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INTRODUCTION

Despite the centuries-old history and tradition of statehood in Georgia, the history of archives in the country is only traced back to the 19th century. There are complex causes for this issue: the frequent wartime periods of the middle- and late Medieval era were accompanied by mass destruction that involved loss of the documentary legacy of Georgian kingdoms. During the comparatively belated modernisation of the society in the second half of the 19th century, the process of identifying and researching sources and artefacts of national history in the realm of the Imperial Russian policy was tied to significant difficulty.

Further part of the sources were destroyed during the large and radical experiments following the establishment of the Soviet totalitarian regime in the 20th century. As a result, identifying the nature and practice of preservation and accounting of written legacy in Georgian kingdoms over the centuries became a rather difficult task, leaving this part of history completely separated from the one in archival institutions of the new era.

ARCHIVAL WORK FROM THE ANCIENT HISTORY TO THE ANNEXATION OF GEORGIAN KINGDOMS BY THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE

There has been no fundamental attempt made for studying the historical backdrop of archival work in the feudal-era Georgia: no sufficient monographic work of the subject can be found. There are only two to three minor works allowing us to picture the archive system of the old times in very vague image via scarce sources – in particular, fragmented notes preserved in old historical chronicles or judicial documents.

The history of the archival field in Georgia can be dated back to the early Middle Ages: a passing mention of a documentary vault at a Georgian royal court can be found in a note by Procopius of Caesarea, in which ambassadors of the Kingdom of Lazica, in their talks with the King of Persia, indicate an existence of documents illustrating positive historical relations between the two state entities, in royal vaults of sovereigns from both sides.

In the feudal era developing during the Middle Ages, documents (letters, deeds, proceeds, etc) of the royal court of the united Georgia were stored within the royal treasury, supposedly in a specifically organised vault.

Between this era and the late Middle Ages, the system of preserving secular written documentation probably did not undergo significant changes in either the united kingdom of Georgia or the subsequently separated principalities. Changes only related to terminology, due to domination of different foreign languages in various historical periods.

Based on this, we could state with reasonable accuracy that archival documents were preserved in royal treasury (storehouse-depository), which was initially referred to as satchurtchle and later as zardakhana.

The vault of written documents itself was probably initially designated with the Persian term devan, which was later replaced with the term godori/sagodre, with the latter denoted as a documentary vault in the old judicial monument of crucial significance – The Arrangement of the Court of the Ruler. The servant in charge of the vault was referred to as megodre.

The etymology of the term supposedly relates to the essence of the same treasury. The term satchurtchle was a derivative of the word tchurtcheli, used to describe as a depository of various types of items. The term zardakhana was of similar definition. In turn, godori denotes a vessel made from wand, which did not necessarily refer to its contemporary specific definition and could have meant a box or similar vessel, made from a lightweight wooden material and used for storing documents.

In the later epochs, a vault of royal documents was referred to as davtarkhani.

The sources also bear fragmented notes on existence of royal book repositories or libraries, however their scale and level of organisation is unclear as well. The historical practice of depositing and preserving documents and libraries – known as Book Vaults – of church institutions is not studied either. These subjects of research are compounded by that of family documents and book vaults of influential feudals.

The significance granted to the importance of preservation and protection of royal- and state documentation and historical material in the Medieval Georgia is testified by the fact that in Book of Law by Vakhtang VI, destruction of deeds (documents) is considered a state crime.

The most recent, tragic episode of large-scale destruction of Georgian historical sources took place following the capture and pillaging of Tbilisi by Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar in 1795, resulting in destruction of the palace of King Erekle II, along with its storehouse and the documentation and book vault preserved in it.

ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVAL WORK IN THE CAUCASUS UNDER IMPERIAL RUSSIAN RULE

Starting in the 19th century, alongside the annexation of the kingdoms of Kartli-Kakheti and Imereti and subsequent transformation of the entire South Caucasus into an imperial province of the Russian Empire, the newly instituted governorate- and provincial-level direction and administration also brought with it the necessity of incorporating systematic and centralised character of official documents and their long-term preservation. Along with this, the local imperial administration launched both the ethnographic research of the Caucasus and establishment of necessary relevant sources, and a process of documenting the history of its own political actions. This resulted in establishment and development of vaults for historical and ethnographic sources.

The maiden archival institution and vault was created at the Chancellery of the Viceroy of the Caucasus in the early 1800s. Accordingly, institutional archives were launched at various state establishments. The documentary legacy of the latter would shift to new institutions or was handed to the principal archival vault in Tiflis in cases of the dissolution or restructuring of these establishments. This period is notable for the emergence of the significant and rich archival fonds such as the archives of the Chancellery of the Viceroy of the Caucasus and the Royal Deputy of the Caucasus, archives of the Main Staff and the Military District of the Caucasus, the Archive of the Principal of the Princes and Counts of the Tiflis Governorate, the Archive of the Municipality of the Deputies of the Princes and Counts of Tiflis, the Archive of the Diplomatic Chancellery of the Royal Deputy of the Caucasus, governorate archives and more.

Starting in 1817, the highest church administration of the Russian Empire in the Caucasus – the Synodal Office of Georgia and Imereti – began collecting historical church documentation in the form of deeds and manuscripts. Located in Tiflis, the archive was designated its own archivarius from 1824, however already by the late 19th century the practice of cataloguing, depositing and preserving of the material at the venue could not live up to any scrutiny.

The year 1864 saw the establishment of the Archeographic Commission of the Caucasus, which had a dual task of identifying and studying sources detailing historical, geographic and ethnographic profile of the Caucasus, and document the »civic administration« of the region by Russia. The commission worked until 1917, publishing Collections of Decrees (12 volumes in total). The collected documentation was preserved at the archives of the institution.

Near the late 19th century, in parallel to the imperial archival structures, civic and scientific alternative organisations began to emerge. These institutions also began searching for and systematising historical remains, artefacts and documentary sources, resulting in emergence of libraries and archival units at these organisations as well as demand for relevant professions.

Established in 1879, the Society for the Spreading of Literacy among Georgians considered the significance of preserving historical documentary heritage, along with its principal educational mission, from the very beginning. Over the years, the Reading Hall and Museum of the organisation became a repository of historical deeds and print publications. By 1915 the society had collected 1956 historical manuscripts, 1341 deeds, 4058 Georgian and 5185 foreign-language print publications. The organisation also worked to publish these sources following their scientific processing.

Starting in 1888, the Vault of the Antiquities of Tiflis operated in the city before it was transformed into the Church Museum, while another institution that made significant contribution to identification and scientific study of historical sources was the Historical-Ethnographic Society of Georgia, founded in 1907. The latter had collected 15239 old historical documents, 4018 artefacts, 2705 Georgian and 9784 foreign-language print publications by the 1920s. In the same period, archives of the above-mentioned societies, as well as historical documents separated from other official archives, were handed over to the Department of Manuscripts at the State Museum of the Georgian SSR – subsequently transformed into today’s National Centre of Manuscripts – during the 1930s.

In parallel to these developments, starting on the boundary of the 19th and 20th centuries, the identification of historical documentation and creation of documentary fonds saw contributions by individual citizens – researchers and educators whose private libraries and documentary collections later became archival and library fonds of great value. Of particular importance was the contribution of Isidore Kvitsaridze – a Kutaisi-based educator, publisher, bibliophile and owner of Imereti Book Office – who gathered and organised a collection of Georgian periodical publications that became the core of the library fonds of the Georgian-language press in the 1920s.

THE QUESTION OF ARCHIVES IN THE 1918-1921 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Following the disintegration of the Russian Empire in 1917 and the proclamation of Georgia's independence in 1918, efforts for building new state institutions and ensuring social stability were launched in conditions of deep crisis. The catastrophic results of World War I, the constant wartime conditions in the South Caucasus following the conflict and the perpetual defensive efforts in the Georgian Republic – particularly throughout 1918-1919 – made the task of a fundamental restructuring of the rattled state apparatus difficult, with the issue naturally also extending to archives of state institutions. Unfortunately no research can be found today that would cover the archival reform and policy in the First Democratic Republic of Georgia between 1918-1921 in fundamental fashion and using original sources. Most of the notes are found in materials dating back to the 1920s, which carry significant bias due to their origins in the Bolshevik dictatorship and by being designed with the aim of discrediting the Democratic Republic.

The Democratic Republic began to adopt fundamental legislative frames and contribute to institutional development in all fields of public life in 1920, on the backdrop of comparative stabilising of the foreign and internal political circumstances. On April 23, 1920 the Constituent Assembly of Georgia adopted a decree about the founding of the Central Scientific Archive of the Republic of Georgia, with Petre Geleishvili – a member of the assembly, long-time Social-Democratic Party figure and renown publicist – appointed as its manager. Geleishvili worked as an underground archivist of the Social-Democratic Party of Georgia until 1917, making the peculiarities and issues of the professional field of archive a familiar subject for him. The Central Scientific Archive received the building of the former District Military Court, now found on the Kostava Street. It has been established that the Central Archive launched efforts for identifying the archives and fonds scattered throughout the republic in neglect, and ensured measures for their protection and centralisation. However, this process was significantly impeded and harmed by the Soviet Russia's occupation of the Georgian Republic in February and March of 1921, which heralded an essentially new and challenging era in the country's history. On the other hand, in terms of archival policy it was this historical period which carried a transformational importance, as today's archival resources in Georgia were mostly shaped within the Soviet state.

ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVAL WORK IN THE SOVIET GEORGIA BETWEEN 1921-1991

On July 1, 1921 the Revolutionary Committee of the Georgian SSR – the occupation authority – issued Decree No. 47 about »reorganisation of archival work«, thereby declaring a ruling on centralising funds and archives of historical and state importance. An establishment of the Office of Archival Matters followed, with the agency founded as a structural entity of the People's Commissariat for Education. The decree also defined rules for storing documentation and handing it to the office.

The process of centralisation was carried out in very challenging circumstances until 1925-1926 – the shake-ups resulting from grave economic and political crisis following the occupation as well as from the resistance movement had influence on almost all fields of public life. In the later period, authors of archival accounts and literature always made indirect indications to the continued work of earlier professionals and those disposed against the Soviet regime in the system, laying blame for slumps and failings on their political unacceptance. On the backdrop of the crushing of the anti-Soviet movement and the stabilisation and stiffening of the regime, the Bolshevik authorities managed to strengthen the bureaucratic apparatus, »cleanse« the undesirable personnel, increase loyalty of the new staffing and carry out desired policy in administrative management. Archival funds were outlined, systematised and truly centralised starting in 1926.

