

# The Formation of State Archives in Uzbekistan: A Historical Overview

Iskandarova Shohsanam Isoyevna  
*Navoi Innovations University, Navoi, Uzbekistan*

**Keywords:** Archival Fund, Archival Documents, Market Relations, Regional Archives, Archival Work, Scientific and Information Apparatus, Information and Communication.

**Abstract:** This article examines the development and organization of archival work in the Uzbek SSR. It covers the creation of legal frameworks, the establishment of republican and regional archives, and the efforts to ensure the free operation of archives within the republic. The article highlights the initiatives taken to strengthen the material and technical foundations of these archives. Additionally, it provides an analysis of the current state of archives in Uzbekistan, focusing on how historical practices have influenced present conditions. This study underscores the importance of archival systems in preserving the nation's history and the ongoing challenges in maintaining and improving these systems. By tracing the evolution of archives from the Soviet era to the present day, the article offers insights into the progress and issues facing archival institutions in Uzbekistan today.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Analysis of archives and issues related to archival work are of great importance in the study of history.

First, if we talk about the term "archive", different definitions have been given to this term by local and foreign authors. In particular, the first paragraph of the work written by the foreign archivist scientist Craig Robertson (Media History and the Archive. - New York. Routledge, 2011) is called Thoughts about the Archive and Lines about history. In this work, the author defines the concept of an archive as follows. "In recent years, the concept of archive has become a constant topic for scientific analysis by people who are not archivists. Of course, there is no husband to be surprised by this. Because, in their research, scientists began to look at the archive as a permanent source, a science" (Craig, 2011).

Another archivist scientist in his research critically approaches the concept of the archive and gives the following points: "An archive is a place where anyone who uses it can easily find the information they need, and is in a position to guarantee the accuracy, history, and impact of this information on users. must be. Graig Roberson cites another archivist scholar's definition of an archive.

The archive is a "house of real documents" (Antonina, 2005).

## 2 ANALYSIS

The emergence of writing constantly developed archival work. According to the researchers, the emergence of writing was caused by such factors as the need to have complete information in the ruling circle and the local society, to convey it or to restore the initial state. For example, in the beginning, the relations between the states were conducted verbally. The messages of any ruler were delivered orally by special messengers. As a result of this, there were many cases where the chapter used his psychological arguments, added redundant words, or forgot some words. As a result, 10 information and messages are not fully delivered, or the possibilities of correct reception are limited. In many cases, such exchange of information caused mutual misunderstandings between the parties. In addition, verbal agreements in foreign and domestic policy (drafting of agreements, announcement of government decrees) did not allow separate clarify some facts and details of those agreements after a certain time. One of the oldest types of writing in Central Asia is the Aramaic script,

which was widespread during the Achaemenid period. Akhundjanov E.A. according to research, in Central Asia at different historical stages, BC. From the III century, there were three different types of writing:

- Aramaic writing (writings based on Khorezm, Parthian, Sogdian, Middle Persian, Manichean, and Old Turkish)
- Inscriptions based on Greek graphics (Greek and Greco-Bactrian inscriptions)
- Indian scripts (kharoshthi, Brahmi).

After the conquest of Central Asia by the Arab caliphate and the transition to Arabic graphic writing, in addition to the reforms in the state administration, the collection and storage of documents in the palace and private archives, as well as in the offices - divan, library, and madrasas - were started. year. It is known that the Arab caliph relied on the Wazir-ul-Wuzara (Prime Minister) in the administration of the state. Various issues of state importance are considered in the advisory board. In turn, the Diwan Ad-Dar is divided into three main Diwans: al-Mashriq, al-Maghrib, and al-Kharaj. The Arabs adopted such a system of divans from the Sasanians of Iran, and the term divans means accounting and office. For example, tax documents in Iran are made in triplicate. One copy of them was kept in the royal cabinet, the second was sent to the responsible official, and the third had to be kept in the qazi of that area. The royal court is also called "the court where seals are placed", and this term was also used in the Arab era.

