Soloviova A.B.
European University Institute

RIGHT TO REMEMBER: ENSURING PUBLIC ACCESS TO ARCHIVES DURING UKRAINE'S ONGOING WAR

The article discusses the issues of ensuring public access to archives during Ukraine's ongoing war. The author claims that despite many advancements in ensuring public access to the archival information, many objectives are currently extremely difficult to achieve due to the ongoing Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The conflict has caused numerous issues related to providing public access and preserving archival information, including threats to national security and the destruction of cultural objects. In conditions of armed conflict, physical damage of archival buildings and documents stored there resulted in the loss of the Ukrainian archival fund. In this context, preserving archival information through digitization of sources has become a critical priority for Ukraine. However, one of the main challenges in this regard include lack of the necessary equipment and adequate training for archive's personnel. To address these issues, Ukrainian archives should prioritize cooperating with foreign organizations, establishing ties with archives in other countries, and participating in state and international grants. Overall, Ukraine has created a comprehensive framework to ensure compliance with Recommendation No. R (2000) 13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on a European policy on access to archives. The article highlights another keys milestone ensuring broader access to the archival materials which was achieved in 2015 with the adoption of a law providing public access to the archives of the repressive bodies of the communist totalitarian regime of 1917–1991. The author concluded that in order to improve access to archival information, it is crucial to launch an initiative for a single archive user account. This initiative would simplify user registration, facilitate the procedure of ordering documents for the reading room and enable the effective booking of reading room places.

Key words: *Ukraine, archives, public access, archival policy, digitization, archival preservation.*

Problem Statement. ***Recommendation No. R (2000) 13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on a European policy on access to archives*** emphasized the importance of adopting the legislation on access to archives [34]. It highlighted that such measures could foster a better understanding of recent European history and contribute to the prevention of conflicts. Since one of Ukraine's priorities today is integration into the European Union, implementing EU recommendations and harmonizing Ukrainian legislation, including in the field of access to archives, is of utmost importance.

Analysis of Recent Research and Publications. The accessibility of archives in Ukraine has been widely studied by scholars. One of the first to analyze the problem of ensuring access to archival information resources was Hennadii Boriak, particularly focusing on the development of archival legislation of Ukraine in the context of ensuring user access to archival information [1]. Konstantin Novokhatsky also researched the organization of intellectual and physical access to documents of the National Archival Fund [18]. Several studies have explored the development of the archives in the digital era, including the online accessibility of the materials and the implementation of modern technological solutions [15; 17; 27; 30]. Additionally, Nataliia Zaletok and Yevheniia Chornomorets have devoted many works to the study of archival science, including those related to the adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to EU standards and the practice of EU countries in the field of its implementation [12]. Over the past two years, a significant number of studies addressed the challenges of access to archival information, its preservation, and digitization in connection with the full-scale war in Ukraine [16].

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has elevated the significance of archival accessibility, making it a matter of national priority. National archival information resources represent one of the most valuable assets of the state, an important component of Ukrainian and world historical and cultural heritage. As Maryna Paliyenko notes, this information could serve as a powerful information weapon in the protection of Ukrainian statehood and national interests, which could be

actively used in political, ideological, and information warfare [19, p. 33].

Formulation of the Article's Objectives. Despite many advancements in ensuring access to Ukraine's archival materials, the ongoing war and its ramifications raised various challenges that often hinder the fulfillment of the right to access the archives. This article examines legislative and practical measures adopted to secure effective access to archives, as well as the steps taken in response to the danger of losing valuable archival information.

Main Findings. Ukraine has made significant progress in developing a legal framework that ensures public access to the archival resources. Article 34 of the Constitution of Ukraine stipulates that everyone has the right to freely collect, store, use and disseminate information orally, in writing or in any other way of their choice. Key provisions are enshrined in various legal acts, including the laws of Ukraine "On Culture", "On Information", "On the National Archival Fund and Archival Institutions". According to Part 4 of Article 8 of the law *On Culture*, citizens have the right to access cultural values by using documents of the National Archival Fund of Ukraine or their copies [9]. This guarantee is further enshrined in the Law *On Information*. The Law provides that the right to information is ensured by creating opportunities for free access to statistical data, archives, libraries, and museum collections [10]. Everyone has the right to unlimited access to information that concerns them personally, as specified in Article 11 "Information about a person".