For establishing the architecture of the archival field, chronological and typological approaches were used. In particular, materials dating back until 1921 were considered historical documentation, Soviet state offices (based on territorial-administrative levels: cities, uyezds, autonomous republics and counties) were unified under central, regional, municipal and agency-level system of the Soviet archive, while the military archive of the Red Army and the archive system of party agencies were separately designated.

At the same time, a separate institution – the Museum of the Revolution – was also established by the Soviet regime and tasked with researching matters of the history of the revolution. For this aim the institution needed to mobilise relevant documentary sources from various old archives. Therefore a portion of funds and documents from the state agency archives of the Russian Empire, which carried out political decisions and repressions against the parties and social forces struggling against the Tsarist system, was singled out and transferred under the Museum of the Revolution. Following the abolishing of the museum in the 1930s, the funds were segmented and returned to the original archives in a non-systemic fashion, while a portion was handed over to the Tbilisi branch of the Union Institute of Marxism-Leninism, the legal successor to the museum.

Following the decree of the Revolutionary Committee, the fundamental, guideline rules for the archival field were established on June 13, 1931, with the Council of People's Commissars of the Georgian SSR adopting the Statute on the Archive Management of Georgia.

The central archive agency changed its formal status several times throughout the Soviet regime:

1921-1928 – Office of Archive Matters at the People's Commissariat for Education.

1928-1939 – Central Archive Office at the Central Executive Committee of the Georgian SSR.

1939-1946 – Archive Department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Georgian SSR.

1946-1960 – Archive Office of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Georgian SSR.

1960-1972 – Archive Office at the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR.

1972-1990 – Main Archive Office at the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR.

In the 1920s, the challenges of organising the archive system were compounded by a lack of professional knowledge in the field and absence of relations with advanced foreign partners, along with other issues. Managers and enthusiasts of the archival apparatus mainly worked to improve their qualification within the Soviet space, only following contemporary achievements in the archival science from a distance. It is interesting to note that archivists in Georgia selected the German archive system as a model for guidance from the very beginning and used it as a basis for early basic rules and practices for organising fonds, documenting, cataloguing and other directions.

Parallel to these developments, efforts were launched to organise a university course for archival science: the 1926 academic program at the Tbilisi State University included a course for archival science, however its stability could not be ensured over the 1920s. This period also marked emergence of periodical publications on archival issues and processing of specific literature.

In the following years the archive system continued to serve its functions along with the development of the state bureaucracy of the Soviet regime. Due to the centralised model of historical documentation, the central archival institutions located in the capital city of the republic turned into the most developed and rich documentary vaults. Among them, the Central State Historical Archive and the Central State Archive of the October Revolution and Socialist Development were of particular importance. Over time, laboratories for restoration and conservation, as well as other technical sub-divisions were developed. On its part, the development of audio-visual media brought about the necessity of developing new types of documentary vaults.

The Soviet regime itself had significant effect on the functioning of the archive system – this was true in particular in the field of a citizen and an archive. Due to ideological control, a major part of archives and informational vaults were strictly off limits to citizens whose subjects of interest or research crossed the ideological frames of the regime. Separate vaults of forbidden literature were set up, with frequent cases of separation and classifying of materials of »special importance« from archival fonds. Specific bureaucratic procedures were in place for obtaining access to limited fonds, etc.

ARCHIVAL WORK AND ARCHIVE SYSTEM FROM THE RESTORATION OF GEORGIA'S INDEPENDENCE TO TODAY

The acute crisis, destruction and chaos that followed the dissolution of the Soviet regime in 1991 caused damage to all fields of state institutions of the newly independent Republic of Georgia, including the archive system. The events of the early 1990s that involved civil and ethnic conflicts restored conditions similar to those of 1917-1918, in which, due to neglect, chaos or deliberate wrongdoing, unique documentary sources and vaults for the history of Georgia and the Caucasus were heavily damaged, irretrievably destroyed or lost. This meant another episode added to the tragic historical chain of »documentary casualties«.

The series of mass destruction of historical sources began in Georgia in 1914. Following the start of World War I and the opening of the war front between the Ottoman Empire and the Imperial Russia, the first initiative at the first stage of the armed conflict came from the Ottoman army, which launched a deep invasion into the territory of the Russian Empire, which caused panic among the administration of the Caucasus. An effort was launched for evacuating state property of strategic importance, as well as museum and archival fonds, to North Caucasus. Despite the subsequent stabilisation of the situation at the front and counter-offensives, the process of returning the evacuated archives and exhibits was first protracted and then further delayed due to the 1917 Revolution, the Bolshevik coup and the breaking out of the Civil War. During this period, the evacuated archival fonds were located in completely inadequate conditions, causing either damage and destruction of a significant part of them, or their scattering and loss due to neglect. The re-evacuation of the remaining portion was only made possible through a special expedition of the Central Archive Office in 1923.

Following the collapse of the Russian Empire, a part of archives belonging to local administrative institutions of the empire was scattered and destroyed due to neglect and chaos between 1917–1920. Another contributing factor was that these institutional archives, similarly to fonds of agencies of central importance, did not feature high quality of conditions of storage or organisation even prior to these events. Facts of deliberate, politically motivated action by former civil servants who began destruction of material compromising to them and their colleagues (in the realm of the new authority) were also established: in a particular case, archives of the Office of the Gendarmerie of the Kutaisi Governorate and Batumi Police were burned down in 1917.

In February–March of 1921, during the occupation of the Georgian Democratic Republic by Soviet Russia, the government of the republic evacuated a part of institutional archives along with state property and museum treasure. The funds for this archival documentation were first preserved abroad under the management of the government in exile, and later at the Universities of Harvard and Paris. They were later handed to the National Archives of Georgia in 2000, however the fate of a particularly important agency – the Special Unit (security service) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Georgian Democratic Republic – is still unknown. It is established that it was evacuated abroad by the administration of the agency in 1921 before it was probably stored in France, however its subsequent traces have been lost, causing complications to scientific research of this important subject.

Despite major efforts by the Office of Archive Matters for identifying, collecting and centralising historical documents in regions of Georgia in the 1920s, the ongoing challenging political processes still had a heavy toll on this work. In particular, a significant part of church books (ledgers) were heavily damaged and destroyed through deliberate acts and neglect of local party- and state servants during the anti-religious campaign. The books contained invaluable notes about population statistics and many social features.

From the late 1920s until the 1980s, and particularly in the Stalin era, frequent cases of »cleansing«, re-categorising and partial transferring of archival collections into special (protected and prohibited) fonds through political motives took place along with the process of mass terror and repressions. The materials depicting these tragic processes were later destroyed deliberately or through neglect, with a pretext of their »purposelessness« – traces of this can be clearly seen during studies of old archival catalogues.

The archival field took the next heavy blow in 1991–1992: a catastrophic loss was incurred by historical documentary sources due to the military coup, civil war and ethnic conflicts. In particular, as a result of armed actions during the military coup, the governmental district in central Tbilisi was burned down in late December and early January 1991, with destruction of the building of the Committee for State Security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and heavy damage to respective archives of these agencies in the same building; further destruction

involved a part of the archival fond of the Institute of the History of Arts, located in the same area. During a fire of the Tbilisi Classical Gymnasium, the Museum of Popular Education – an institution of crucial importance which combined unique archival and library materials concerning the educational movements of the 19th and 20th centuries – was destroyed. The same period saw looting and destruction of the Museum of the South Caucasus Military District of the Red Army of the Soviet Union, the Museum of Aviation and the Lenin Museum. The archives of the South Caucasus Military District also disappeared under uncertain circumstances. Heavy damage was suffered by a significant part of small-scale regional museums and house-museums.

During the Georgian-Abkhazian armed conflict of 1992-1993, the building of the state archive and the Institute of History of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia in the city of Sokhumi was burned down (in a deliberate punitive act by Georgian armed units, according to witnesses from the Abkhazian side) on November 22, 1992, resulting in a complete destruction of old and Soviet-era archival fonds and exhibits, and irretrievable loss of an overwhelming majority of sources on the history of Abkhazia.

Following the restoration of Georgia's independence, the central archive system naturally underwent changes along with the reformation of state structures. It changed its status and title several times:

- 1990–1995 – State Scientific-Industrial Union »Mematiane« of the Republic of Georgia
- 1995–1997 – Archive Department of the Republic of Georgia
- 1997–2004 – State Archive Department of the Republic of Georgia
- 2004–2007 – Department of State Archive Management and Administrative Work at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia

Georgia joined the Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect of State Property, Archives and Debts on June 9, 1993.

The Parliament of Georgia adopted the Law on National Archive Fond in 1995.

By 2007, the existence of the centralised management of state archives was brought to an end, the State Archive Department of the Ministry of Justice was dissolved and a network of Georgian National Archives was developed as a Legal Entity of Public Law at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. The corresponding law was also updated as the one now concerning National Archive and National Archive Fond.

The National Archives of Georgia became a member of the International Council of Archives and the International Centre for Archival Research.

Since this period, there have been no fundamental changes in the archive system of Georgia. Up until recent years, no critical rethinking of archival structures, basic practices and rules took place on the backdrop of the collapse of the school of historical research and overall crisis of scientific field in the post-Soviet and later periods. Despite the positive element of dissolving ideological and bureaucratic centralism, the decentralisation of the system also caused a side effect: the tie between principal archival institutions disappeared, along with the understanding that documentary sources distributed in vaults of various archives nevertheless represent a fond of common history and require processing and protection through a unified standard and approach. Even though the Law on National Archive and National Archive Fond does establish relevant conditions, these guides are not accepted as the guideline by archival institutions outside the network of the National Archives of Georgia, leaving their management practices to their own laws or other types of judicial acts. The participation of Georgian archives in international professional associations and their pace of implementation of contemporary approaches and technology does not live up to any scrutiny. In main archival networks the Soviet legacy can still be acutely perceived – these include a lack of transparency (particularly in terms of limited access to recent history including the Soviet era), catastrophic fees for copies of documents, and bureaucratic barriers for citizen researchers. A separate mention should concern the question of transparency and accessibility of institutional archives functioning since 1991, with no systemic precedent of this established in Georgia so far.

