of 03.10.1980 No. 75 was submitted, according to which state archives should clarify the methods of organisation of identification and accounting of especially valuable documents during 1980-1981, and prepare perspective plans for the creation of an insurance fund of copies of especially valuable documents (Instruction on the..., 1980). The report stated that in 1981 the work on creation of the insurance fund and the fund for use of especially valuable documents was intensified, consolidated perspective plans for the republic were created, 42666 thousand files of paper documents, 0.35 thousand units of storage of photographic documents, 27.5 thousand metres of film negatives were copied (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 1981).

The report on the work of archival institutions of the Ukrainian SSR for 1982 stated that a perspective plan of work of state archives was developed to create an insurance fund of copies of especially valuable documents and scientific and reference apparatus to them by 1990. Methodological manuals, including working instructions, memos on identification, accounting, storage of especially valuable documents, and creation of their insurance fund of copies were prepared, specifically by state archives of Lviv, Ternopil, Chernihiv regions. A special mention should be made of the “Instruction on Identification, Registration and Storage of Particularly Valuable Film, Photo and Audio Documents” prepared by the Central State Archive of Film, Photo and Audio Documents of the Ukrainian SSR (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 1982).

The 1983 report on the work of archival institutions noted the effectiveness of the implementation of the “Instruction on Identification, Accounting, Description and Storage of Particularly Valuable Documents”

and the “Regulation on the Creation and Organisation of an Insurance Fund for Copies of Particularly Valuable Documents”. The same report informs that the State Archives of Dnipropetrovsk region conducted an economic analysis on the creation of an insurance fund for copies of especially valuable documents and in 1983, 50403 files of especially valuable documents were microphotographed, an insurance fund was created for 1739 units of especially valuable photographic documents, and an insurance fund was created for 312 units of especially valuable magnetic records (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 1983).

The 1984 report on the implementation of the plan for the development of archival affairs in the Ukrainian SSR stated that according to the decision of the board of the Main Archival Department under the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR of 13 March 1980, 133000 files were reviewed, 77.3 thousand especially valuable documents, 1791 units of phonodocuments and 36 units of photographic documents were identified, and inventories were made for 270 fonds with a total volume of 27665 files. The same report stated that during 1984, 42664 files on particularly valuable documents were copied for the purpose of creating an insurance fund (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 1984).

As the USSR continued to work on methodological support for the organisation of work with especially valuable documents (Regulations on the creation..., 1981), Ukrainian archives paid considerable attention to this valuable category of archival documents. For example, the explanatory note to the report on the implementation of the plan for the development of archival affairs in the Ukrainian SSR in 1985 stated that this area of work was one of the principal activities of state archives in 1985. Specifically, 45.5 thousand especially valuable files were included in the inventories, 2.02 thousand units of storage of especially valuable film, photo, and phonographic documents were identified, and isolated storage of files containing especially valuable documents was organised in a series of state archives (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 1985).

In the late 1980s and since 1991, documents on the work of archival institutions on especially valuable documents made fewer and fewer references to them. The explanatory note to the report on implementation of the plan for development of archival affairs in Ukraine for 1993 stated that the failure to fulfil the plan on creation of the insurance fund of copies of especially valuable paper-based documents and photographic documents was explained by unsatisfactory supply of state archives with film and chemicals for its chemical and photographic processing (specifically, the Central State Archive-Museum of Literature and Art of Ukraine, state archives of Zakarpattia region, Sevastopol city). The report of the Central State Scientific and Technical Archive of Ukraine stated that the total insurance fund for especially valuable scientific and technical documents

was created for 810069 storage units, including 679 storage units in 1993 (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 1993). However, the work on identifying particularly valuable documents in state archives continued. This was evidenced by the 1996 file "Information on the State of Work on Creation of the Insurance Fund of Copies of Especially Valuable Documents in State Archives as of 1 October 1996", which was kept in the Central State Archives of Higher Authorities and Governments of Ukraine (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 1996).