It is known that at the beginning of the 16th century, the nomadic Uzbeks led by Shaibani Khan captured Movarounnahr and Khurasan, put an end to the rule of the Timurid princes, and founded their centralized state in this huge area. In 1583, during the reign of Abdullah Khan II, Bukhara was strengthened as the capital of the Shaybani state, and the territories subordinated to the political, administrative, and economic centre began to be called the Khanate of Bukhara. Later, during the reign of Amir Shahmurad (1785-1800), a representative of the Mangite dynasty, this khanate was called the Bukhara Emirate, the new rulers officially began to rule with the title of "Amir", and this state remained in history under the name of the Bukhara Emirate. There were 34 very complex state administrations in the Emirate of Bukhara. From the 16th century to the beginning of the 20th century, three dynasties ruled the Emirate of Bukhara: The Shaibanis, the Ashtarkhanis, and the Mangits. Their administrative management system was built based on the administration inherited from Amir Timur and the Timurid state, with some changes made to the traditions typical of nomadic Uzbeks. At first, the

system of dargahs and devans, which existed in the Timurid state, was continued in the Emirate of Bukhara. During Shaibani Khan's reign, the system of divans was reformed, and most of the tasks related to them were given to special officials in the dargah. Including, the task of delivering decrees of the Supreme Ruler, honorifics, and other official documents to the responsible persons and ensuring their execution is entrusted to the "parvanachi". Accepting, registering, and responding to applications and complaints sent to the Dargah is the duty of "dodkhoh". Various forms and methods of state administration are used in the administrative management system of the emirate. The state was ruled by the Amir, who had absolute legislative and executive power. Political, economic, religious, and other issues related to the life of the state were decided in the headquarters in Bukhara-Ark. From time to time, from 5 to 20 highest officials were members - very important issues were considered in the State Council. In state administration, the Amir relied more on state institutions such as the state court, tax obligations, religious courts, and surveillance. Various state agencies were responsible for the execution of the orders of a supreme ruler, and in turn, they controlled each other.

According to the information of K.V. Muhsinova, a scientific employee of the MDA of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in 1949, he conducted scientific and technical activities on the documents of the Bukhara Emir Kushbegi archive. Every letter in the Emirate was stamped with the author's name, date and seal. However, since the stamp was made to order in the first year of the official's appointment, the date indicated in the document did not always correspond to the content of the letter and the actual date, because he used the same stamp even after several years. On the other hand, when he prepared the Khatami, the author did not sign it, according to the customs of that time, it was considered disrespectful to sign after the name of the god and the emir. Except for high religious officials: judges, chairmen, and, in some cases, governors of prestigious regions, they are allowed to indicate their names on documents.

It is known that the second half of the 19th century was a time when the fate of the peoples of Central Asia took a sharp and tragic turn. In 1873, the protectorate of the Russian Empire was established over the Khanate of Khiva, and the Imperial Administration Council (Devon) was introduced to supervise the activities of the Khanate and the Khanate. The members of the Council consisted of 7 people, four of whom were representatives of the Russian administration and three consisted of the

Khiva khanate (the khan himself, devanbegi, and mehtar). The chairman of Devon is Khan. Important decisions taken by him had to be approved by the Governor General of Turkestan. As a result of the division of the Khanate of Khiva into two independent administrative units, the devan system was abolished. According to the 1886 "Regulations on the Administration of Turkestan Territory", the Amudarya department was included in the Syrdarya region and was subordinated to the military governor of the region. He could use the rights and obligations of the extended head of the district in terms of civil administration to appoint and release officials to the local administration and people's court. His assistant and court functioned under the head of the department. It is known that the Russo-Khiva treaty (1873) preserved the structure of the administrative state in the khanate. In the territory left to him, the Khan of Khiva, like the emir of Bukhara, retained unlimited power within the Khanate. In the Khanate palace, there was a group of officials who performed the same duties as in the Bukhara Emirate. The position and level of this or that official in the power system is determined by his proximity to the khan. According to the decree of the Khan himself, various public positions in the palace were distributed, and in many cases, these positions were inherited from generation to generation.

