

European Archives in an Era of Change

What To Be or Not to Be? Evolving Identities for State and Grassroots Archives in Denmark

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ARCHIVES IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES have traditionally been associated with the state to a degree probably greater than anywhere else in Europe. However, the vast social and cultural changes of the twentieth century, especially the post-war era, have altered this situation considerably. The development's full consequences for existing archival structures are still unclear. As Europe now seems to face new and important institutional and structural changes, there may be a general interest in the implications of recent archival history in the Nordic countries.

The Archives of the Danish State. Until fairly recently, a complex set of historical factors has contributed to the state's virtual monopoly on institutionalized ar-

chives. These factors can somewhat approximately and conveniently fit into the general characterization of "a lack of strong, autonomous local or regional entities." As a group, they seem to have impeded the creation in the Nordic countries of the richly varied mosaic of public archives characteristic of most of Western Europe. These influences include the abolition of the Catholic church during the Reformation in the sixteenth century; the small size or, in places, the complete absence of a truly rich nobility in Scandinavia; the comparatively low degree of urbanization; and the absolute monarchy's control over and interference with the administration of local communities.

This state of affairs did not change over-

night with the advent of a parliamentary democracy. Parliamentary reform arrived in Denmark in 1848/49 but for many decades thereafter, the kingdom still had only two public archives. These were the Royal Archives, which characteristically retained its former name of Secret Archives (*Geheimearkiv*), and the municipal archives of the capital city of Copenhagen. This meant that only the archives of the central government and of the municipal administration of the capital were cared for with an eye for their utility to the general public.

The passing in 1889 of the first, and until 1992 the only, Danish law on archives expanded the scope of the public archives. Through the creation of three (later four) provincial archives, every part of the state's administrative records was brought within the purview of professional, public archival services. For the first time, archives of local officials of the state would receive proper care. These extended from the parish registers kept by the local clergy to the records of local courts and the crucial documentation at the level of the county administration.

The lawmakers of 1889 cast their net fairly wide in their attempt to preserve archives as historical documents. Since they perceived archives as the basis of national, legal, and institutional history, they focused their attention on securing all materials pertaining to the state's administration. It is true that the law permitted owners of landed estates and municipal authorities to turn over their papers to the new provincial archives. But this was no doubt to a large degree because part of these private and municipal papers were the product of the delegation of the state's authority to landowners and municipalities in matters of jurisdiction, education, poor relief, and the like. The jurisdictional privileges of landowners had been abolished, and nobody at the time would have thought it desirable or legally possible to institute any kind of obligation for individual citizens to hand over their

private papers to the state, no matter how historically significant the papers might be. The autonomy of municipalities was circumscribed to areas that were hardly perceived of as significant for national history. As yet there was nothing to suggest any detailed provisions for the systematic preservation of municipalities' administrative records.

The Growth of Public Administration. This 1889 legislation on archives was quite adequate, considering the institutional structures and the historical assumptions that were commonly held in late nineteenth-century Denmark. The early twentieth century brought the first important shifts in these foundations. Denmark succeeded in preserving her neutrality through World War I. However, the general disruption of the European economy during the war and its immediate aftermath caused a good deal of hardship and social problems in Denmark. It meant that on the one hand there was a phenomenal increase in an already expanding social sector of public administration, giving municipal authorities greater responsibilities. On the other hand, social discontent forced the abolition of the last remnants of privileges for the landed aristocracy, most notably the barring of all entails and the forced parcelling out of parts of the larger estates. While the first of these developments caused a considerable swelling in the size and scope of municipal archives, the archival consequence of the second development was more immediately alarming to the national archives administration. With entails barred and estates divided, even the core of the Danish landed aristocracy was thrown into a state of flux. This meant that the preservation of the often very important private papers of the aristocratic families was threatened. With the crisis of the late 1920s and the 1930s, this threat became acute. Thus from the 1930s on, a large part of the energies of the state's archives was used to secure the deposit in the Danish national and provin-

cial archives of family and estate papers of the landed aristocracy.