From 1992 to June 1996, the Main Archival Directorate at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was in correspondence with the Library of Congress of the United States of America on cooperation in the field of preservation of rare and damaged archival materials, which was also evidenced by a draft protocol between them (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 1992). Notably, the American designation of the value category of archival documents – rare documents – was used, which was suitable for particularly valuable documents.

At the same time, the attention of the archival community was reoriented to another value category of archival documents – unique ones. The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 466 (1992), which stipulated that the State Register of National Cultural Heritage should include "documentary monuments – unique acts of statehood, other significant archival materials, film, photo, and audio documents, ancient manuscripts, and rare printed publications", was a significant factor in the development of regulations concerning the value categories of archival documents in independent Ukraine.

In the first version of the Law of Ukraine No. 3815-XII (1993), Article 20 "Unique Documentary Monuments" defined unique documentary monuments as documents of the National Archive Fund that have special historical and cultural value. On 1 June 1995, DSTU 2732-94 (1994) came into force in Ukraine, defining three principal value categories of archival documents: valuable document, especially valuable document, and unique document. The definitions of valuable document and especially valuable document are identical to those in the Soviet GOST 16487-83 (1983). The primary drawback of the definition of particularly valuable documents was that it was defined through a valuable document. The Soviet standard did not define a unique document, as the leadership of the Union Archival Administration directed state archives to identify and work with particularly valuable documents. In DSTU 2732-94 (1994), a unique document was also defined as a particularly valuable document. The same definitions as in the Soviet standard (without presenting the wording of a unique document) were repeated in the "Short Russian-Ukrainian dictionary of archival terms" published by the Kyiv State Institute of Culture in 1993 (Short Russian-Ukrainian dictionary of archival terms, 1993).

On 20 October 1995, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 853 (1995) was issued, which approved a series of regulatory documents on the organisation of archival affairs in Ukraine. These included "Regulations on the Procedure of Classification of Documents of the National Archive Fund as Unique Documentary Monuments", which entailed their inclusion in the State Register of National Cultural Heritage, as well as their storage, "Regulations on the Main Archival Directorate at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine", which stated that the Main Archival Directorate at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine organised work related to classification of documents of the National Archive Fund as unique documentary monuments and their inclusion in the State Register of National Cultural Heritage. In addition, "Regulation on Principles and Criteria for Determining the Value of Documents, the Procedure for Creation and Activity of Expert Commissions on the Issues of Classification of Documents to the National Archive Fund" was valuable for the analysis, which defined the tasks of expert review commissions, including approval of annotated lists of documents classified as unique documentary monuments.

In 1995, the first All-Ukrainian Conference of Archivists was held, but it hardly considered the experience of identifying and working with especially valuable documents, tasks, and methods for identifying unique documentary monuments. A. Kentiy's report (1996) suggested the expediency of creating a list of fonds containing especially valuable documents in archival institutions. In 1998, the Ukrainian Research Institute of Archival Affairs and Documentation published a terminological dictionary "Archival Studies" (Novokhatskyi, 1998), where the definition of valuable, especially valuable, and unique document repeated their formulation in DSTU 2732-94 (1994). In addition, in 1998, the Ukrainian Research Institute of Archival Affairs and Documentation published Methodological Recommendations on Identification and Inclusion in the State Register of National Cultural Heritage, Organisation of Accounting and Storage of Unique Documentary Monuments of the National Archive Fund of Ukraine (Zakharchenko *et al.*, 1998).

In 1999, "Methodology and Criteria for Identification and Inclusion of Unique Documentary Monuments of the National Archive Fund of Ukraine in the State Register of National Cultural Heritage" was published, approved by the Order of the Main Archival Directorate under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine No. 73/298 (Zakharchenko *et al.*, 1999). In the presence of this document, the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine sent to state archives the letter No. 02-689 of 17 July 2001 on the status of the National Archive Fund of Ukraine's efforts to identify and add special documentary monuments to the State Register of National Cultural Heritage. This letter guided state archives until 2008 in

their work on identifying and providing annotated lists of unique documents. Almost all state archives have developed their methodological recommendations in this area of work. Annotated lists of unique documents were sent to the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine, where they were analysed to improve methodological support on this issue (TSDAVO of Ukraine, 2000-2007).

