

Press and Information Office's Archives

Digital Newspaper Archive

Admittedly, the Press is an important source of information for researchers. The Press' importance is unique, especially if we take into account the minimal publication activity during the last two decades of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century. The Newspaper Archive is registered in a server where many computers have access. The server is equipped with a cutting edge word search engine in Greek: demotic, katharevousa and ancient. In that way, a visitor of the Research Centre can use a computer and conduct their research using the digitalised newspapers.

The digitalised archival material dates from 1878 and covers up to one century, with the total number of pages reaching one million. The potential visitor can conduct their research using a remarkably rich archive. Political newspapers with mostly unknown names (Eleftheria, Eon, Chronos, Patris), or names clearly inspired by the "katharevousa" dialect (Salpingx, Filax), satirical newspapers (Gelio), newspapers run by trade unions (Ergatis) and sports newspapers (Filathlos, Athlitiki Iho) cover many thematic aspects besides politics, the economy and social news. Alongside these...old newspapers, one can find the...new ones, like Phileleftheros, Simerini and Haravgi, as well as the English Cyprus Mail. In the Research Centre, visitors can access a catalogue with all the digitalised newspapers and the exact chronological period that each one covers.

Digital Press Releases Archive

Visitors of the Research Centre can branch their research out to the digitalised Press Releases Archive, courtesy of the Press and Information Office, dating from 1962 and can be found in this website:

<http://www.piopressreleases.com.cy/>

In those Press Releases, one can find presidential and ministerial statements, statements from top state officials as well as all governmental activity, reflecting each government's official policy.

Digital Photography Archive

The Press and Information Office's Photography Archive has a rich collection of photographs dating from 1950 up to today and covers a wide range of the political, economic, cultural and social life in Cyprus.

The Press and Information Office has already started digitalising (scanning) the negatives of the existing Archive in order to edit and file the images, as well as digitalise their captions through the department's register. As the number of photographs is vast and their digitalisation is costly, this progress will be long run and done gradually. At the current stage, researchers visit the Press and Information Office in person.

Web TV / Electronic Versions

The public Web TV, <http://www.cyprusonfilm.com/>, has a collection of over 40 short films, produced by the Press and Information Office, as well as short films produced by other governmental services.

In the website, there are eight thematic sessions: History, Cultural Heritage, Tradition, Political Issues, People, Economy/Tourism, Environment and Miscellaneous. This website, accessible to visitors of the Research Centre, is part of the first phase of digitalisation of the Press and Information Office's Film Archive.

These publications are also important sources of information. The Press and Information Office, making full use of the latest technology in the digital sector and interactive multimedia, produced electronic versions of some publications to accompany their printed versions.

The Press and Information Office started digitalising already the Publications Archive, which will be accessible through a unique online website in the future.

The Centre's role is vital to city's cultural profile

With the exploitation of the Press and Information Office's four Archives, and especially the Newspaper Archive, the Archive's efforts to offer high quality services under the best working conditions possible to the researchers are multiplying.

The Cypriot researcher family will access all the material in an extraordinary beautiful building, surrounded by Limassol's Municipal Gardens. In this way, Pattichion Municipal Museum, Historical Archive and Research Centre, alongside the Press and Information Office's four Archives, are now considered a huge and important research group. Researchers can study Cyprus' history and Limassol's history in particular, under modern and circumstances and specifications, provided by the Archive's Foundation.

Besides the Research Centre's main reason of creation which is research promotion, it aspires to play an important part in Limassol's cultural profile. Lectures, seminars, photograph exhibitions, film screenings and cultural events in particular can be organised at the Centre during afternoon and at night in a modern environment.