Furthermore, Article 15 of the law *On the National Archival Fund and Archival Institutions* affirms that citizens of Ukraine have the right to use documents of the National Archival Fund or their copies upon submitting a personal application and an identity document [11]. In addition, this law ensures that foreigners and stateless persons who are legally residing in Ukraine enjoy the same rights of access to documents of the National Archival Fund as citizens of Ukraine. This norm provides equitable access for researchers from other countries, allowing them to study archive materials without requiring any additional documents, such as an official letter from the research institution.

Documents of the National Archival Fund are made available for use in archival institutions from the time of their receipt for storage, while private archival collections – in accordance with the decision of their owners. In case the document is held privately, the state at the legislative level encourages owners of private archival collections to expand access to docu-ments of the National Archival Fund and promotes the publication and exhibition of these documents.

Ukrainian legislation identifies several cases in which access to information may be restricted. These include interests of national security, territorial integrity, or public order; the prevention of disorder or criminal offenses; the protection of public health and the reputation or rights of others; the prevention of the disclosure of information received in confidence; or maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

Certain restrictions arise from the need of archival institutions for scientific and technical processing, verification of the availability and condition or restoration of documents. Article 16 of the *Law of Ukraine on the National Archival Fund and Archival Institutions* determines that in such cases archival institutions have the right to restrict access to documents of the National Archival Fund belonging to the state, territorial communities, for a period of up to one year. If the scope of work is substantial, the restriction period may be extended with the permission of the central executive body responsible for state policy in the field of archival affairs and record keeping. This period, however, should not exceed more than for one year.

The law also provides that if archival documents contain confidential information about a person, as well as pose a threat to the life or inviolability of the home of citizens, access to such documents may be restricted for 75 years from the time of creation of these documents [11]. These provisions aim at providing balance between safeguarding individual rights and ensuring free access to the archival materials. Archival institutions have the right to deny access to documents of the National Archival Fund to minors, persons deemed incompetent by a court, and persons who have grossly violated the procedure for using archival documents. The procedure for using documents of the National Archival Fund explicitly defines "gross violations". These include damage, destruction, forgery, theft of the documents, as well as failure to comply with the deadlines for returning the documents provided for temporary use outside the archive, regardless of which archive this violation was committed. A unique innovation in Ukrainian legislation is the classification of distortion or falsification of information contained in the documents as a "gross violation" [22]. This provision applies to cases involving the organization and conduct of political events, information activities in cooperation with the aggressor state, its occupation administration; when these activities are aimed at supporting the aggressor state, its occupation administration or armed forma-

tions, its avoidance of responsibility for armed aggression against Ukraine, including active participation in such events. This norm, on the one hand, arises from the challenges of the full-scale war, which includes information attacks and the dissemination of disinformation. However, it is also important to determine more specific criteria to define the specified violations of the use of documents, as well as to legislatively clarify the mechanism for controlling and addressing such violations.

Since the law stipulates that archives must notify users of the denial of access to documents of the National Archival Fund, indicating the exhaustive reasons for the denial, the validity of such refusals will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

In general, Ukraine legal framework reflect the country's commitment to transparency. However, as outlined in the *Recommendation No. R (2000)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states* **on a European policy on access to archives,** the term "access" could be understood as the function of archives to make available to users their holdings and as the fulfilment of this function. Therefore, while the regulatory framework provides the basis for ensuring access, it is the organization of the work of archives that allows users to exercise their right to access archival information.

Enhancing online accessibility and quality of archival services. In 2020, the State Archives Service, the central body responsible for implementing state policy in the field of archival affairs and record keeping, presented a draft Strategy for the Development of Archives for the period until 2025. This strategy was developed in alignment with several international laws and recommendations, including the *Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on a European policy of access to archives Nº R (2000) 13*, *the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents*, approved in Tromsø (Norway) on June 18, 2009, and *the Principles of Access to Archives*, approved by the International Council on Archives on August 24, 2012 [28]. The Strategy was collaboratively developed by a working group, which included representatives of the State Archives Service of Ukraine, central state archives, sectoral state archives and state archives of regions of Ukraine. Among the strategic goals outlined, a key goal of the Strategy is to ensure the information needs of society and equal access to information, knowledge, and services. To achieve this, the authors identified three operational objectives: providing online access to archival information resources, retroactive digitizing of archival docu-

ments, and improving the quality and accessibility of archival services. The implementation of this strategy has been reflected in the priorities of the State Archival Service of Ukraine. For example, one of its primary tasks for 2024 is s to simplify the procedure for accessing archival information resources [26]. The importance of developing online access to archival materials became particularly obvious during the pandemic COVID-19 and the full-scale war in Ukraine.