The archival implications of the strong growth of public administration through the 1920s and the 1930s were certainly not lost upon the National Archives. However, early initiatives to confront this problem were thwarted by the anomalous situation created by the German occupation of Denmark during World War II. It was not until the late 1950s that systematic initiatives were taken to control the unbridled growth of the archival mass of a proliferating state bureaucracy. The 1960s were the great pioneering age for records management procedures in the Danish national and provincial archives. This was a huge task in itself, and it is perhaps no wonder that the archives administration was insufficiently aware of the archival implications of contemporary, fundamental innovations in the Danish administrative structure.

Archival Consequences of Municipal Reform. These innovations were introduced by the great municipal reform of 1970. Small and numerous parish municipalities were amalgamated into a few hundred larger units called "primary municipalities." A similar creation of larger units was carried out at the county level. A concurrent process was set in motion to transfer functions and institutions from national to municipal authorities. Given the formulation of the 1889 law on archives, this meant that whole sectors of the country's administration would progressively pass out of the domain of the state's archives into the hands of authorities whose only responsibilities were to keep their archives reasonably secure. They were under no obligation whatsoever to make their records available for historical research either by depositing them in the provincial archives or by creating their own archives services.

As a first palliative for this situation, the provincial archives set about salvaging the older archives of the abolished parish mu-

nicipalities. The next step was to negotiate with the national organization of municipalities and with the Ministry of the Interior for a minimum level of records management in the municipalities. Regulations were finally established in 1981 for the mandatory retention and for the optional deaccessioning of records in municipal administrations, but still without introducing any provisions for making municipal archives available for research nor for giving the state's archives any authority over such archives.

This is still the situation today. As directly elected local authorities, the Danish municipalities are fundamentally opposed to conceding any authority over their archives to state institutions. They are equally opposed to assuming greater formal responsibilities in the handling and preservation of their own archives without compensation from the state. And since the present situation of Danish public finances does not make such a compensation a viable proposition, the new Danish law on archives that is expected in 1992 will not introduce any new obligations for the municipalities. The Danish National Archives will take over from the Ministry of the Interior the formal supervision of the municipalities' application of current archival regulations. However, this supervision will not be bolstered by any authority to enjoin specific action or to impose sanctions on defaulting municipalities.

Private Records and Personal Papers.

But the archives problems of modern society are not restricted to the preservation of the records of state and municipal institutions. Numerous activities of social importance are inadequately reflected by such records and therefore have to be documented through papers of a private provenance. The preservation of such papers has become a major archival concern of the twentieth century. Various Danish archives and institutions have indeed for many years

been collecting private records and personal papers, but almost exclusively from the point of view of national history.

From an early date the National Archives has been collecting non-official records, mostly in the form of those private papers from the political and administrative sphere that are deemed to be of national significance. The Royal Library, which also holds an important collection of private papers, has concentrated instead on collecting private papers from important cultural figures. As a result of the growing interest in economic history during the 1920s and 1930s, a business archives was established in the city of Aarhus in 1942. It began as a private collection but was taken over by the state. Its aim has been to collect a representative sample of records from different kinds of business enterprises and trade organizations. Quite another kind of collection is the Labor Movement's Library and Archives. The collection dates as far back as 1909, and its aim is to collect archival material from the political labor movement, the trade unions, and other organizations within the labor movement. These collections are all based on a conception of history as national history.

Local History. During the last twenty to thirty years, however, a growing interest in local history has prompted an important shift of focus by calling for the collecting and preserving of private archival materials whose value lies in their local significance. This indicates quite different criteria for collecting and preserving. A lively interest in local history is by no means a new phenomenon. At the end of the nineteenth century, an effort was made to preserve the heritage of the traditional Danish peasant culture as it was succumbing to the growing industrialization of the Danish agricultural sector. This effort occurred at both the national and the local level. It was an interest, however, which was mostly concerned with the preservation of material

culture and oral tradition in the form of folk songs, folk tales, and the like. It led eventually to the establishment of a number of local historical museums and, at the national level, of a Danish Folklore Collection. It also stood behind the formation of historical associations at the county level, later to be followed by local associations at the municipal level.

All of this included only marginally an interest for the archival heritage, largely because the interest was focused on a vanishing semiliterate peasantry whose archival heritage was necessarily extremely sparse. This situation changed with the social and economic transitions of the second half of the nineteenth century. The growing industrialization of both the urban and the agricultural sectors, an increase in the level of education, and the emergence of a highly organized society resulted in an increase in written records in the private sector.