According to the period we are studying - in the administrative management system of the Kokand Khanate, officials are divided into two categories: "umaro" - officials responsible for "worldly" affairs and "ulama" - religious officials. At first, the hierarchy of khanate management was built on the model of administrative management in the Bukhara Emirate. Later, because of the establishment of administrative-state institutions in the khanate, changes took place in the management system. Among them, the position of qushbegi - the position of Prime Minister of the khanate - is given to Mingboshi. Mingboshi was a high-ranking official in the khanate, he managed all the internal affairs of the khanate, and at the same time, he was considered the khan's main advisor in foreign policy. The management of the khanate was assigned to the devanbeg, who oversaw the khan's cabinet. By the 50s and 60s of the XIX century, this position was transferred to the discretion of the Mirzaboshi. Devonbegi was subordinated to all officials below the mirza. Devonbegi was responsible not only for administration, taxation, and financial affairs, but also for military matters, such as leading military campaigns, assigning allowances and rewards to soldiers, negotiating with the enemy, concluding a

peace treaty, accounting for taxes from waqf land to the treasury, and various things presented to the khan by the local people. also applies to various gifts. According to A.L. Troiskayan, the report in the notebook was copied from the patta. It was sent from Patta Khan's office to the village administration and residents as information on land taxes. These pattas were sent to tax collectors and were kept by them, sometimes affixed to notebooks as proof of information.

The establishment of state archives in Uzbekistan is directly related to the history of the Uzbek SSR. It was from this period that separate state archives began to be established. In 1924, because of the national judiciary demarcation in Central Asia, Soviet republics were established. Archive documents were divided among the newly created republics in the following order. Archival funds of Central Asian and Union importance are stored in the Central State Archives of Central Asia - Tashkent. Archival funds of each republic will be given to this republic. The fund of the Unified State Archive of the Republic of Turkestan was divided in this way - Abdurazzokh Samarkandi (1960). On December 28, 1924, by a special decision, the Central Department of Archives of the Uzbek SSR was established under the MITK of the USSR. All regional archival funds established on the territory of Uzbekistan were handed over to the Central Department of Archival Affairs of the USSR. Also, archival funds of Central Asian importance were handed over to the Archives Department of Uzbekistan because the central state archive of Central Asia was not established. These Central Asian archival funds were created in Tashkent.

Thus, not only documents related to the history of the republic but also materials related to the entire history of Central Asia began to be stored in the archive of the USSR. On July 22, 1925, by the decision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Ussr, the regulation "On the Central Department of Archive Work of the Ussr" was approved. According to this regulation, the Unified State Archive Fund (YaDAF) was established in the republic. It was indicated that the archives of government, trade, industry, cooperatives, and trade union organizations, as well as religious and personal archives were included in this fund.

Regional archive bureaus were established in the regions (in 1925 - Fergana, Samarkand, Tashkent, Zarafshan, in 1926 - Khorezm, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya). As a result of national territorial demarcation in Central Asia and due to the dissolution of the republics of Turkestan, Bukhara, and Khorezm, the state agencies of these republics

accepted archival materials and took them to the capital of the republic, Samarkand. In January 1925, archival materials in about 50,000 storage units were handed over to the Central Department of Archives. In 1925-1929, 134 archival funds were received as part of the work of integrating the state archives with archival materials. In 1929, the Central Department of Archives received 863 archival funds and 764,000 collective volumes ("Letter of Temuriya". Manuscript fund of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the UzFA. No. 2278).