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1739 (2002) approved the "Procedure for Classification of Documents of the National Archive Fund as Unique, their Inclusion in the State Register of National Cultural Heritage and Storage". Paragraph 5 of this document stated that unique documents were stamped with the stamp "UD" according to the procedure established by the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine. In 2012, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine No. 2888-III (2012), which included Article 14 "Specific Features of Accounting and Storage of Unique Documents of the National Archive Fund". Notably, fixation of the term "unique documents of the National Archive Fund" instead of the term "unique documentary monuments of the National Archive Fund" was caused by the fact that the famous Ukrainian archivist K.Ye. Novokhatsky (1999) wrote about the inexpediency of using the phrase "monument", since the documents of the National Archive Fund were cultural monuments, and the term "documentary monument" should be removed from the archival terminology.

In 2003, "Methodological Recommendations on Creation and Organisation of the Insurance Fund of Unique and Especially Valuable Paper-Based Documents" were issued, approved by the Order of the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine No. 6 (2003). Specifically, these methodological recommendations defined the processes of preparing unique and especially valuable paper-based documents for insurance copying, technical control of the insurance collection, restoration, and conservation and preventive treatment of the insurance collection, conditions of storage and accounting of the insurance collection.

In 2004, the "Basic Rules of Work of State Archives of Ukraine" were published (Boriak *et al.*, 2004), which specified the specific features of work with unique documents and specific features of work with especially valuable documents. Item 3.3.4.2 of this document stated that according to the degree of value documents of the National Archive Fund were divided into valuable, especially valuable and unique; Item 4.2.9.3 – based on the results of the examination of value annotated lists of documents and lists of especially valuable documents were compiled; Item 6.6 – fixed procedures for accounting of especially valuable documents and unique documents; Item 7.3.1.3 – indicated separate storage of unique and especially valuable documents. On 1 July 2005, DSTU 2732:2004 (2005), developed by the Ukrainian Research Institute of Archival Affairs

and Documentation, came into force, defining the terms "valuable archival document", "especially valuable archival document", and "unique archival document".

From 1 March 2024, the national standard of Ukraine DSTU 2732:2023 (2024) came into force, which defined only one value category of archival documents – "unique archival document", which was identical to the wording in the Law of Ukraine No. 3815-XII (1993). This standard stated that "unique documentary monument" as a term not allowed for use. DSTU 2732:2023 (2024) lacked a definition of the term "valuable document". Of particular significance for the subject matter of this study was the adoption in 2005 of the Order of the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine, State Property Fund of Ukraine No. 34/683 (2005). It was based on the monetary valuation of documents of the National Archive Fund that the value categories of archival documents can be determined (Boiko, 2023a). This document described the procedure of monetary evaluation of documents of the National Archive Fund by stages. Specifically, it provided an approximate scale of document evaluation according to various characteristics and features, an approximate scale of document prices and forms of reporting documents of the monetary evaluation. The approximate scale of prices to some extent correlates with value categories of archival documents, but they were not defined in this document. In 2007, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1004 (2007) approved the "Procedure for Classification of Documents of the National Archive Fund as Unique, their Accounting and Storage", and in 2008, Order of the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine No. 34 (2008) was approved, as well as amendments to this document, defined in Order of the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine No. 237 (2008). This document became the basis for organising the identification of unique documents and creating their annotated lists.