In Danish history, the period from the 1870s to the 1930s has often been called the era of voluntary associations. During these years, a wide range of such associations was formed at the local level, later to develop into national associations. Within economic, political, social, religious, and cultural fields, voluntary associations were formed to take care of all kinds of local problems and special interests. For example, during these years the networks of local political associations and trade unions were formed. At the same time, Danish farmers organized a wide range of economic and cultural activities within the rural cooperative movement.

As is the way of historians, an awareness of the problems relating to the preservation of this archival heritage only surfaced once the complex structure of local organizations began to crumble. Due to social and economic changes and the rural exit to the cities, the process of dislocation in local organizational life gathered momentum during the late 1950s and 1960s. The great

municipal reform of 1970 was both a result of this development and a strong factor in its acceleration.

Local Historical Collections. Some libraries, museums, local historical associations, and private individuals made sporadic efforts earlier to collect and preserve private archival materials at the local level. Local communities themselves took the initiative to systematize collecting. In 1937, the first local historical collection was founded in the town of Faaborg. It was not until the 1950s that the number of collections began to grow steadily if slowly. In 1952 the association of local historical collections (*Sammenslutning af Lokalhistoriske Arkiver*) numbered twelve collections; by the eve of the municipal reform, the association had marshalled eighty-six members.

The integration into larger local units no doubt enhanced an interest in and need for local history and local identity. This is probably why the municipal reform of 1970 was followed by an explosive growth in the number of local historical collections. From eighty-six in 1970, the number grew to 301 in 1981; today there are close to 400 members in the association of local historical collections. With a Danish population of about five million, this means that on the average there is a local historical collection per 12,500 inhabitants. With the present 275 municipalities, it also means that on the average there is one and a half collections per municipality. They are, however, spread very unevenly. Most urban municipalities have only one collection, whereas some of the rural municipalities have several, with each corresponding to one of the former parish municipalities. Thus the geographical area covered by the collections varies greatly and so do their economic foundations.

Until the end of the 1970s, the local historical collections concentrated mainly on collecting photographs and archival materials from local associations and individu-

als. The collections were founded mostly by private initiative and they were financed mostly by local historical associations. Some collections received small subventions from their municipalities, often in the form of free accommodations. All work was done on a voluntary basis by groups of people interested in local history.

The Changing Role of Professional Historians. The professional historians were slow to take an interest in these massive grassroots activities, much less support them. At best the amateur local historian was seen as a useful collector of those stones from which the professional historian could build the national historical structure. Not until well into the 1970s did "microhistory"—the study of local communities—begin to engage the interest of Danish professional historians. This spurred a certain, if not overwhelming, interest in the collections of local archival materials.

A result of this was the organization of campaigns for salvaging papers from the wide range of local voluntary associations dating from the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century. It was no coincidence that interest centered on these associations, which play a significant role in the Danish national identity. This identity was molded after all to a very large extent by the voluntary cultural and religious movements of the nineteenth century from which the associations emerged. It thus seemed highly appropriate that these campaigns were organized by professional historians in cooperation with the local historical collections, most of which owed their existence to local voluntary associations. Because of this, the campaigns contributed not only to the growth of local archives but also to a greater public interest in the archival problems of the local communities.

A growing number of history students began to cultivate an interest in local history. Not surprisingly, they saw the possibility of converting existing local historical

collections into professional research institutions and thereby creating a new job market for historians. At the same time, local municipal politicians were well aware of the growing interest in local history. From their point of view, the local historical collections were and are to do more than just collect and preserve the local archival heritage. They are to supply the local community with a distinct historical identity. The local historical collections in some of the larger municipalities have thus been gradually professionalized during the last ten years. The municipalities have begun to employ university-trained historians as archivists, just as they have increased the budgets of the collections. The results have been collections with a wider range of archival materials and an active and systematic policy of collecting and preserving. Even more important is the wide range of activities presenting local history as it is addressed by these archives through their publications, exhibitions, lectures, history workshops, etc.