Efforts to provide online access to archives, however, are not new. In the conditions of the rapid development of information technologies, which began in Ukraine in the 2000s and became widespread throughout the country in the 2010s, Ukrainian archives had to quickly adapt to the new requirements of the times, taking care of improving the technical base of institutions, providing employee training in computer skills and searching for new forms and means of disseminating information in society [27, p. 56]. Between 1993 and 2004, Ukrainian archivists began to actively create modern types of archival tools, including annotated registers of descriptions, electronic databases and electronic versions of fund registers, supplementing traditional archival resources, such as descriptions, catalogs, guides, fund reviews, indexes, etc. [32, p. 43].

Most Ukrainian archives now include a special "Electronic Archive" section on their official website, providing remote access to archival documents. This feature has increased the informative openness of the official websites of archival institutions and has also contributed to a significant increase in the number of digitized archival documents and reference materials, such as case descriptions, on the archives' web resources [24]. The website of the Central State Archives of Higher Authorities and Administration of Ukraine, for example, features 600,000 scanned copies of archival documents, which makes up 21 archival funds, as well as some portions of the scientific and reference apparatus of the archive, such as guides and descriptions of funds [33]. In 2023, more than 3.6 million documents from the 20th century from fourteen state archives were digitized as part of a project with the charitable organization *Charitable Foundation Holocaust Memorial "Babyn Yar."* These documents include digital copies of archival materials related to the Babyn Yar tragedy, the period of the occupation of Kyiv from 1941 to 1943, registry office act books, reference files, and district administration funds [25].

For 2024, the State Archival Service of Ukraine identified specific performance indicators in improving the implementation of online access to

archival information. One of these indicators is the expansion of the database for the archival and search project *Ukrainian Martyrology of the 20th Century*. This project, presented by the Head of the State Archival Service of Ukraine, Anatoly Khromov, on November 6, 2020, contains information about victims of repressions from the 1920s to the 1950s [36]. The database includes photos (if available), names, brief description of occupations, dates of life, information about rehabilitation, links to the archives housing investigative files, and other relevant materials. The key advantage of this database is its public accessibility, providing centralized access to archival documents about political repressions. This constantly updated database provides centralized public access to archival documents about political repression.

The success of these initiatives strongly depends on the digitization of documents. The development of electronic archival science dictates new challenges to researchers related to the in-depth development of modern computer technology, methods of using digital technologies in scientific activities and the educational process [15, p. 56]. Therefore, providing online accessibility of the documents requires archival workers to acquire new skills, including in the field of digitization.

Ukrainian archives have been actively digitizing their materials. The State Archives Service reports that during 2023, state archives digitized 571,754 units of collections and regional units of the National Archives of Ukraine as well as 27,488 case descriptions of the National Archives of Ukraine. Compared to 2018 [23], the volume of digitization of National Archives of Ukraine documents increased by 15 times in 2023, and compared to the previous year, 2022, by almost 2.5 times [25].

Despite these efforts, improving the quality of archival services is another crucial aspect that contributes to the accessibility of archival services. In this regard, one of the key initiatives is the possibility of simplified ordering of documents and use of the reading room. The first steps in this direction were the initiatives of individual state archives to reserve visiting times and pre-order cases for reading rooms online [8]. Currently, the majority of the Ukrainian archives require users to book reading room spaces by phone or email. Inquiries about the closest date available and documents pre-order are also processed in the same way. However, the Strategy for the Development of Archival Affairs until 2025 outlines the necessity to create a single online resource featuring users "personal accounts". This initiative would consolidate the process, allowing users to register for the reading room, order documents, pay for different archival services, and maintain an operational dialogue with the archive using online messengers on the unified platform.