A recognition and analysis of these and other fundamental problems existing in the archival field of Georgia is a subject of a separate publication, while attempts of overcoming them have only grown in strength in the most recent period.



ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

CENTRAL ARCHIVES

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF GEORGIA

Vazha-Pshavela Avenue #1 | Tbilisi | Georgia

🌐 archives.gov.ge

☎ +995 32 2 372801 | +995 32 2 373913

✉ info@archives.gov.ge

👤 Teona Iashvili

🕒 Monday–Friday, 09:30–17:00. Every first Monday is day of for »Sanitary« purposes.
August – time for inventory.

System of National archives of Georgia is successor of main central archive body, created in 1920's after Sovietization of Georgia. After re-establishing of independence in 1991, all along of 1990's and early 2000's central archives were under administration of state archives department. In accordance with the law #71 from March 12, 2007, issued by the Minister of Justice of Georgia, the legal entity of public law the National Archives of Georgia was formed. From today the state control of archival and clerical work fields, the development of the national archival fund is in its authority.

At the beginning of 2010's, some kind of centralization started on regional level of National archives network. Before – there was archives in every old city of Georgia and all regional center cities. Now, there are few city archives and larger »Regional archives«, which reunited former regional archives based of larger historical-administrative units.



*Head of central scientific archive in 1920 –
Petre Geleishvili. national archive of Georgia.*

System of National archives are still problematic according technical bases (equipments for safe preservation of documents, spaces for visitors), degree of digitization, access from distance; researchers are still suffering because of high prices of copies of documents (even taken by private equipments) and blocking access of some part of Soviet time historical documents based on reason – holding of »personal information« there, wrongly interpreted by archive officials.

Archive owns unified digital catalogues of funds, available on web-page.

Heritage of Soviet ideology and its influence on Georgian archival field, is visible till today in separation between old and modern history

division. It's lays on 1921 year – on datum of Sovietization (soviet occupation) of Georgian republic. Accordingly of this in All central and regional branches of state archives, as usually departments of modern history are holding documents from 1921 year. Same structure we see in National archives of Georgia. Central body of Archives is located in Tbilisi and contains different divisions:

CENTRAL HISTORICAL ARCHIVE OF GEORGIA

As main historical archive, Central historical archive holds documents from (IX–XIX cc) and old manuscripts from IX–XIX cc. Biggest part of collections and documentation covers Georgian and Transcaucasian history (1801–1918). Mostly administrative documents concerning to the history of Transcaucasian governor of Russian empire, chancellery and other administrative bodies. Here are huge collections of Church chancellery records (lists of christenings, marriage and death ceremonies), archives of different civil and scientific organizations and some personal archives of XIX–XX century social, political leaders and culture actors. Archive holds series of military bodies funds, but majority of them was transferred in central military archives in Moscow in 1970–1980s.

Last part of archive covers – Democratic republic of Georgia (1918–1921). During Soviet times, there was collected all documents left by Government and different ministries and organizations after emigration during invasion of Soviet Russia's red army in Georgia in 1921. As some part of state archives were taken at abroad than, After 2003 archive funds was refreshed after getting back documents from Harvard and Paris universities. Now this part of archive funds gives possibility to reconstruct crucial part of modern Georgian state's history – first republic almost in details. It's also shows history of resistance movement in Georgia against Soviet rule in 1921–1940's and political life of Georgian government and political parties in emigration.

Statistics: 865 fund, 1 720 817 volume.

CENTRAL STATE ARCHIVE OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF GEORGIA

Archive contains huge collections of Soviet and post-Soviet state structures and organizations. Soviet state, as roughly bureaucratized system, left archives plenty of transitional state bodies, commissariats, ministries, central, regional and capital city district courts, policies structures, state-planning institutes, universities and institutes, state leded economical organizations, partly military structures and personal archives of Soviet state officials, scientists and cultural actors. Same time, as Tbilisi was capital city, not only of Georgian SSR, but also – Transcaucasian Soviet federative Socialist republic in 1922–1936, central archive of contemporary history holds majority of archival funds of Transcaucasian SFSR state structures.

Archive also covers state institutions documentation of Georgian republic, after re-establishing of independence in 1991.

In system of central body of Georgian national archive – central archive of contemporary history is most problematic division, according of systematic problems around free access of documents based on post-Soviet »trend« – »personal information«. Archive often blocks access on files created later than 75 years from today. It makes influence mostly on Soviet time punitive state structures. Also, there is very poor practice of access files of state institutions of Georgian republic since 1991 year.

Division of central archive of contemporary history holds sub-division archives:

Statistics: 1176 fund (1075 administrative, 101 personal), 988 743 (971 909 administrative, 16 843 personal) volume.

Division of literature and culture.

Archive contains funds of state institutions and organizations linked with art and cultural activities, since 1921 and personal archives of cultural actors.

Statistics: 327 fund, 138 219 volume.

Scientific-technical division

Archive contains funds of state project and scientific institutions and organizations since 1921 year and personal archives of scientist and technical workers.

Statistics: 121 fund

CENTRAL ARCHIVE OF AUDIO VISUAL AND FILM DOCUMENTS

Archive was created in 1941, due to Second World War the archive started functioning only in 1946. In the beginning it used to be only photo and cinematography departments. Phonotheque was created in 1962. Nowadays central archive of audio visual and film documents is main repository of historical audio-visual sources. Process of digitization continues till today.

Statistics: 500 000 photos, 20 000 voice records and 35 000 cinema documentation.

LIBRARY

Archive of printed editions was created as division of Central state archive in 1926. Later, in 1940 it was transformed as »Scientific-informative library«. Nowadays, it's Library division of National archives of Georgia. It contains variety of rare books, press editions, maps etc.

Statistics: 350 000 books, 2 000 press editions.

REGIONAL ARCHIVE OF DEPOSIT PRESERVATION

Tbilisi | Isani-Samgori District | Didi Lilo

 Tamar Letodiani

 +995 595 070366

Division serves as conditional repository for state institution current archives. There is no practice of access of materials from researchers side.

ARCHIVE OF AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF ADJARA

Batumi | Gorgasali street #126

 archives-ajara.gov.ge

 +995 42 2 275210

 info@archives-ajara.gov.ge

 Maia Ivanishvili

 Monday-Friday | 09:00-17:30

Archive of autonomous republic of Adjara is the only archive of this type still incorporated in network of Georgian National Archive - Abkhazian autonomous republic archive was destroyed in 1992 during war and South Ossetia autonomous district's archive was damaged during Georgian-Russian war in August 2008.

Fixation documentary sources and completing archival funds started in 1923 year in Adjarian ASSR. All along of Soviet times status and structure of Adjara ASSR archive was reflecting system of central archive of Georgian SSR. Since 2004 all archival issues are led by »archival administration of Government of Adjara autonomous republic«. Same time, archive is part of Georgian National archives network. In main body of archive are collected funds, illustrating XIX-XX century history of Adjara, Russian empire's governorship, Georgian democratic republic times and Soviet union's period. After re-establishing independence Adjara archives are still including document data from all state and civil organizations. In 1990's as, there was lack of documentary sources in Adjara archives about pre-Soviet times, from central archives and Kutaisi state archives copies of documents, illustrating history of Adjara district were transferred to Adjara archives.

Statistics: 1579 fund, 508 607 volume.

REGIONAL BRANCHES OF ARCHIVE OF AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF ADJARA:

Kobuleti local archive – Kobuleti, Memed Abashidze street #10.

Khelvachauri local archive – Khelvachauri, Fridon Khalvashi avenue #366.

Keda local archive – Keda, Ilia Chavchavadze street #1.

Shuakhevi Local archive – Shuakhevi, Shota Rustaveli street #21.

Khulo local archive – Khulo, Tamar mephe Street #12.

CITY, REGIONAL AND LOCAL ARCHIVES OF GEORGIAN NATIONAL ARCHIVE NETWORK

CITY ARCHIVES

TBILISI CENTRAL ARCHIVE

Tbilisi | Zakariadze street #4.

☎ +995 32 2 390180 | +995 32 2 397885 | +995 577 340501

👤 Maka Kvaratskhelia

🕒 Monday-Friday | 09:30-17:00

Archive holds Soviet times archival funds of Tbilisi city municipal bodies, administrative, technical and project organizations and institutions, also several personal funds.

KUTAISI CENTRAL ARCHIVE

Kutaisi | Abashidze street | Kutaisi public service hall.

👤 Merab kezevadze

🕒 Monday-Friday | 09:30-17:00

As administrative center of Kutaisi Gubernia in XIX-XX of Russian empire, Kutaisi city archives became one of a richest repository of newest history documentary sources, as it accepted fonds of Kutaisi Gubernia state institutions and also neighbor districts (Batumi and Sokhumi districts), Archives of Georgian democratic republic's state bodies and local government and Soviet times state structures.

Statistics: 1419 funds, 434 043 volume, more than 5 000 photos.

REGIONAL ARCHIVES

All regional and local archives of Georgian national archives network contains archive funds from 1921 – since Soviet occupation of Georgia. Based on regional cities and »Raions« frames, regional archives are holding funds of regional state institutions and structures from 1921. Materials of »Kolkhozes« and different economic and industrial bodies, schools, village administrations, personal funds etc.

AKHALKALAKI REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Akhalkalaki | Malkhasiani street #12

 +995 36 2 223764 | +995 577 340507

 Natela Karakhanian

AKHALTSIKHE REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Akhaltzikhe | Manvelashvili street #5

 +995 36 5 220358 | +995 577 340508

 Tsisana Narimanidze

GURIA REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Ozurgeti | Ilia Chavchavadze street #15

 +995 49 6 275397 | +995 577 340535

 Lamzira Intskirveli

DUSHETI REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Dusheti | Davit Aghmashenebeli street #86

 +995 577 340518

 Nino Sonishvili

ZESTAPHONI REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Zestaponi | Tamar mephe street #3

 +995 49 2 253602 | +995 577 340520

 Inga Chighlashvili

KAKHETI REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Telavi | Rustaveli avenue #83

 +995 35 0 272039 | +995 577 340523

 Gela Gremelashvili

KVEMO KARTLI REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Rustavi | Megobroba avenue #20 b.

 +995 577 348511

 Makvala Gurgenidze

SAMEGRELO REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Zugdidi | Iona Meunargia street #11a./Zviad Gamsaxurdia street #14 a.