In 2016, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine approved and registered an updated version of Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine No. 2505/5 (2016) as a regulation. It differed from the previous one by minor changes, specifically, the term "State Committee on Archives of Ukraine" was replaced by "State Archival Service of Ukraine", the provisions of the Methodology were generalised, particularly in the list of funds' collectors, and editorial adjustments were made. In 2020, the Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine No. 4553/5 (2020) approved amendments to this Methodology, which concerned amendments to the State Register of National Cultural Heritage to clarify the descriptive and search characteristics of a unique document, which was carried out by the decision of the Central Expert Review Commission of the State Archival Service of Ukraine based on a reasoned submission of the expert review commission of the state archive.

The rejection of Russian culture by Ukrainian society, exacerbated by Russia's large-scale armed aggression

against Ukraine, led to the decision of the Central Expert Review Commission of the State Archival Service of Ukraine on 27 July 2023 to remove documents related to Lev Tolstoy and Fyodor Shaliapin from the section "Unique Documents of the National Archive Fund" of the State Register of National Cultural Heritage. In addition, unique documents of the State Archives of Chernihiv region were removed from this section of the State Register of National Cultural Heritage, namely: a receipt for passports for boys, who were elected to the court singing chapel dated 25 May 1838 signed by M. Hlynka (f. 679, op. 2, p. 5116) (Meeting of the central expert review..., 2023).

On 14 September 2023, a meeting of the Central Expert Review Commission of the State Archival Service of Ukraine was held, at which it was again decided to withdraw the documents from the State Archives of Dnipropetrovsk region – letter from D.I. Mendeleev to Olexandr Pavlovych (unknown author) about sending drawings and a book for printing dated 15 December 1900; Central State Archives of Public Associations and Ukrainian Studies – transcripts of the I-III, IX congresses, IV-VIII conferences and Minutes of the IX Congress of the Central Committee of the CP(b)U for 1918-1925, a total of 11 documents in 19 files (f. 1, op. 1, pp. 2, 4, 15, 32-33, 35, 42-43, 59, 97, 98-99, 118, 131, 134-138) (Meeting of the central expert review..., 2023).

The American archivist T.R. Schellenberg (1956) investigated the specific features of the examination of the value of archival documents, which was distinguished by the concepts of primary – administrative, political, economic, and secondary – inherent in certain types of documents – value of documents. Archivist T. Cook (1992) addressed the value of document functions and processes in which it was created. Among Ukrainian researchers, who have thoroughly studied the modern foundations of the American theory of document examination, it was worth mentioning L. Levchenko (2013), who investigated the development of archival affairs and organisation of archives in the United States from the colonial period to the present. V. Bezdrabko (2019) identified the key traditions and current trends in the field of document value assessment in international archival experience. Using the examples of North America and Europe, the researcher identified two opposing approaches to this practice.

L. Prykhodko (2013) examined the scientific principles and criteria for assessing the value of archival documents developed by archivist H. Jenkinson. O. Volkotrub (2013) reviewed the publications of foreign archivists published in "The American Archivist" in 1940-2002, which concerned the evaluation of documents for archival storage. I. Matiash (2012) made conclusions on the development of the theory of expertise in Western European archival studies. S. Selchenkova & K. Seliverstova (2011) analysed the history, theory, and methodology of value appraisal of management

documents and focused mainly on the Ukrainian practices. K. Pontek (2006) investigated the specific features of audiovisual documents value examination and criteria for assessing their value. T. Yemelianova (2024) analysed the state of development of the key theoretical, methodological, and practical principles of evaluation and selection of audiovisual documents in contemporary North American historiography, identified their problems and further prospects for study.

Thus, the State Archival Service of Ukraine continues to work on identifying documents included in the section "Unique Documents of the National Archive Fund" of the State Register of the National Cultural Heritage and related to Russian culture. The analysis of foreign and Ukrainian publications revealed that the subject of value categories of archival documents has not been studied in detail and was innovative, including in Ukrainian archival studies.