Municipal Archives. The employment of professional historians in the local historical collections has also drawn attention to the problems concerning the municipal archives. Until recently, the only municipal archives was the one in Copenhagen, which dates back to the seventeenth century. With the continuous expansion of municipal administration, internal archival problems are becoming ever more pressing. In some of the larger municipalities where university-trained historians head the local collections, there has been an increase in the direct responsibility for both older municipal archives and records management for the current municipal administration. In 1990, this development led to the forming of an association of municipal archivists. This association has only eight members so far, but more are expected to join. There can be little doubt that additional larger municipalities will follow suit and establish their own archival services in connection

with existing local historical collections, although present economic difficulties in the municipalities may slow things down. For the smaller municipalities, however, this is not a realistic solution. The establishment of joint municipal archives or agreements with provincial archives of the state would be more feasible.

Despite a growing professionalization within the last ten years, less than ten percent of the local historical collections are administered by historians with university degrees. The strength of the local institutional structure in its present state is two-fold. First, almost all local historical collections are the product of voluntary, grassroots activities in the local communities. As such they are by and large looked upon with interest and confidence by the local population as an integral part of the local community. This, together with the limited geographical areas covered by the collections, makes it possible to establish a fine-meshed network for collecting archival material in cooperation with the local population.

At the same time though, the limited geographical areas are also the inherent weakness of the existing structure. Most of the smaller municipalities will never be able to afford a local archival service at a reasonably professional standard. Another problem posed by such a strongly fragmented structure is the danger of overlooking or neglecting archival materials of a regional character. Whose duty is it to take care of the records of organizations covering a larger region? The local historical collections may also tend to neglect the regional aspects of their holdings.

Local historical collections comprise a wide range of institutions, from the small village collection financed by purely private means and operated by volunteers, to the large municipal archives with a professional staff. At times the dissimilarities can seem greater than the similarities. Their overall aim, however, remains the same:

to collect and preserve the archival materials of the local community, to make this material available to the public, and to broaden the knowledge and consciousness of the historical heritage of the local community. What varies is the way in which this is done.

If the present multitude of local historical collections of all hues and colors are to develop into well-functioning institutions with reasonable budgets and staffing, one possible way to achieve this solidity would be for larger collections to develop into regional collections covering greater areas with smaller collections specializing as branch collections. It is paramount for the institutions to preserve the close contact and cooperation with their local communities. That may be possible through a structure built upon a network of local branch collections combined with regional institutions. In this way, the local historical collections might preserve their aspect of a broad, cultural activity which is an essential part of their work. Even so, many collections would probably feel such a structure to be too rigid and bureaucratic.

Unequal Partners. Much will depend upon the development of relations between the National Archives and the local historical collections. To date, this relationship has developed through two phases that may be quite archetypal for the ways of a senior institution towards new growths in its field, and vice versa. For many years, local historical collections were few in number and entirely dependent on the voluntary work of dedicated amateurs. They looked to the state's archives for professional guidance and the state's archives responded favorably, if often with more than a hint of benign condescension. From the beginning, the provincial archives in particular had been actively involved with the local and regional historical societies that sprang up around the turn of the century. The local historical collections were seen as a natural part of this cooperation between profes-

sional historians and local amateurs. At first there was no disagreement over this way of seeing things. Indeed, the first chairman of the association of local historical collections went so far as to make an ideological tenet out of the distinction between the university-trained historians in the state's archives and the dedicated volunteers of his own constituent member institutions. Professional historians were not to meddle with the activities of the local historical collections, he claimed, except insofar as they might provide professional guidance on technical questions. He reasoned that the local historical collections were part of a deep-seated urge in the common people to know and cherish their own history on their own terms. It is hardly a coincidence that such opinions were voiced in the 1950s and 1960s, when the professionalization of local historical museums inevitably created frustration among the amateur archaeologists and collectors who had hitherto supported them.