 +995 41 5 222591 | +995 593 353595

 Milena Toria

KHASHURI REGIONAL ARCHIVE

Khashuri | Imereti street #6

 +995 36 8 242037 | +995 577 340557

 Maia Tsikelashvili

LOCAL ARCHIVES

GORI LOCAL ARCHIVE

Gori | Tamar mephe street #47

 +995 37 0 272329 | +995 593 340514

 Izolda Buzhghulashvili

KASPI LOCAL ARCHIVE

Kaspi | Tsotne Dadiani Street #44

 +995 37 1 222022 | +995 577 340526

 Marina Gogebashvili

MESTIA LOCAL ARCHIVE

Mestia | Tamar mephe street #54

 +995 577 340532

 Eliko Gvirgvliani

TKIBULI LOCAL ARCHIVE

Tkibuli | Gamsakhurdia street #30

 +995 577 340543

 Shorena Ooqosadze

POTI LOCAL ARCHIVE

Poti | Konstantine Leselidze street #1

 +995 49 3 221040 | +995 577 340544

 Ketevan Epremidze

DJAVA-TSKHINVALI LOCAL ARCHIVES

Gori local archive and Kvemo-Kartli regional archive.

 Eldar Maisuradze

ARCHIVES OF THE FORMER REGIME

ARCHIVE OF THE ACADEMY OF MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA

Tbilisi | Gmiri Kursantebi Street #4

 archive.security.gov.ge

 +995 32 2 412291 | +995 32 2 412177 | +995 32 2 412368

 archive@mia.gov.ge

 Omar Tushurashvili

 Monday-Friday | 10:00-18:00

Archives of Soviet punitive structures – KGB and MVD of Georgian SSR, being internal, special archives of those systems, after collapse of USSR experienced several steps of restructuration. During 1990's they continues being internal archives of Georgian republic ministry of Internal affairs and state security; access to documents was problematic because of absence of



Ruins of building of former MVD and KGB of Georgian SSR, after war in Tbilisi 1992. national parliament library of Georgia, digital archive, Lasha Mebonia collection

legislation and condition of repositories. After 2003 »rose revolution« and reforms in state institutions, in 2005–2006 former regime archives were reunited and Archival administration of MIA was formed, which started systematization of documents, digitization and demonstration of accessibility of documents. Later in 2011 Archive of Ministry of internal affairs of Georgia was formed as public body under MIA. Last times, in 2014 it was transferred as part of the LEPL MIA Academy.

Nowadays archive holds 2 division, which reflects different archives of three Soviet state and party bodies:

1th division: Archive of KGB (Committee for State Security) of Georgian SSR and Archive of MIA of Georgian SSR.

In March of 1921, according to a resolution passed by the presidium of the Special Committee, or »Cheka«, the registration archive department was formed. Its task was to gather and preserve incriminating materials about numerous »enemies« and »dangerous elements« of the country that the Cheka had exposed. Thirty staff units were selected for the registration archive department. Between 1921 and 1992, 230,000 archival files were stored in the cellar of the 10th department of the Committee for State Security (KGB). The former KGB's central building caught fire in the Civil War in Tbilisi, December of 1991–1992. As a result, as archive and state officials claim – 210,000 archival files were destroyed – 80% of the entire collection. Rest of documents, now are preserved in 1st division of MIA academy archive.

- Fund #1 – Legislative and coordinative documentation of State security system of USSR, instructions, circular letters, handbooks, etc. 1 134 volume.
- Fund #6 – Collection of criminal cases, 1920–1991. 20 000 volume.
- Fund #8 – Collection of protocols of extraordinary trial system – collegiums of CHEKA–GPU–NKVD, »troika«, etc. 914 volume.
- Fund #9 – Collection of documents of »filtration« internalized Soviet citizens and POW's. 1 300 volume.
- Fund #12 – Protocols of death sentence executions. Data about 16 639 person.
- Fund #13 – Collection of documents – lists and personal cases of mass deportations and deported Soviet citizens. No statistical data.
- Fund #14 – Lists of Soviet red army soldiers from Georgian SSR, killed or escaped in WWII. 105 volume, data about 120 000 person.
- Fund #21 – Lists of rehabilitated victims of Soviet repressions. Data about 18 000 person.

2nd division: Archive of Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgian SSR; former IMEL institute archive.

Resolution passed by the presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (Bolshevik) of Georgia on June 24, 1922, created the Ispart Commission (Commission on Party History). Ispart's primary mission was to collect, academically process and publish materials on the history of Georgia's Communist organs. In late 1929, under the instructions of the Lenin Institute, the Party History Institute established the Party Archive. On the basis of a resolution passed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party (b) of Georgia on February 23, 1932, the Historical–Revolutionary and Scientific-Research Institute of Stalin was formed in Tbilisi. In June 1934, the Institute became a branch of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute of the All-Union Central Committee of the Communist Party, and later the two merged completely. The Ispart archive, as well as the documents from the Central Committee local divisions, were transferred there. Between 1933 and 1937, the so-called Imeli (Ispart Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute) building was constructed on Rustaveli Avenue, Tbilisi, where the Party Archive was placed, and where it functioned until 2007. Resolution No150, passed by the President of Georgia on April 5, 2007, moved the collection to the Archive Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Today, the Party Archive is one of the biggest archives in Georgia, preserving about 8 300 funds. Archival fonds and materials are crucial to the study of Party history, as well as the history of the Young Communist League (Komsomol).

Digital catalogues of funds are available on web-page. Part of internal catalogues of funds, are scanned and attached to information about entire fund in Catalogue.

Since starting to be publicly available, there wasn't any real problem of access on documents in Academy of MIA archive. But, still there are several fundamental problems with transparency and accessibility.



Ruins of building of former MVD and KGB of Georgian SSR, after war in Tbilisi 1992. national parliament library of Georgia, digital archive, Elephter Lapachi collection



Ruins of building of former MVD and KGB of Georgian SSR, after war in Tbilisi 1992

- There is no information about specific funds of State security system of Georgian SSR; Where has gone huge documentary data of »Secretariat« (office) of KGB and MVD, internal forces of KGB-MVD, »operative archive«, carthoteques of secret informers, Personal cases of officers of KGB-MVD, archives of regional divisions and Autonomous republics KGB's.
- There are still enormous prices of copying of document in MIA academy archives.
- Archive of academy of MIA owns developed enough internal databases, but they aren't equally accessible on web-page and access in building of archive is also problematic.
- Archive has permanent problem of building for repository and spaces for visitors.

ARCHIVE OF MINISTRY OF CORRECTION OF GEORGIA

Tbilisi | Vakhtang Gorgasali street #83 a.

🌐 moc.gov.ge

☎ +995 32 2 312734 (Chancellery of ministry)

✉ info@moc.gov.ge

Archive of ministry of correction of Georgia, is kind of new-founded archive, which illustrates complexity of problems in a field of Georgian newest history archives and ignorance of issues of rethinking Soviet history by side of State. In 2005, when old building of former »Gubernia prison« of Tiflis was destroyed, archives of Soviet Georgia's prison system was transferred in another - Gldani prison underground, where it was stored during several years in worst conditions for papers; because of it, many of documents were damaged and lost. In 2012 ministry started to recover archive - it was collected and send back to new repository building in old location. Nowadays majority of documents are restored and stuff of archive administration is working on inventorisation of funds. Archive covers documents

of prison administrations of Soviet Georgia from 1930's till nowadays. There are funds of central, main prisons from 1930s and entire units of »correctional-labor camps and colonies« from 1940's. Right now there isn't any real statistic of documents. Also, administration of archives has no legislative base to ensure of accessibility of documents towards citizens and researchers side.

ARCHIVE OF SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Tbilisi | Zubalashvili brothers street #32

 archive.supremecourt.ge

 +995 32 2 982077 | +995 32 2 982078

 info@supremecourt.ge

Archive of supreme court of Georgia holds trial documentations from 1965 till today. From 2011 year, supreme court started digitization archive and ensuring accessibility, in terms of keeping personal information blocked. Now, in digital database of supreme court, on web-page, registered users have possibility find »special category« of criminal cases, leaded by supreme court of Georgian SSR from 1965.

SCIENTIFIC-CULTURAL ARCHIVES

KORNELI KEKELIDZE GEORGIAN NATIONAL CENTRE OF MANUSCRIPTS

Tbilisi | Merab Aleksidze Street #1

 manuscript.ge

 +995 32 2 474242

 info@manuscript.ac.ge

 Zaza Abashidze

 Monday-Friday | 10:00-18:00

1958, June 30th, according to the decree of the Presidium of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, a scientific institute was established on the basis of the Manuscript Department of the State Museum of Georgia. After converting into the national centre of manuscripts, the institute lost this name, but was brought back in 2015. In 2006, the National Centre of Manuscripts separated from the Georgian National Academy of Sciences and today, as a legal entity of public law (LEPL) is subordinated to Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. Principal duties of the centre are preserving-registering and researching the manuscripts. Also, it is quite important to use the material for popularization and educational purposes.

Scientific sector of the centre incorporates six scientific departments:

1. Codicology and text linguistics;
2. Oriental and Armenian manuscripts;
3. Source criticism and Diplomatics;
4. Scientific bibliography, terminology and reference literature;
5. Archival studies and electronic archives; 6. Art studies.

As main repository of historical documental sources, National center of manuscripts is also important archive institution for researches of modern and Soviet history of Georgia, as it's holds personal archives and libraries many of famous and important cultural and political actors of XIX-XX century history and some state and public institutions – totally 106 funds.

Catalogue of funds are available on web-page. Some of the internal catalogues of funds are digitized.

National center of manuscripts shares same problems of National archives and Archive of academy of MIA in policy of prices.

Statistics: More than 170 000 items.

ARCHIVE OF GIORGI LEONIDZE MUSEUM OF GEORGIAN LITERATURE

Tbilisi | Giorgi Chanturia street #8

 literaturemuseum.com

 +995 32 2 932890 | +995 32 2 932045

 info@literaturemuseum.ge

 Lasha Bakradze

 Tuesday–Friday, 10:00–18:00 | Saturday 10:00–17:00

Museum of Georgian literature initially was founded in 1930, as »Mtatsminda museum-pantheon« (Mtatsminda is oldest pantheon of Georgia's famous writers, artists and politicians). Later it was several time renamed and restructurized: 1931 – Mtatsminda museum of writers, 1935 – Museum of Georgian writers, 1938 – Georgian State museum of literature. From 1991 it was named as Giorgi Leonidze Museum of Georgian Literature, in honors of first director, famous Georgian writer.