Public Access to Soviet Repressive Archives. Another crucial step in ensuring broader access to the archival materials was achieved in 2015 with the adoption of a law providing public access to the archives of the repressive bodies of the communist totalitarian regime of 1917–1991. This period is a significant chapter of Ukraine's history, during which a large number of classified documents was generated and remained inaccessible to the public for decades. The preamble of the law states its accordance with the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on a European policy of access to archives No. R (2000) 13. In addition, legislator highlighted the importance of access to archives, stating that the closure of archives became one of the prerequisites for the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and the military conflict in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Article 2 of the law defines archival information of repressive bodies as any data recorded on any media that was created, received or held in the repressive bodies. It provides a comprehensive list of the repressive bodies, including, for example, the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, the People's Commissariat of State Security, and the People's Commissariat of Justice. Repressive bodies also include their territorial, functional, or structural divisions, officials whose activities were incompatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms of man and citizen.

The activities of these bodies, according to the definition of the law, were characterized by massive violations of human rights in the form of individual and mass murders, executions, deaths, deportations, torture, the use of forced labor, or other forms of physical terror. Repression also entailed persecution on ethnic, national, religious, political, class, social, or other grounds. In addition, repressive activities involved inflicting moral and physical suffering through the misuse of psychiatric drugs for political purposes, violations of freedom of conscience, thought, expression, freedom of the press, and the lack of political pluralism. Regarding the practical side of ensuring access to archival information of repressive bodies, Article 5 of this law mandates that managers of archival information must provide and publish archival information of repressive bodies, as well as to simplify the procedure for obtaining such information as much as possible.

In connection with the adoption of the law, on July 6, 2015, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine issued an order *On Amendments to the Procedure for Using Documents of the National Archival Fund of Ukraine Belonging to the State and Territorial Communities* [21]. This document introduced new obligation for the archives to improve accessibility and transparency. Since 2015, Ukrainian archives must post on their official websites information about employees responsible for ensuring access to archival information of repressive bodies, including their contact details, job titles, surnames, first names and patronymics. In addition, official archives websites are required to include information about existing restrictions on archival information of repressive bodies, the duration of such restrictions, as well as other information necessary for the exercise of an individual's right to access archival information of repressive bodies. Additionally, the websites of state archives provide a list of declassified funds which further facilitates access to the archives of the repressive bodies of the communist totalitarian regime of 1917–1991 [20].

Currently, access to archival information of repressive bodies is provided on a general basis, i.e., upon presentation of an identity document and a completed application. The law prohibits requiring a person to provide any other documents. The law also stipulates that one of the guarantees for ensuring access to archival information is the prohibition on classifying archival information of repressive bodies as secret, confidential or official information.

However, to ensure the protection of sensitive personal information, victims of repressive bodies – those who suffered any persecution, repression, or violation of fundamental rights – has the right to restrict access to archival information of repressive bodies about them. These restrictions may be applied for a period of no more than 25 years and only to the specific about the person imposing the restrictions, not to the document as a whole.

The enactment of this law allowed not only to conduct significant research work on materials that were previously unavailable, but also gave opportunity to relatives of repressed persons to investigate their family history and study the biographies of their ancestors. Having granted public access to this archival information, the law also opened opportunities to dispel enduring "Soviet myths" and explore "blank spots" in the history of Ukraine.

An important tool in improving access to the archives of repressive bodies are guides for researchers, and, most importantly, for citizens whose relatives were repressed and who do not have prior experience working in archives. One of these initiatives was prepared by the Center for Research on the Liberation Movement, within the framework of the project "Access to Archives as a Right to Public Memory". This practical guide provides detailed instruction on how to correctly make a request to the archive, where to start the search and gives practical advice on how to exercise the right to access information contained in the archives of repressive bodies [2].

Ukraine has made significant progress in providing access to documents of Soviet authorities, but there are still some challenges to be addressed. As of 2022, Ukraine ranked 5th overall in the assessment of access to the KGB archives among the countries of the former Soviet Union. According to the Institute for the Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), the top five countries in this ranking included Lithuania (86.81%), Estonia (85%), Latvia (83.23%), Bulgaria (81.25%), Ukraine (80.8%) [35].

IDFI specialists assessed the homogeneity of the legislative framework for state archives, general archival legislation, other laws related to archives, archival services, websites (archival, remote, online services) and the reading room (services and procedures for researchers) in the rating of openness of state archives of post-Soviet countries.

According to the IDFI data, Ukraine has shown significant progress in providing a legislative framework for access to KGB archives (93.06%) and related legal provisions (90.625%). In addition, the development of the archival service also received a high score of 90.48%, indicating that Ukraine has effective archive management and a well-developed infrastructure. However, Ukraine's digital accessibility remains a weak point, with a website score of only 49.29%, which is significantly lower in comparison with the rating leaders such as Estonia (100%) and Lithuania (95.715%).