A second phase in the relationship was heralded by the explosive growth in the number of local historical collections during the 1970s and the heightened level of ambition among them that was expressed and reinforced through the appointment of professional historians as full-time, salaried leaders of a number of the larger collections. In contrast to the pioneer generation's insistence upon the essential otherness of the local historical collections, a younger crew with different ambitions stressed instead that ideally these collections were equal partners to the archives of the state. Several of the new, academic leaders of the local institutions had been trained at the National Archives and were offended by the patronizing attitude of the state's archives towards their institutions and their organization. Inversely, the archives of the state felt the independent disposition of its "pupils" in the local historical collections as a kind of disloyalty. There is no need to go into detail about clashes be-

tween the two parties, which were both capable of accusing the other of poaching on their preserves and vying for favors from the Ministry of Culture.

Practical Cooperation. Nevertheless, it is not too difficult to see the possibilities of a future synthesis to this Hegelian succession of thesis and antithesis. Amidst the official climate of mutual suspicion, there has been a steady cooperation in practical matters in a number of fields. Of greatest immediate importance for the state's archives has been the continuous augmentation of the local historical collections' holdings of microfilm copies of state records pertaining to local history. The ensuing geographical expansion of access to the most widely used types of records (parish registers, census records, tax lists, etc.) is seen not only as an important goal in itself, but also as a means whereby the state's archives might concentrate staff efforts upon the guidance of users through less accessible holdings. For the local historical collections, greater importance may be attached to an agreement in 1986 between the National Archives and the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs whereby the records of parish vestries may be deposited in local historical collections conforming to certain minimal standards set and verified by the National Archives. This may become a model for arrangements with other types of archives from institutions with a strongly localized role and identity.

Indeed, the new Danish law on archives will contain provisions for cooperation of some sort between the state's archives and the local historical collections. But the exact nature of this cooperation is left entirely open, since this law is being designed essentially as a regulation of the authority and the attributions of the state's archives. Neither the Ministry of Culture nor the National Archives have urged a regulation of those parts of the archives sector that are outside of the state archives' purview. This means that the association of local histori-

cal collections has not been able to achieve any inclusive regulation of the nation's documentary patrimony. Despite their advocacy, it appears that the local historical collections will not gain any official recognition on a par with local historical and cultural museums. This is, however, one of the points where parliamentary debate may possibly bring about some changes in the proposed law. Furthermore, the present political situation does not seem to offer any uniform regulation of the municipal archives as a practical option.

The future interplay between the archives of the state and the local historical collections will continue to be conditioned by their structural inequality. The main bone of contention will no doubt prove to be the municipal archives. An important factor in this friction is the archival consequences of the shift in administrative responsibility from the state to the individual municipalities. As mentioned earlier, numerous regional and local institutions and functions have been transferred from the state to primary municipalities or county councils during the last twenty years. This means a considerable thinning out of the institutional basis of provincial archives. This tendency has been countered by passing voluntary agreements with each county council on the preservation of its records. Although these agreements have not settled matters for the archives of institutions supervised by county councils, they might seem a promising basis for a future bipartition of the municipal fields: county councils could cooperate with the provincial archives and primary municipalities could have their own municipal archival institutions. The smaller municipalities might have to develop cost sharing arrangements among themselves.

And yet, although such a solution seems inherently rational, it is vulnerable to administrative changes. Government officials and their closest advisors are entertaining a new reform of Danish local administration, doing away altogether with the county

councils and joining the existing primary municipalities into new units of intermediate size. While this would create ideal conditions for a two-tiered structure of municipal archives with local satellite collections, it would leave the provincial archives with severe atrophy.

Thus, the state's archives are not prepared to relinquish the municipal archival sector. On the other hand, the organization of local historical collections is ever more visibly split between a minority of larger, often professionally staffed municipal or quasi-municipal archives and a majority of collections administered by amateurs who have no desire for professional status. Matters are further complicated by the fundamental opposition of municipalities and county councils to any interference by the state's archives. And neither the locally elected authorities nor the state are prepared to invest the considerable funds needed to bring the entire municipal archival sector up to the same standards of accessibility as the provincial archives. Indeed, most municipal authorities are only marginally interested in their local historical collections' potential as a municipal archives. If they fund such a collection, it is mainly because they value its function as a center of cultural and social activities. It is evident that this last aspect is essential to the whole idea of maintaining local historical collections. By necessity it will continue to define a basic difference between the state's archives with their orientation toward research and administrative purposes, and the local historical collections with their close connections to grassroots historical interest. For the time being, the few professionally staffed municipal archives are poised between these two stances. For obvious reasons, they tend to drift towards research and administration.