Museum of Georgian literature holds unique personal collections and archives of writers, poets, critics, artists and public figures from XIX-XX centuries. Also, collections of rare manuscripts, books, periodical editions, artifacts, photos and audio-visual materials. Since 2011 Museum works on inventorisation of funds and digitization, but degree of transparency and access from distance is very poor. Museum shares same complex problems of pricing policy.

Statistics: Documents/manuscripts – more than 115 000, around 3 600 art pieces, around 20 000 rare books and press editions, artifacts – 1 250, more than 32 000 photos, audio-visual materials – 500.

AUDIO-VISUAL ARCHIVES

ARCHIVE OF GEORGIAN PUBLIC BROADCASTER («GOLDEN FUND«)

Tbilisi | Merab Kostava Street #68

 1tv.ge.

 +995 577 500 326

 g.chartolani@gpb.ge

 Goga Chartolani

 Monday-Friday | 10:00-18:00

Archive of Georgian public broadcaster presents collection of audio-visual data, created by Main radio channel of Soviet Georgia and First TV. In 1925 first Official radio broadcasting was started in Tbilisi; First TV studio was created and broadcasting started in 1956. Oldest radio record is starting from 1937 (after technique of recording on magnetic film was developed), but archive incorporates audio records on different kind of sources from 1901 year. Movie-Video data is starting from 1956 TV records, but same way, »golden fund« holds copied and later incorporated records of first documentary movie records from 1910s. Archive collected and keeps variety type of records, almost all data, which was translated by Georgian TV and Radio – movies, concerts and ceremonies, documentary chronicles, TV and radio studio records etc.

After 1990's transparency and access of TV archive is permanently problematic. Conditions of repository are poor, inventorisation is still ongoing, degree of digitization is poor, digital catalogues aren't available and conditions of access and prices policy is very strict.

There is no data available about general statistics of records.

DOCUMENTARY STUDIO – «MEMATIANIE«

Tbilisi | David Aghmashenebeli avenue #166

 Revaz Makhatadze

 +995 593 392407

 Monday-Friday | 10:00-17:00

In 1958, based on structure unit of »Kartuli filmi« (Georgian cinema) – sector of movie – chronicles new studio – »Georgian studio of chronicle-documentary and scientific-popular movies« was established. Later it was several times renamed and transformed: 1968 – »Georgian studio of scientific-popular and documentary movies«, 1981 – Georgian studio of scientific-popular and documentary movie studio »Mematiane«. Since 1996, it exists as LTD studio Mematiane.

Studio holds collection of documentary movies and chronicles created since 1958 year, also draft records and copies varieties of documentary movies.

Studio holds catalogue of collections, which isn't publicly available yet and digitization of records is ongoing.

Statistics: 117 documentary movies. Nowadays around 4 500 archival box is inventarised.

CHURCH ARCHIVES

ARCHIVE OF GEORGIAN APOSTOLIC AUTOCEPHALOUS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tbilisi | Erekle II square #1 | residence of Patriarchate of Georgian Orthodox Church.

🌐 patriarchate.ge

☎ +995 32 2 982599

👤 Mzia Katsadze

🕒 Monday-Friday | 10:00–17:00

Archive of Georgian Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church holds collection of documents of Patriarchate of Georgian Orthodox Church, which wasn't taken out by Soviet state since 1920's. Documents of »Catholikos council«, correspondences, personal archives of hierarchs of Orthodox Church, personal cases of priests etc.

Archive isn't part of National archive fund and all regulations and rules around access on documents, copying and publication depends on decisions from Orthodox Church officials and archive administration.

No digital catalogues and statistical data are available.

LIBRARIES

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY OF GEORGIA

Tbilisi | Lado Gudiashvili Street #7

 nplg.gov.ge

 +995 32 2 971602 | +995 32 2 971615

 Giorgi Kekelidze

 Everyday | 09:30–20:00

The history of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia begins from 1846 when Tbilisi Public Library was founded by the Office of Governor General. In 1848 the Public Library received the collections of Private Associated Library founded by Dimitri Kipiani, a famous public figure. By 1859 the collections of the Public Library had increased up to 13 260 volumes and contained materials in 19 different languages. In 1851 a new building was built as the Library collection kept growing. In 1852 the Library was granted the right to receive two free copies of all publications printed in Caucasus. In 1868 Tbilisi Public Library and the Caucasus Museum were merged, and in 1913 Tbilisi Public Library was named the Scientific Library of the Caucasus Museum.

In 1914 the library was closed due to the construction of a new building.

In 1919 constituent Assembly of Georgia made decision of establishing Library of Georgian constituent assembly on bases of scientific library of the Caucasus museum.

After Soviet occupation in 1921, In 1923, the Library was named the State Public Library of Georgia. In 1937 the Library obtained the collections of the library of the Society for Dissemination of Literacy among Georgians, which was functioning in 1880–1927, and this collection became the main national bibliography of the Library.

From 1955 the Library was functioning under the name of State Republic Library; in 1990 it was named National Library of Georgia. From 25 December 1996 it was named the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia (NPLG). Since 1991 the NPLG is a member of International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). Many different collections constitute the treasury and the book depository of the NPLG.

Nowadays National library is central, biggest repository of printed editions in Georgia. Complete collection of the first printed Georgian books is stored in the Rare Books Department. There are united rare publications such as the first Georgian books - ‘Georgian-Italian Dictionary’ printed in Rome by Catholic missionary press in 1629. The Library has in its possession complete collection of printed publications existing in Georgia, printed in the first Georgian press established by King Vakhtang VI. ‘Verdict of Jerusalem’ of IX century

and 'Gospel' of XIII century are among the precious manuscripts collection of the Library. Entire collections of books of the NPLG by language consist of 532 523 (14,7%) Georgian and 3 091 469 (85.3%) foreign books, among them 152 419 (4.3%) European, 2 876 300 (79.3%) Russian and 62,750 (1.7%) in other languages.

In the collection of periodical publications are kept the richest collections of printed periodicals in Georgian, Russian, Armenian, Azeri, Abkhazian, Ossetian and other languages, the press of European countries and scientific periodicals in English, French, Italian and German languages; the press and scientific periodicals of the USA. Annual sets of central newspapers of former Soviet Union Republics printed in 1921–1991 years.

The Library has in its possession remarkable collections of printed music and audio-visual publications, cartographic collections, microfilms/microfiches, scripts and archives of documents and materials. The compact discs collection is in the process of its formation.

Library holds several personal archives, book collections and artifacts of public figures of XIX-XX centuries. Library is developing digital library platform (see below).

General statistics:

Books – 3 641 456

Magazines – 233 383

Newspapers – 55 124

Cartography – 17 158

Audio records – 23 992

TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Tbilisi | University Street #11

 tsu.edu.ge

 +995 32 2 302883

 zurab.gaiparashvili@tsu.ge

 Zurab Gaiparashvili

 Monday–Friday 09:00–18:00 | Saturday – 10:00–16:00

During the pre-session meeting of the University's Board of Professors, which was held on December 19, 1917 and which discussed the future university's curriculum and terms of enrollment, Ivane Javakhishvili acquainted his colleagues with the will of famous Georgian publicist Kita Abashidze, according to which his library was handed over to the University. This private collection laid the foundation for the University's book depository, which was mainly growing due to the donations from individuals and institutions. Two years later, number of books kept by the University Fund exceeded 100 000.

The book depositories of the Black Stone Industrialists Council, former Caucasian Censorship Committee, Society for the Spreading of Literacy among Georgians, Georgian History and Ethnography Society, and Tiflis School for Nobility were handed over to the University Library. The library became significantly rich owing to private donations. In particular, the University Library was enriched by private collections of Davit Sarajishvili, Svimon Kldiashvili, Petre Melikishvili, Ekvtime Takaishvili, Alexandre Tsagareli, Dimitri Bakradze, Tedo Zhordania, Vasil Petriashvili and other prominent Georgians. In addition, bookstores and publishing houses used to present their books to the University. During foreign scientific missions, Georgian scientists used to purchase various books for the University Library with their own money.

In 1938, the University Book Depository was called the Fundamental Library and from 1950, it was named the Scientific Library. In 1997, the library was named after Grigol Tsereteli, but presently it is called the University Library. The Georgian University Library has one of the richest book collections containing scientific and educational literature, rare Georgian and foreign books as well as periodicals.

In 2015, on base of Library, Georgian Democratic republic (1918–1921) research center-library was established. Center works on researches and publications around history of Georgian first republic and holds several personal archives of Republic’s political leaders.

Tbilisi | Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue #1 | I block of TSU

✉ irakli.iremadze@tsu.ge

👤 Irakli Iremadze

CENTRAL SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY

Tbilisi | Merab Aleksidze Street #1/4

🌐 sciencelib.ge

☎ +995 32 2 212768 | +995 32 2 212731

✉ irakli@sciencelib.ge

👤 Irakli Garibashvili

🕒 Monday–Friday 10:00–18:00 | Saturday–Sunday 11:00–15:00

National Scientific Library is a biggest library in Georgia in number of collection items and in space. It was founded in 1941 and currently contains 3 buildings.

Collections: General and science (including humanitarian and social sciences) books and periodicals in Georgian and foreign languages including: Current and 19-20th century publications (books, journals, newspapers, magazines, maps, etc.), copies of ancient Georgian manuscripts, rare Georgian and European books, libraries – collections of prominent Georgian scholars.

Statistics: about 3 500 000 books, 2 500 000 periodicals.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY (FOUNDED IN 1965)

Tbilisi | Merab Kostava Street #45

Collection: Patent and standard documents current Georgian, of Soviet period, foreign (USA, Europe, Japan, etc.).

Statistic: about 22 000 000 patents

LIBRARY-MUSEUM OF IOSEB GRISHASHVILI (SINCE IN 1961)

Tbilisi | Algeti turn #1.

Collection: Rare materials (books, cards, newspapers-magazines, posters, photos, audio records, maps. etc.) collected by Georgian writer and academician Ioseb (Josef) Grishashvili (1889-1965), his personal archive.

Statistics: about 100 000 items.