Conclusions

Active work on identifying the valuable category of archival documents – especially valuable ones – in the state archives of the Ukrainian SSR began in the 1980s. During this period, a considerable number of particularly valuable documents were identified and recorded, and an insurance fund for them was created. With the adoption of regulations, specifically laws, the attention of archivists was reoriented to another valuable category of archival documents, namely unique documents. However, according to archival sources, the work on creating insurance copies of especially valuable documents continued and the last mention of records of especially valuable documents was recorded in the early 2000s. Of particular significance for the issue of value categories of archival documents was the adoption of the methodology concerning monetary evaluation of documents of the National Archive Fund. The value categories of archival documents were determined based on monetary evaluation of documents of the National Archive Fund. This document described in detail the stages of such evaluation. During 1990-2000, several versions of regulatory documents were published on classification of documents of the National Archive Fund as unique, their accounting and storage. In addition, the analysis of regulations concerning the classification of documents of the National Archive Fund as unique was also significant for this study. Due to the rejection of Russian culture by Ukrainian society, exacerbated by Russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, in 2023 a series of archival documents previously recognised as unique were removed from the State Register of National Cultural Heritage.

Promising areas for further research are to substantiate improvements to the methodology of monetary valuation of documents of the National Archive Fund in connection with strengthening its role in assessing the loss of documents of the Fond as a result of Russia's full-scale

armed aggression against Ukraine. It is also advisable to analyse the opinions of foreign archivists on the value categories of archival documents in greater detail and to identify practical ways to implement the findings of the study in the organisation of Ukrainian archival affairs.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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Ціннісні категорії архівних документів в українській архівістиці

Віта Бойко

Кандидат історичних наук, старший дослідник

Український науково-дослідний інститут архівної справи та документознавства

04085, вул. Лук'янівська, 77, м. Київ, Україна

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5725-9641>

Анотація. У дослідженні актуалізовано питання виокремлення основних етапів у вивченні ціннісних категорій архівних документів за радянських часів та у період незалежності України. Метою дослідження було висвітлення основних подій в історії дослідження українською архівістикою проблеми визначення та вивчення ціннісних категорій документів Національного архівного фонду. У дослідженні було визначено пріоритети у виявленні та вивченні українською архівістикою ціннісних категорій архівних документів на різних етапах її історії. Діяльність українських державних архівів із виявлення та обліку ціннісної категорії архівних документів – особливо цінних, здійснювалося з початку 1980-х років у результаті прийняття загальносоюзним архівним керівництвом нормативних документів щодо цієї архівної технології. У незалежній Україні з прийняттям законів, які стосуються Національного архівного фонду та архівних установ, пріоритет із виявлення та організації роботи надавався іншій ціннісній категорії архівних документів – унікальним. Важливим був аналіз методики грошової оцінки документів Національного архівного фонду. На основі грошового оцінювання документів Національного архівного фонду було визначено їхні категорії цінності, поетапно описано процедуру проведення такого оцінювання. Зокрема, розглянуто зразкову шкалу оцінок документів за різними характеристиками та ознаками, орієнтовну шкалу вартості документів, а також форми звітної документації за результатами грошового оцінювання. Примірна шкала цін корелювалася з ціннісними категоріями архівних документів, але у цьому нормативно-правовому документі вони не були окреслені. Також, у роботі, за допомогою аналізу нормативно-правових актів, було вивчено затверджений урядом порядок віднесення документів Національного архівного фонду до унікальних, їх обліку та зберігання, методику віднесення документів Національного архівного фонду до унікальних, а також зміни до цього документа. Саме він став основою для організації процесу виявлення унікальних документів та складання їх анованих списків. Практичне значення дослідження полягає в тому, що результати можна використати для відтворення історії вивчення українською архівістикою архівних документів із позицій їх диференціації за ціннісними категоріями як новітній напрям у розробленні теорії експертизи цінності цих документів

Ключові слова: особливо цінні архівні документи; унікальні архівні документи; грошове оцінювання документів; експертиза цінності документів; архівні установи