Since the anticipated new Danish law on archives is not likely to provide any solution to this deadlock, it may be that an administrative reform should be hoped for after

all, provided it be radical enough to make it feasible to overcome the municipal authorities' visceral antipathy to any hint of state supervision. It might then be possible to envisage a four-tiered, integrated archival system: National Archives, provincial archives, municipal archives, and the essential, local tier of historical collections. This would bring the municipal sector into the fold of professional records management while preserving the strong ties of the local historical collections to the lively historical interest that exists at the grassroots level.

This relatively high degree of local, grassroots involvement with the preservation of archival materials does indeed set Denmark apart from most other European countries. It may be seen as one of the greatest assets of the entire archives sector in Denmark. This makes the present rift between state archives and local historical collections all the more unfortunate, especially since it tends to make the state's archives vulnerable to accusations of academic and bureaucratic elitism. An integrated archival structure formalizing cooperation from top to grassroots level might be hoped to provide for a fruitful development within the entire archives sector of the fine Danish tradition for historical work with a broad, popular appeal. But quite apart from the above-mentioned formal, economic, and political considerations, this would probably demand greater changes in the organization of the network of local historical collections than they or their association would be prepared to accept.

Thus we may leave our wishful thinking here, contenting ourselves with concluding that the expected 1992 Danish law on archives will be far from any kind of final word on the matter. If the proposal's text is passed, then the law should be seen as a statement of the present role and attributions of the state's archives (including the National Business Archives). This statement would be intended as a starting point

for a new definition of the interplay between the archives of the state and the rest of the archives sector. But it will hardly contain any precise guidelines for the shaping of this interplay.

European Perspectives. Looking at the larger European perspective, one cannot necessarily feel great optimism about any lessons drawn from the Danish archival experience. The deadlock over the Danish municipal archives is the paradoxical product of historically conditioned archival structures that for a variety of reasons have been unable to cope with recent administrative changes. The traditions inherited from bureaucratic absolutism, which were strongly bent towards precedent and the maintaining of existing rights, combined with the national and legal orientation of historical research in the later nineteenth century to create a strong archival system. The system functioned well, but was essentially oriented towards the state. The local historical collections have been a late outgrowth of another particular situation, which was the tradition through the last century and a half for local and individual interest to find expression through voluntary associations, ideally without any bureaucratic ties and often with a tinge of anti-intellectualism.

The traditions that both kinds of institutions carried from their origins made them ill-equipped to face the challenge of major changes in Denmark's administrative structure through the last twenty or twenty-five years. The distance in kind and purpose between the two independent archives systems was too great to permit them to create the integrated archives structure that might have integrated the municipal archives. This problem has been compounded by the tendency in modern administrative practice to detach itself from precedent. In a fast-changing society, yesterday's solutions are of dwindling relevance to the handling of today's problems; and administrative interest in archives is correspondingly lower.

This means that the preservation of administrative records tends to become a pure question of cultural policy at a much faster pace than before.

It seems that an analogous process is developing at the level of the records of the European Community. As long as European cooperation was basically a question of foreign policy for the individual member states, few people thought much about the preservation of the records of the Community as such. Even though the Community has more recently become a strong administrative machine with its own independent life, its archival institutions are still in their infancy, understaffed and with a very limited influence. The highly professional and generally well-functioning national archives of the individual member states are thus facing a situation where decisions over a growing number of matters of vital interest to their own countries are being treated in agencies over whose records they have no authority, and where archival policy is in a rudimentary state. The Danish experience seems to show that it will demand no small amount of energy on the part of the historical community to adapt the existing European archival structure to the demands of new forms of supranational administration.

At the same time, European integration may be expected to spark a sentimental reaction analogous to the strengthening of popular attachment to local history and identity in Denmark in the wake of the municipal reform of 1970. Interest in national history may be expected to augment, and one may be curious to know to what extent this tendency is going to be deflected by the European Community's attempts to break down national antagonisms by promoting a regional policy (*l'Europe des régions*). In any case, a heightened interest in national and regional history may be expected to work to the advantage of pre-existing archives structures at national and provincial levels. It remains to be seen to what extent

such a development will be to the detriment of professional solutions to the pressing ar-

chival problems of the European Community.