MUSEUMS

Structure of museum space in Georgia is defined by the law from 2001. According the law, there are two categories of Museums: National (state) museums and local museums. Management of museum issues is under responsibility of Ministry of culture. Owners of museums might be either State, or local self government and authority.

Since 1990's in Georgia, all museums are united or in National museum network, or belongs to local governments, or they operates as »Legal person of public law«.

There aren't museums which are dedicated to Soviet history with special collection or modern exhibition about Soviet past. Only National museum holds exhibition about Soviet occupation and in Kaspi, in former regional office of NKVD memorial exhibition is created. Majority of regional museums were founded In Soviet times, as usually after 1940–50 years. All of them were historical-ethnographic profile museums, but there always was official exhibitions about »Revolutionary movement«, and »October revolution and rebuilding in Soviet Georgia« – illustrating Soviet achievements in entire region. After 1991, all those exhibitions and collections were deconstructed and sent in repositories and almost all regional museums still hold them and also collections of documents (photos, papers, artifacts etc.) from same time-frame.

Below are listed State level main museum networks and local and home-museums which are most close to reconstruct Soviet social and political history and everyday life according concepts, or collections of exponents.



Photo Uli Mählert 2017

NETWORK OF GEORGIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

GEORGIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

Tbilisi | Anton Purtseladze street #3

 museum.ge

 +995 32 2 998022 | +995 32 2 982133

 info@museum.ge | kancelaria@museum.ge

 David Lordkipanidze

 Tuesday–Sunday | 10:00–18:00

Georgian National Museum was established in 2004. It's successor of »Caucasus Museum« established in Tiflis in 1852. Structure of National museum is based on union of different profile museums; aim of such reunion was coordination and gathering of National historical treasure and implementing common system of management, bases of information and to lead policy of museums. Institutional development of Georgian National Museum is supported by UNESCO, EU and other international actors.

The Georgian National Museums contains several branches like the Museum of Georgia, the Hall for Soviet Occupation and the Georgian National Gallery. See the following descriptions.

MUSEUM OF GEORGIA

Tbilisi | Rustaveli Avenue #3

 +995 32 2 998022 | +995 32 2 982133

 Tuesday–Sunday | 10:00–18:00

The origins of the Museum of Georgia stem from the foundation of the Russian Royal Geographic Society's Museum of the Caucasian Department on May 10, 1852. In 1865, the Museum of the Caucasus was established as part of the aforementioned department, on the initiative of Gustav Rade. The first exhibition was held in 1867. In 1881, the Museum of the Caucasus took an active part in the fifth international congress of archeologists, held in Tbilisi. In 1919, the museum was renamed the Georgian Museum. In February, 1921, the government of Democratic republic of Georgia made a decision to relocate state treasures from Georgian museums and churches out of Tbilisi, due to Soviet Russia's aggression towards Georgia. The treasure was first moved to Kutaisi and then to Batumi, but was eventually packed in 248 boxes and transported to France. Member of presidium of Constituent assembly of Georgia and chief of museum's treasure in emigration - Ekvtime Takaishvili, after France and USSR negotiations returned treasures to Georgia at the close of the Second World War.

After the Soviet occupation, since 1947, the museum has been known as the Simon Janashia museum. In 2004, the museum was incorporated into the Georgian National Museum complex. The museum currently houses a unique collection of natural and human history, with animal remains dating back 40 million years, and rich archaeological and ethnographic collections from the Paleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze, Iron and middle Ages.

SOVIET OCCUPATION EXHIBITION HALL

Tbilisi | Rustaveli Avenue #3

☎ +995 32 2 998022 | +995 32 2 982133

🕒 Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00–18:00

The exhibition of Soviet Occupation was opened on May 26th, 2006. Exhibition demonstrates materials, representing period of Georgian history, during the Soviet occupation (1921–1991). Most of items were collected from the Security Service archive, as well as archives of various museums, families, etc. Among them are: different kinds of documents and objects, photo materials, installations, etc. The museum has prepared educational program dedicated to the heroes who fought for the independence of the country.



Exhibition hall of Museum of Soviet occupation, Photo Uli Mählert 2017

GEORGIAN NATIONAL GALLERY

Tbilisi | Rustaveli Avenue #3

 +995 32 2 157300 | +995 32 2 982133

 Tuesday–Sunday | 10:00–18:00

The Georgian National Gallery was established in 1920. Dimitri Shevardnadze, a well-known Georgian painter, contributed significantly to the development of the gallery. Since its foundation, the gallery has served the development of Georgian fine arts. The first exhibition of the National Gallery, as it was re-established under independent Georgian Republic, dates back to October 1920. After Soviet occupation, In 1933, the municipal prison was moved from Metekhi to Ortachala, and Metekhi's historic building was delivered to the National Art Gallery's board of directors. The whole treasury of the National Gallery was placed at Metekhi in 1934. After 1950's Gallery was moved in Rustaveli avenue in former building of »Temple of glory«. In 2007, the National Gallery joined the Georgian National Museum complex. The main gallery building was once again renovated. New, modern exhibition space was added to the gallery, encompassing eight exhibition halls, a restoration laboratory, temporary exhibit reserves, training space.

GEORGIAN MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Tbilisi | Lado Gudiashvili street #1

 +995 32 2 999909 | +995 32 2 982133

 Tuesday–Sunday | 10:00–18:00

After reorganization of National art Gallery in 1932, new Unit – the Fine Art Museum was founded. It exhibited collections from the Historical-Ethnographic Society, Society for the Spread of Literacy, and Tbilisi State University's ancient Georgian art. The former Theological Seminary building, built in 1838 in the Russian imperial style, was also transferred to the possession of the museum (then known as the State Museum of Fine Arts) in 1950. In 2004, the Shalva Amiranashvili Museum of Fine Arts was incorporated into the Georgian National Museum complex. Georgian chased and painted icons, vitreous enamel, jewelry, textiles, and unique works of embroidery are presented in the treasury of the museum.

TBILISI HISTORY MUSEUM

Tbilisi | Sioni street #3

☎ +995 32 2 998022 | +995 32 2 982133

🕒 Tuesday–Sunday | 10:00–18:00

The Tbilisi History Museum was founded in 1910 as the City Municipal Museum. More recently, it was given the name of the famous Georgian poet Ioseb Grishashvili (1889–1965). Since 1984, the Tbilisi History Museum has been located in a restored caravanserai, representing the city’s historic role as a Silk Road trading outpost. The museum houses over 50 000 artifacts. They reflect Tbilisi’s history from the end of the 4 millennium BCE to the present day. The museum presents archeological, ethnological and archival materials as well as the pieces of national and applied arts. A number of unique works of artistic and graphic arts are also preserved in this museum. Museum holds one of the richest photo-collection about Soviet time Tbilisi – »Socialist reconstruction« of city and Soviet official demonstrations and celebrations.

IAKOB NIKOLADZE HOUSE MUSEUM

Tbilisi | August Rodin street #3

☎ +995 32 2 221414

🕒 Tuesday–Sunday | 11:00–18:00

In 1924, the artist Iakob Nikoladze (1876–1951), considered the founder of modern Georgian sculpture, commissioned a studio by the architect Anatoli Kargin.

Sculptural artworks displayed in the studio at the time of Iakob Nikoladze’s death provided a base for the house-museum’s collection.

Later, on behalf of Iakob Nikoladze, his remaining artworks were purchased by the government, and another half was donated by his family members. Today, the house-museum’s reserves include 114 sculptures - including number of sculptures of Soviet political leaders and projects of architecture details many soviet Memorial places and buildings of government.

UNION OF TBILISI MUSEUMS

UNION OF TBILISI MUNICIPAL MUSEUMS

Tbilisi | David Aghmashenebeli Avenue #103

 +995 32 2 30501

The »Union of Tbilisi Municipal Museums« was founded on July 29, 2016, which includes 9 independent museums in a single institution. Most of the museums have operated for many years and protected Georgian cultural and historical heritage. Union aims to develop network of museum, implementing there modern educational ideas and practices.

MEMORIAL HOUSE MUSEUM OF MERAB KOSTAVA

Tbilisi | Mikheil Zandukeli Street #1

 +995 32 2 988598

 Tuesday-Sunday | 10:00-18:00

Museum covers life, social art and political activities one of the leader of Anti-Soviet, National movement in Georgia - Merab Kostava (1939-1989). Museum was established in 1991, at house of Kostava family. Museum holds collection of personal documents of Merab Kostava, illegal anti-Soviet press editions, library, photos and artifacts.

Statistics: 10 763 item.

MEMORIAL HOUSE MUSEUM OF KOTE AND SOSO TSERETELI

Tbilisi | Dimitri Uznadze Street #2

 +995 32 2 955916

 Tuesday-Sunday | 10:00-18:00

Museum was established in 2003, at private house of Tsereteli Family: Kote Tsereteli (1921-2004) - Georgian Orientalist, founder of Hebrew and Aramaic language study school in Georgia and his son, Soso (Ioseb) Tsereteli (1958-1983) - painter, victims of Soviet terror (due to failed attempt hijacking airplane in 1981). Museum holds their memorial items: books, manuscripts, photos, various documents, Soso Tsereteli's paintings, graphics, records; rare books, artifacts.

Statistics: more than 5 000 item.

MEMORIAL HOUSE MUSEUM OF MIKHEIL JAVAKHISHVILI

Tbilisi | Mikheil Javakhishvili Street #21

 +995 32 2 920367

 Tuesday–Sunday | 10:00–18:00

The great Georgian writer Mikheil Javakhishvili (1880–1937) lived with a wife, two daughters and a grandchild in the building, where the museum is located now, in 1913–1937.

In 1937, he was arrested. The apartment was sealed; furniture and personal belongings were confiscated. His family continued living in glass gallery which total space was 25 sq.m. Rest space of the apartment was given to a writer and critic Shalva Radiani who lived there till 1955 before the rehabilitation of the writer. As a result of political repression a few number of furniture and personal belongings were survived, a large amount of them were destroyed. Writer's manuscripts, part of writer's library, unique personal items etc. were lost. In 1997 writer's younger daughter Rusudan Javakhishvili got right to fulfill idea of the house-museum. She moved to her own apartment with her family by agreement of the city government. Among supporters of the idea were the Union of Writers and different public organizations. She exposes part of exhibits reflected writer's life and works in the Museum. But the main archive materials are still in the possession of the heirs.