924 archival funds and 994,000 collective volumes are kept in regional archives. On April 9, 1930, by the decision of the Presidium of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Ussr, the Central Department of Archives of the Ussr was renamed the Central Archive Department of the Ussr. With the increasing number of archives of the Soviet era, based on the decision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the USSR in April 1929, the State Archive Fund was divided into pre-revolutionary and Soviet-era archive funds by origin, and central and local archive funds by importance. On May 20, 1931, the MIK of the USSR adopted a decision on the regulation of the Central Archive Department of the USSR and its local offices. The Central State Archive of the October Revolution of the USSR and the Central State History Archive were established under the Central Archives Department of the USSR. In July 1934, by the decision of the MIK of the USSR, the Military Archives of Uzbekistan was established as part of the Central Archive Department of Uzbekistan (Bobokulov B. Theory and practice of archival work. Study guide. - T., 2011). In 1945, this archive was closed, and all archival funds were transferred to the Central State Archive of the Red Army of the USSR in Moscow.

In 1939, the archival organizations of the republic were transferred from the MIK of the USSR to the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR (IIXK - NKVD). In this regard, the Archive Department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR was established instead of the Central Archive Department of the USSR. As a result of steps taken to improve archival work, by 1936, 1,534 archive funds and 1 million 001 thousand 680 documents were kept in the archives of the republic. By 1941, the number of funds reached 4116, and documents exceeded 1 million 580 thousand 450 storage units. Despite the difficult times of the war years, the government of the republic did a lot of work in the field of improving the archive. On February 18, 1943, the Central State Archive of Film-Photo-Phono-Documents of the USSR was established by

the decision of the Central State Archive of the USSR. The work of filling archives with documents was continued. In 1941-1942, 0.5 (half) million documents were received in the state archives of the republic. In 1944-1945, documents were received in 48,000 storage units. But the paperwork was very slow.

In the post-war years, a lot of work was done in the field of organizing existing archival funds. In 1945-1951, about 280,000 storage units were organized - Abduvahobova M.R. et al., 2006. The index of the Central State Historical Archive of the USSR has been prepared, and work has begun on the index of the Central State Archive of the October Revolution of the USSR. In addition, a review bulletin of more than 10 archival funds was compiled, and thematic reviews were written. On October 14, 1963, the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a decision "On measures to improve archival work in the USSR". This decision played an important role in improving the work of departmental archives, that is, archives of organizations. According to him, it is planned to complete the regulation of office archives within 2-3 years, to transfer permanently stored documents to state archives, to place the archives themselves and their documents in buildings suitable for safe keeping, and to provide them with qualified personnel. In 1964, a new building was built and commissioned for MDA. In 1970, a special building was built for the Cinema-Photo-Phono-Documents MDA of the USSR. A lot of work was done in the field of receiving documents to the state archives. In 1946-1955, documents in more than 600,000 storage units were received from the archives of ministries and agencies. By the decision of the Council of Ministers dated May 9, 1961, the Archives Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan was reorganized as the Archives Department under the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan.

Based on this decision, local archival organizations were reorganized into Archive departments of the Council of Ministers of the Karakalpakstan ASSR and regional executive committees. The transfer of archival organizations to the control of the Council of Ministers and the executive committees of the regions increased their role in the system of the state apparatus and started a new stage in the development of archival work. Archival organizations paid great attention to the examination of the value of documents and the completion of state archives with them. The state archives of the republic have drawn up lists of organizations, institutions, and enterprises whose

documents are accepted, and which are not accepted, and now, based on this list, they are accepting documents from the state archives. The tasks of the expert review commissions of state archives have changed radically. In 1986-1990, a lot of work was done in the field of integration of state archives. In 1990, the number of archival sources reached 9,576 across the country. In 1986-1990, 635,000 permanent collections were accepted into the state archives of the republic. In 1962, the central state archive of medical documents of Uzbekistan was established in Tashkent. In 1990, the branches of republican archival organizations were the Main Archive Department under the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the Archive Department under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, archive departments of 11 regional executive committees, 3 central state archives, the Central State of the Republic of Karakalpakstan archive, 11 regional archives, more than 40 regional state archives branches- Ahmedov B. Sources of the history of Uzbekistan.