What To Be or Not To Be? Evolving Identities for State and Grassroot Archives in Denmark

Abstract: In Scandinavia, a complex set of historical factors has contributed to the state's virtual monopoly on institutionalized archives until fairly recently. The authors reflect upon this tradition as they consider the more recent development of state and local archives in Denmark. Within the last 150 years, voluntary associations have supported the development of local historical collections. The major changes in Denmark's administrative structure within the last twenty-five years have challenged both the state's monopoly of institutionalized, professional archives and the independence and "amateur" status of local historical collections. The authors anticipate an analogous disharmony at the level of the records of the European Community, since there will be a struggle to adapt the existing European archives structure to the demands of new forms of supranational administration.

Quoi être ou ne pas être? Élaboration de l'identité des archives de l'État et les archives du grassroot au Danemark

Résumé: Jusqu'à tout récemment en Scandinavie, un ensemble complexe de facteurs historiques a contribué à l'obtention virtuelle par l'État du monopole des archives institutionnelles. Les auteurs réfléchissent sur cette tradition en considérant les plus récents développements des archives locales et nationales du Danemark. Au cours des cent-cinquante dernières années, des associations volontaires ont supporté l'expansion des collections historiques locales. Depuis les vingt-cinq dernières années, les changements majeurs de la structure administrative ont relevé au Danemark le défi au niveau du monopole de l'État sur les archives institutionnelles, professionnelles ainsi que du statut d'indépendance et "amateur" des collections historiques "régionales." Les auteurs prévoient une incohérence similaire au niveau des documents de la Communauté européenne puisqu'il ne sera pas facile d'adapter la structure existante des archives européennes aux demandes des nouveaux systèmes d'administration supranationale.

Was zu sein oder nicht zu sein? Die sich entwickelnden Identitäten der Staats- und Basis-Archive in Dänemark

Abstrakt: In Skandinavien verschaffte bis vor kurzem eine komplexe Reihe historischer Faktoren dem Staat ein faktisches Monopol bei den institutionalisierten Archiven. Die Autoren stellen Überlegungen zu dieser Tradition an und betrachten die jüngste Entwicklung der staatlichen und kommunalen Archive in Dänemark. Innerhalb der letzten 150 Jahre unterstützten freiwillige Gruppierungen die Entwicklung historischer Kollektionen vor Ort. Die hauptsächlichen Veränderungen in den Verwaltungsstrukturen Dänemarks innerhalb der letzten 25 Jahre stellen sowohl für das Monopol des Staates im Bereich institutionalisierter, professioneller Archive und auch für die Unabhängigkeit und den "Amateur" Status der örtlichen historischen Kollektionen eine Herausforderung dar. Die Autoren antizipieren eine ähnliche Disharmonie bei den Aufzeichnungen der Europäischen Gemeinschaft. Dort wird es ein Ringen geben um eine Anpassung der existierenden europäischen Archivstrukturen an die Anforderungen der neuen Formen supranationaler Verwaltung.

Que ser o que no ser? Identidades en desarrollo para los archivos estatales y los archivos locales arraigados en Dinamarca

Resumen: En Escandinavia un conjunto complejo de factores históricos han contribuido al monopolio virtual del Estado sobre los archivos institucionalizados hasta hace justamente poco tiempo. Los autores reflexionan sobre esta tradición considerando el más reciente desarrollo de los archivos estatales y locales en Dinamarca. Durante los últimos ciento cincuenta años asociaciones voluntarias han mantenido el desarrollo de las colecciones de la historia local. Los mayores cambios en la estructura administrativa de Dinamarca durante los últimos veinticinco años han desafiado tanto al monopolio del estado sobre los archivos profesionales institucionalizados como a la independencia y a la condición de "aficionado" de las colecciones históricas locales. Los autores anticipan una discordancia análoga a nivel de los archivos de la Comunidad Europea, ya que habrá una lucha por adaptar la existente estructura de los archivos europeos a las demandas de nuevas formas de administración supranacional.