The evaluators assessed the Central State Archive of the Supreme Authorities and Administration of Ukraine and the Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine and both archives showed low reading room availability. For instance, the Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine the Archive had only 9 places in the reading room and could not host s large number of visitors. The situation has further worsened due to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine as the archive of the Security Service of Ukraine, have been temporarily closed [4]. However, the archive retains the opportunity to send requests for archival information to an email or postal address.

Preserving Access During Wartime. These access limitations correlate with the broader chal-

lenges Ukrainian archival institution face during the wartime. Despite many advancements in ensuring public access to the archival information, many objectives are currently extremely difficult to achieve due to the ongoing Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The conflict has caused numerous issues related to providing public access and preserving archival information, including threats to national security and the destruction of cultural objects. One of the first archival losses after the beginning of full-scale aggression on February 24 was the archival department of the Security Service of Ukraine Department in Chernihiv region, where more than 12 thousand files of the former KGB were stored [31]. These documents contained archival information related to the repressive policy of the Soviet authorities towards the Ukrainian population, including orders, correspondence, personal and agent files of the Soviet special services.

As of 2024 document losses due to a full-scale invasion in Ukraine amount to 0.3% of the total volume of the National Archival Fund [29]. According to Anatoly Khromov, the greatest losses and damage to cultural values were suffered by state archives located in temporarily occupied, deoccupied territories and territories of active hostilities and adjacent territories [4]. In 2023, hostile shelling greatly damaged the buildings of state archival institutions in Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, and Kherson regions. In this context, preserving archival information through digitization of sources has become a critical priority for Ukraine. In conditions of armed conflict, physical damage of archival buildings and documents stored there resulted in the loss of the Ukrainian archival fund. As Lyubov Dubrovina, Director General of Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, noted in her report at the online Conference of European National Libraries in Ankara in June 2022: "the lack of powerful modern equipment for digitizing our collections is a direct threat to cultural heritage during wartime [7].

Under these challenging conditions, the creation of the information resource "Interarchival Search Portal" on the ARCHIUM platform represent an extremely positive and significant development. This website brings together the electronic resources of state archives, and thematic digital collections in a single search space. To date, this resource includes 10 million scanned copies of archival documents from the funds of the Central State Archive of Higher Authorities and Administration of Ukraine, the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Kyiv, the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lviv, the Central State Archive of Public Associations and Ukrainian Studies, the Central State Archive-

Museum of Literature and Art of Ukraine, the state archives of Kirovohrad, Lviv, Poltava regions, the archive of the ZUNR and other archival repositories of Ukraine [3].

Several central archives have already joined or are in the process of joining the ARCHIUM platform. However, the implementation of electronic services in state archival institutions is still uneven, especially at the regional level. The greatest difficulties arise in regional archival institutions, since their development, material and technical condition directly depend on the policy of regional state administrations [13, p. 37]. In 2022, specialists from the Department of Archival Studies of the Ukrainian Research Institute of Archival and Document Studies (ARCHIUM) conducted a survey of central and regional archival institutions on the experience of implementing electronic archival services as part of the research work "*Research on the Theoretical and Practical Principles of Implementing Electronic Services in Archival Institutions of Ukraine*". The survey revealed that 7 archives reported plans to join the resource, although 2 of them will join only if funds are available to purchase software. Natalia Zaletok and Yevhenia Chornomorets note that for the regional archives, the main obstacle for joining "ARCHIUM" is the lack of funds for purchasing a license, equipment, hiring qualified specialists, as well as lack of detailed information about the comprehensive informatization system [13, p. 33]. However, the fact that the project was launched in 2022 and continues to develop during the war demonstrates Ukraine's strong commitment to improving the accessibility of its archival resources even in wartime. Today, most Ukrainian archives continue their activities despite the significant challenges, including air raids, bombings, power outages, lasting up to eight hours daily, as well as a lack of personnel. In addition, the digitization of archives requires significant financial resources, both for the digitization and online storage. Lidia Yaremenko observes that due to the lack of necessary equipment, almost all archival departments experience difficulties in creating digital copies of documents [33]. Under such conditions, establishing cooperation with foreign partners becomes of utmost importance. As Yaroslav Kalakura rightly observes, approaching the standards of Western archival practice and archival science, cooperation with foreign partners remains a priority task for Ukrainian archivists, taking into account Ukraine's acquisition of candidate status for EU membership [14, p. 40]. It is unsurprising that one of the key tasks of the State Archival Service of Ukraine for 2024 is securing international humanitarian aid and financial resources from the donor community to support the activities of state archival institu-

tions under martial law. This initiative is identified as one of the main tasks for ensuring open and universal access to the national archival heritage.