The museum has the writer's archive and books. The collection periodically is filled and enriched the exponents and materials from other resources, organizations or private collections. In addition to personal belongings and memorial exponents the Museum owns unique archive material and records; publications: »Illustrated Biographies« by Rusudan Javakhishvili; the writer's photo album« and »Mikheil Javakhishvili notebook«.

Statistics: more than 150 item.

TBILISI

MUSEUM OF GEORGIAN EMIGRATION (TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY)

Tbilisi | Ilia Chavchavadze avenue #13 | VIII block of Tbilisi state university.

 tsu.edu.ge

 +995 591 136473

 rusokobi@yahoo.com

 Rusudan Kobakhidze

 Monday–Friday | 10:00–17:00

Museum of Georgian emigration was established in 1994, in Tbilisi. Archive collections and exposition of museum was based on personal archive of Guram Sharadze, member of Georgian academy of science, who, from early 1980's started communication with representatives Georgian political emigration in different countries; collecting historical documents, printed

editions, photos, manuscripts and artifacts. Nowadays Museum of Georgian emigration presents unique collection of sources illustrating political, social and cultural life of Georgian emigration from 1921 year, after Soviet occupation.

Museum holds different collection of personal archives, photo collections, audio-visual records, library and artifacts.

Inventorisation of funds is still ongoing. No statistical data is available.

AVLABARI ILLEGAL PRINTING HOUSE MUSEUM

Tbilisi | Kaspi Street #7.

 +995 32 2 743821

 There is ongoing trial around ownership of museum (between members of Georgian united communist party members and state). According this fact, museum works without special schedule.

Museum was established in 1937, during implementation personal cult of Joseph Stalin (1878-1953). Museum was placed in remains of Georgian Social-Democratic Labor Parties illegal printing house, built in 1903 and destroyed by Russian Empire's Gendarmerie in 1906. In 1937 the building was reconstructed and museum was opened as »Ioseb Stalin illegal printing house museum«. Museum holds original artifacts of printing house; it has unique underground architecture. It's brilliant example of falsification of history by Soviet Propaganda.

MUSEUM OF RUSTAVELI STATE ACADEMIC THEATRE

Tbilisi | Shota Rustaveli Avenue #17

 rustavelitheatre.ge

 +995 32 2 984051

 mail@rustavelitheatre.ge

 Monday-Friday | 11:00-18:00

Museum holds materials about theatre's producers and actors (personal things, manuscripts, photo materials etc.), as well as sketches of theatre's artists Lado Gudiashvili, Elene Akhvlediani, etc.), posters and programs of theatre. Museum holds exposition about actors of Rustaveli theatre - victims of Great purges in USSR in 1937-1938.

Statistics: About 70 000 items.

TITSIAN TABIDZE HOUSE MUSEUM

Tbilisi | Alexander Griboedov Street #18

 +995 32 2 999733

 Monday–Friday | 11:00–17:00

The museum – former apartment of the famous Georgian poet Titsian Tabidze (1895–1937) houses materials of writer’s life and work. These are: private things and photos, library and other documents which reflect hard life of creative personality (Titsian Tabidze was arrested and shot during Great Purge in USSR in 1937).

Statistics: About 500 items.

ADJARA AR

MEMED ABASHIDZE HOUSE MUSEUM

Batumi | Memed Abashidze Street #7

 +995 882 2 276112

House museum of Memed Abashidze (1873–1937), leader of pro-Georgia national movement in Adjara in 1910–1920’s; Politician, Journalist. Victim of Great purge of 1937–1938 in USSR.

SAMEGRELO REGION

ZHIULI SHARTAVA HOUSE MUSEUM

Senaki | Shota Rustaveli Street #152

 +995 2 377860

House museum of Zhiuli Shartava (1944–1993), Soviet Georgian politician, high rank leader of Georgian Communist party. Shartava was shot in 1993 – 27 september, during fall of Sokhumi city (During Georgian-Abkhazian war).

KONSTANTINE GAMSAKHURDIA HOUSE MUSEUM

Abasha | Dzveli Abasha

IMERETI REGION

KUTAISI WAR MUSEUM

Kutaisi | Mari Brosse Street #2

 +995 2 31 40935 | +995 2 31 48047

Soviet-time standard Museum about city involvement in »Great patriotic war 1941-1945«.

SERGO ORJONIKIDZE HOUSE MUSEUM

Kharagauli municipality | Ghoresha

Former Soviet Museum.

House museum of Sergo Orjonikidze (1886-1937), old Bolshevik and one of the leader of Communist party of USSR. Member of politburo of central committee of Communist party of USSR, people's commissar of heavy industry.

SHIDA KARTLI REGION

JOSEPH STALIN STATE MUSEUM

Gori | Joseph Stalin Avenue #32

 stalinmuseum.ge

 +995 (370) 27 26 81 | +995 (370) 22 59 10

 stalinmuseum@yahoo.com

 Liana Okropiridze

 Everyday | 10:00-17:00

From November 1 to April 1 the museum works from 10:00 till 17:00

Stalin State Museum is situated in Gori, in the town where Stalin was born. The complex of the museum was opened in 1957. In the house, where Joseph Stalin (1878-1953) was born, the memorial museum was opened in 1937, during Stalin's life-time. A two-storied building with a tower was built by the project of Georgian architect Archil Kurdiani. The building is faced with Eclar stone. Pillars decorated with ornaments and the vestibule reverted with red marble are very impressive. The complex of the museum includes the memorial house, Stalin's carriage and the two-storied exhibition building. In front of the building Stalin statue is situated (sculptor Silovan Kakabadze).

Unique displays: memorial things, presents, canvases, photo- and film documents are gathered in the museum.



Joseph Stalin State museum in Gori, Photo Uli Mählert

A permanent exposition telling about Stalin's life and activities is presented in six halls. Materials of the first hall tell about Stalin's activities before and during the revolution. The second hall embraces the period of 1925–1939 of the Soviet history when the Party led by Stalin fought for economic and cultural development of the country.

In the third hall there are documentary photos of the period of World War II. It's possible to see here photos taken at Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam conferences. One of the interesting photos of Stalin without retouch is exhibited. One of the stands tells about Stalin's private life.

In the fourth hall the sixth copy of Stalin's death mask is placed between marble pillars (Author of the mask – sculptor M. Manizer). And here a canvas »Stalin in His Coffin« by a People's painter of the USSR Japaridze is exhibited.



Memorial at Museum of Military Glory in Gori, Photo Anna Kaminsky 2017



Antiwar graffiti at Museum of Military Glory in Gori, Photo Anna Kaminsky 2017

Presents to Stalin are exhibited in the fifth hall of the museum. There are Stalin's personal things and his study where he worked in 1918-1922 in the sixth hall.

Separate room of the museum is devoted to the period of repressions. It's existed since 2010. The aggregate space of the museum complex is 3 529,7 sq.m. In the reserve stocks of the museum about 40 000 article exhibits, documents, canvases and auxiliary materials are kept now. There is a scientific library in the museum.

A considerable part of the exhibits was given to the museum by the former Revolution Museum (Moscow) some years ago.

GORI MUSEUM OF MILITARY GLORY

Gori | Ioseb Stalin Avenue #19

Soviet-time standard Museum about city involvement in »Great patriotic war 1941-1945«.

KASPI MUSEUM AND EXHIBITION OF VICTIMS OF SOVIET POLITICAL REPRESSIONS

Saakadze str. 126 | Kaspi, Georgia

 +995 371 22 47 83

 Besik Niparishvili

 Monday-Saturday | 10:00-16:00

Museum was opened in 2015, in basement of former building of Kaspi regional office of NKVD Georgian SSR. Initiator of creation of museum was Ivane Jakhua, head of 2d division of archive of Academy of MIA. Idea was supported by local – kaspi gimnasium, »Biliki« society, PH International, USAID, Georgian ministry of education and reserve fund of President of Georgia and »HeidelbergCement Georgia«.

Exhibition, based on documents from archive of Academy of MIA, presents history of Soviet mass terror in Kaspi city and region. Museum space is integrated in local educational programs.

GIORGI MAZNIASHVILI HOUSE MUSEUM

Kaspi municipality | Sasireti

House museum of Georgian XX century military leader, General – Giorgi Mazniashvili (). He was member of resistance movement in 1920's, were exiled from Georgian SSR in France. He went back at homeland in 1925. Later, he was arrested and shot during great purges in USSR in 1937.

KVEMO KARTLI REGION

MIKHEIL JAVAKHISHVILI HOUSE MUSEUM

Marneuli municipality | Tserakvi

 +995 593 970147

House museum of Georgian XX century classic writer and member of resistance movement in 1920's – Mikheil Javakhishvili (1880-1937), who was arrested and shot during great purges in USSR in 1937.

KAKHETI REGION

ALEXANDER AKHMETELI HOUSE MUSEUM

Sighnaghi municipality | Anaga

☎ +995 555 531065

✉ natianadikashvili@yahoo.com

House museum of famous Georgian XX century theatre director – Alexander Akhmeteli (1886–1937), who was arrested and shot during great purges in USSR in 1937.

GURJAANI MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF GLORY

Gurjaani | David Agmashenebeli Street #67

☎ + 995 577 737077 | + 995 577 936523

✉ bibliotheka.museum@gmail.com

Soviet-time standard Museum about city involvement in »Great patriotic war 1941–1945«.

KHORNABUJI MUSEUM OF FRIENDSHIP OF NATIONS

Dedoplistskaro municipality | Khornabuji, Dumbadze Street #1600

☎ +995 577 384130

✉ mchedlishviliqetevan@gmail.com

Soviet-time standard Museum about »Internationalism« and ethnic diversity of Soviet Georgia.

SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

GEORGIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Tbilisi | Shota Rustaveli Avenue #52

🌐 science.org.ge

☎ +995 32 2 99 51 77

✉ academy@science.org.ge

👤 Giorgi Kvesitadze

Georgian Academy of Science was a main scientific society of the Georgia. Academy was established in 1941. It was named Georgian SSR Academy of Sciences until November 1990. The Academy nominally coordinates scientific research in Georgia and develops relationship with the academies and scientific centers of foreign countries. GNAS is a National Scientific Associate of the International Council for Science. GNAS holds its own archive and rich library.