After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained its independence, from the very first days, it paid great attention to the archive institutions, which store invaluable documents that reflect the history and past of not only the republic but also the Central Asian region. Undoubtedly, the state archive and the works related to its organization have gained importance.

Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Archive Work" adopted on June 15, 2010, defines the term archive as follows. An archive is an institution that collects, records, stores, and uses archival documents.

So, the organization that collects, sorts, and protects all sources and documents related to the social, political, economic, spiritual, and cultural life of the country is the archives.

In the study of the history of Uzbekistan, archival documents and records stored in the archives are of great importance. The dates and scenes of the past are reflected and revealed through reliable original documents stored in archives as the first primary sources. So, archival documents are history, a living past, without which we cannot imagine our yesterday, today, or tomorrow; we can do Every moment, day, month, and year of history mentioned in the documents, it tells the story of the event that happened. When we see the ancient Uzbek land, the life and past of our people in the archive documents, sometimes we are surprised, sometimes we feel sad, sometimes our pride increases. That is why archival documents are an invaluable historical treasure of our nation. Archive documents are never destroyed, they

are kept forever (Jumayev U. History of archival work in Uzbekistan: study guide for undergraduate students. – Tashkent (2016).

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, from the first days of independence, the necessary work was carried out for the free operation of this organization. According to the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 31, 1991, from September 1, 1991, the Central State Archive of the USSR was renamed the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan is considered a republic-wide institution and is subordinate to the "Ozarkhiv" agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. On July 6, 1992, according to the agreement of the heads of the CIS countries, considering the integrity and indivisibility of archival funds, the funds kept in state archives were left at the disposal of each republic - Rashidov (2019).

The independence of the Uzbek people and the transition to market relations led to fundamental changes in all areas of our society, including the restoration of cultural heritage, the development of history, and archival sciences. Due to the transition to market relations, expropriation, and privatization of property, several state-owned industrial enterprises, transport, and construction, household service, and trade enterprises were privatized, and a class of owners began to form. Archive funds and archival documents of non-state industries, construction enterprises, farms, trade unions, charitable and other foundations, political parties and movements, and religious organizations have established a non-state archive fund. State and non-state archival funds were transformed into the National Archives Fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan (UzR MAF).

Under the conditions of independence, complex programs for improvement and development of the main areas of archive work were developed and implemented by the "Ozarkhiv" agency. These programs are designed in the following directions and are designed for five years: ensuring departmental storage of documents, improving their state accounting and scientific information apparatus, and accelerating the use of archival documents.

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In 2010, the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a standard entitled "Restavratsiya arxivnyx dokumentov na bumajnyx nositelyakh" and "Polozhenie o poryadke proveniya ekspertsii tsennosti dokumentov organizatsiy, predpriyatiy i uchrejdeniy" and "Recommendation o poryadke uporyadocheniya dokumentov predpriyatiy, uchrejdeni i organizatsiy" documents were prepared and approved by the scientific council under the Agency.

In 2012, the Agency developed "Model Regulations on Electronic Archives", "Regulations on the Procedure for Document Valuation Expertise" and "Enterprises whose archival documents must be submitted to state archives", the Regulation on the procedure for compiling the list of institutions and organizations" was registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan. At the same time, the state standard "Terms and definitions for archival work and administration" was developed and registered in the "Uzstandart" agency.

To improve the work of the national archives, the qualifications of local archival departments, heads, and specialists of regional state archives, departmental archives, and clerical staff have been regularly improved. In 2007, the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Central State Archive of Film and Sound Documents "Modern Archival Work and Work" were organized to improve the skills of the heads of the archives of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and Tashkent city, managers and specialists of the regional state archives. methods", "Introduction of information and communication technologies to archival work" special training courses- Alimov (2015).

### 3 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, now there are more than 80 state archives in the Republic of Uzbekistan, in which more than 6 million collective volumes of documents are preserved. These documents are widely used by historians, researchers, students, and other specialists in scientific and cultural educational work.

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