On June 2, 2020, the Head of the Ukrainian State Archives, Anatoliy Khromov, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between the State Archival Service of Ukraine and the FamilySearch International Corporation (USA), the purpose of which is to digitize documents of the National Archival Fund of Ukraine of a genealogical nature and create a user fund for such documents. As part of this cooperation, several state archives of Ukraine have signed agreements to facilitate the digitization of genealogical archival records [5]. For example, as part of cooperation with FamilySearch, the State Archives of Poltava Region digitized and exhibited 304,309 files from its holdings [6].

However, even with such initiatives, archives in regions close to the front line, for objective reasons, cannot fully continue digitization work. Due to the full-scale war, in 2022, Mykolaiv region state archive had to suspend its activities of digitizing the genealogical documents in cooperation with the FamilySearch International, with the equipment relocated outside the region. After conducting restoration work in the digitization laboratory, in May 2023 the archive resumed work on the project, equipping one workplace [16, p. 28].

Conclusions. Despite the extensive legal framework that theoretically ensures users' access to archival information, Ukraine experiences difficulties in the practical implementation of the right to access archives. In modern conditions, the digitization of archives and their storage on online platforms has become an absolute priority. By taking active steps in digitization, the state would be able to preserve online copies of documents in the event of the destruction of physical archives. Additionally, resources like ARCHIUM could optimize archival digitization, particularly at the regional level. Including more regional archival data as well as data from central archives will not only safeguard the documents, but also optimize the search for records and facilitate access to archival information. However, today Ukraine still lacks funding to purchase the necessary equipment and provide adequate training for its personnel. To address these issues, Ukrainian archives should prioritize cooperating with foreign organizations, establishing ties with archives in other countries, and participating in state and international grants.

To improve access to archival information, it is also crucial to launch an initiative for a single archive user account. This system would facilitate user registration, simplify the procedure of ordering documents for the reading room and enable the effective booking of reading room places. Implementing these measures would support effective time management for both users and archival staff as well as ensure broader access to Ukrainian historical archives.

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Соловйова А.Б. ПРАВО ПАМ'ЯТАТИ: ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ГРОМАДСЬКОГО ДОСТУПУ ДО АРХІВІВ В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ В УКРАЇНІ

У статті розглядаються питання забезпечення доступу громадян до архівів під час війни в Україні. Автор стверджує, що незважаючи на численні досягнення в забезпеченні доступу громадськості до архівної інформації, багато цілей наразі надзвичайно важко досягти через повномасштабне вторгнення росії в Україну. Війна спричинила численні виклики щодо забезпечення публічного доступу до архівної інформації та її збереження, зокрема загрози національній безпеці та руйнування культурної спадщини. В умовах збройного конфлікту фізичне пошкодження архівних приміщень і документів призвело до втрат Національного архівного фонду України. У цьому контексті оцифрування архівних джерел стало пріоритетним завданням для України. Однак ключовими проблемами залишаються нестача необхідного обладнання та недостатня підготовка архівного персоналу. Для подолання цих викликів першочерговими завданнями українських архівів є співпраця з міжнародними організаціями, зміцнення зв'язків з архівними установами інших країн і залучення державних та міжнародних грантів. Загалом Україна створила комплексну правову основу для забезпечення дотримання Рекомендації № R (2000) 13 Комітету міністрів держав-членів щодо європейської політики доступу до архівів. У статті також висвітлюється ще одна ключова віху у розширенні доступу до архівних матеріалів – ухвалення у 2015 році закону про забезпечення публічного доступу до архівів репресивних органів комуністичного тоталітарного режиму 1917–1991 років. Авторка дійшла висновку, що для покращення доступу до архівної інформації вкрай важливо впровадити ініціативу єдиного облікового запису користувача архіву. Ця ініціатива сприятиме спрощенню реєстрації користувачів, полегшенню процедури замовлення документів до читального залу та ефективному бронюванню місць у читальному залі.

Ключові слова: *Україна, архіви, публічний доступ, архівна політика, оцифрування, архівне збереження.*