GIORGI CHUBINASHVILI NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GEORGIAN ART HISTORY AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Tbilisi | Athoneli Street #9

 gch-centre.ge

 +995 32 2 990588

 research@gch-center.ge

 Mariam Didebulidze

Giorgi Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation was founded in 2006, based on the integration of the Chubinashvili Institute of History of Georgian Art and Kobuladze Monuments Photo Recording Laboratory. The Centre is subjected to the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia. One of the main activities of the Centre is academic study of the Georgian art of both ancient and modern times, as well as of works of art of diverse provenance, kept in museums and private collections in Georgia. Research of monuments of architecture and sculpture, mural and easel painting, graphic arts, applied arts etc. Problems of protection and preservation of the cultural heritage properties is another significant field of activities of the Centre. It comprises generalization of both local and international experience of the heritage preservation, elaboration of the theoretical and practical recommendations, critical discussion of the newest achievements and tendencies, dissemination of the positive innovations among the professionals and their introduction in practice. The Centre also undertakes art historical study of the sites to be restored and provides methodological supervision, assessment and monitoring of works. The Centre takes part in the recording of the movable and immovable heritage properties.

Center owns rich archive fund and library.

ARNOLD CHIKOBAVA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS HISTORY

Tbilisi | Pavle Ingorokva Street #8

 ice.ge

 +995 32 2 932921 | +995 32 2 934530

 contact@ice.ge

 Avtandil Arabuli

Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics was founded on the basis of already founded (1936) Niko Marr Institute of Language, History and Material Culture (ILHMC) in 1941, with connection of the Georgian Academy of Sciences after division of ILHMC. Firstly it was Niko Marr Institute of Language, since 1950 it was named Institute of Linguistics of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, since 1988 - Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, since 2006 - LEPL Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics. The main point of the institute is to study Georgian from the normative and historical viewpoint, as well, to research the problems of phonetics, grammatical structure, syntax, vocabulary and dialectology of other Kartvelian (Megrelian-Chan, Svan) and Ibero-Caucasian (Abkhaz-Adyghe, Nakh, Daghestanian) languages in synchronic and diachronic aspect, also connection of these languages with other ones from typological viewpoint.

Institute holds rich Library and archive.

IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ETHNOLOGY

Tbilisi | University Street #11

 institutehist.ucoz.net

 Vazha Kiknadze

Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology is successor of Institute of history and archeology of Caucasus, founded by Niko Marr in 1917. In 1931 institute was named as »Institute of Caucasian studies«, later in 1936 - Niko Marr Institute of Language, History and Material Culture (ILHMC). After reorganization of ILHMC in 1941, separate - »Institute of history« was founded. In 1964 it was named Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of history. Since 2006 it's LEPL - Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology. Institute owns rich library - rare books, manuscripts, press editions, maps and atlases etc. Institute holds archive - personal archives of historians (27 fund), portfolios of historical buildings and sites, materials of scientific expeditions and musical collection (folklore music).

SHOTA RUSTAVELI INSTITUTE OF GEORGIAN LITERATURE

Tbilisi | Merab Kostava street #5

 litinstitutu.ge

 +995 32 2 995300 | +995 32 2 982676

 litinstitutu@yahoo.com

 Irma Ratiani

Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature is successor of LLAH institute (Institute of language, literature, art and history) founded in 1933. Later it was reorganized as »Shota Rustaveli institute of language and Literature« Institute was working on researches of history and modernity of Georgian literature. Nowadays Institute is still developing different programs of Georgian literature and art researches. Institute holds library.

VICTIM'S ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMORIAL PLACES

CAUCASIAN HOUSE

Tbilisi | Galaktioni Street #20

 caucasianhouse.ge

 +995 32 2 350888 | +995 32 2 996022

 info@caucasianhouse.ge

 Giorgi Kanashvili

The Central Editorial Board for Translation of Fiction and Literary Relations, or simply »board«, as it was always referred to, was established in 1973 on the initiative of the public figure, historian and literary man Otar Nodia (1928-1993), and through the mediation of Eduard Shevardnadze, then the First Secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Georgia.

It was the chief aim of the organization to translate the masterpieces of Georgian authors into the foreign languages for popularization of Georgian literature, and to contribute to the adoption of Western thinking in Georgian.

Having assembled the best experts of cultural world, the philologists and translators from various countries, the »Board« gradually turned into an intellectual centre, a hearth of free and democratic thinking. It became a home for cultural dialogs, i.e. the place, where representatives of different nationalities and confessions worked together. The study and translation of the Caucasian people's literature was one of the major tasks of the »Board«. The personnel of the organization carried out intensive cooperation with the North Caucasian scientific-research institutes and prepared for publication a multivolume edition of »The North Caucasian People's Folklore«. Materials in 16 languages of the North Caucasian nations had already been collected by 1985.

In 1993, after Otar Nodia died, Georgian writer and public figure, Naira Gelashvili, came to the head of the organization. The same year, on her own initiative and under the resolution passed by the Council of Ministers, the Centre for Cultural Relations - »Caucasian House« was established on the basis of the former »Central Editorial Board for Translation of Fiction and Literary Relations«, which is the successor of the »Board«.

The activities of the Caucasian House, as a cultural-educational and peacekeeping centre, attract attention of the foreign, and namely, German organizations. Caucasian house holds rich archive of Central Editorial Board for Translation of Fiction and Literary Relations and specific - Mini-archival of Muslim Meskhetians, deported from Georgian SSR in 1944.

SOCIETY »MEMORIALI« - GEORGIA

Tbilisi | Alexander Griboedov Street #3

 +995 32 2 933777

 memogeor@yahoo.com

 Guram Soselia

Georgian society of victims of Soviet repressions »Memoriali« was established in 1992. Organization was founded by successors of families of victims of Soviet political repressions. Society started archival researches for identification fate of victims, collecting documentary sources and information from families. During 1990's Society was publishing its own Newspaper »Memoriali«. Society organized several public exhibitions about Soviet repressions. Since 2009 Society »Memoriali« is based in office of IDFI (Institute for Development of Freedom of Information) and continues close partnership with it. Society holds cartothèque of victims of Soviet terror and personal collections.

TASO FOUNDATION

Tbilisi | Revaz Tabukashvili street #15

 taso.org.ge

 +995 32 2 92 05 95

 info@taso.org.ge

 Marina Tabukashvili

TASO Foundation (TF) is the national women's fund transformed from the Women's Program of Open Society Georgia Foundation (1998-2006). Since yearly 2007 TASO operates independently with the mission Women's and Girls' Empowerment for Human Rights, Equality, Social Justice and Peace in Georgia.

Since early 2000's TASO works on creation of archive of woman oral histories. Group of researchers fixed hundreds of oral histories in almost all regions of Georgia. Activity was

accompanied with digitization of family collections of them. As result TASO created unique - woman Memory archive and published several books based on it.

Archive isn't accessible in digital way due to privacy of respondents. No statistical data is available.

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – IDFI

Tbilisi | Alexander Griboedov Street #3

 idfi.ge

 +995 32 2 921514

 info@idfi.ge

 Giorgi Kldiashvili

The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) is a Georgian non-governmental organization founded in 2009. IDFI focused on watchdog activities. It monitored government activities, disclosed violations and informed the public; IDFI team prepared a comprehensive study on changes in e-governance systems throughout the world, including Georgia. IDFI conducted a detailed analysis and assessment of the level of transparency of government body websites and compiled a ranking of Ministries based on their level of transparency.

Ensuring openness of state archives and access to archival materials was another area IDFI started with. Levan Avalishvili and Giorgi Kldiashvili actively advocated openness and accessibility of 20th Century Soviet Archives in Georgia. As a result of this advocacy work, the former archive of the Georgian Communist Party was saved from destruction and the former archive of the Committee of State Security (KGB) of Georgia was opened to the public (both these archives are united now under the Archive Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia). IDFI uses such archival documents to study the Soviet totalitarian regime in cooperation with Archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, International Society Memorial and other local and international partners.

Institute for Development of Freedom of Information's first joint project was with the Archive Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and was titled Publishing the Archival Documents Reflecting the Events Developed in Georgia from the 5th to the 9th of March 1956. It involved inviting scholars and guiding them to search for and study the archival documents. These documents were then published in collection periodicals accompanied by explanations of our scholars. Electronic versions of these publications were uploaded to IDFI website and are accessible for everyone. One of the most interesting projects in the area of Soviet history research was titled Stalin Lists on Georgia, through which IDFI collected and analyzed information about the victims of the Great Terror 1937-1938 in Georgia. The database is available in both Georgian and Russian and includes information about 3 600 victims, who were repressed through direct orders from Stalin. The database can be found on the website of the National Library of the Georgian Parliament.

SOVIET PAST RESEARCH LABORATORY – SOVLAB

Tbilisi | Lado Kavsadze Street #1

🌐 sovlab.ge

☎ +995 593 785901 | +995 577 520152

✉ info@sovlab.ge

👤 Irakli Khvadagiani

»Soviet Past Research Laboratory« was registered as NGO, in March 2010. The mission of Soviet Past Research Laboratory is to provide assistance in studying the Soviet totalitarian past and in awareness of political, legal and moral responsibility for the Soviet legacy. The aim of the organization is to create thought-provoking and debatable environment to assist in the democratic development.

Organization leads several programs:

Research Program: Assistance in step-by-step study, documenting and publicizing Soviet archives existing in Georgia; Preparation of publications based on archive documentation with further presentation to the wide range of readers; Development and initiation of the possibilities concerning research and study of Soviet history. Adopting and implementing the knowledge and methodology gained in western countries and former Soviet area; To arouse interest and actively involve new staff in the study of the Soviet legacy and archive research.

Educational Program: Assistance in the perception of totalitarianism and its results in all the spheres of personal and social life; Adaptation and delivery of created products as a result of research work to the wide range of the society; Creation of the electronic library, as a component of the educational program.

Public Archive Program: Establishing an electronic archive accessible for the wide society, where unique audio-video materials and artifacts taken from the history of soviet Georgia will be collected.

Terror topography Program: Marking places illustrating Soviet mass repressions in 1921–1991. Research, identification and memorialization of places of memory.

Since 2010, organization develops several series of publishing:

Topography of terror – 1 book

Lost history – 2 books

First republic of Georgia – 2 books

Prohibited memory – 2 books

SOVLAB created 2 city tour of Topography of terror - in Tbilisi and Telavi. 3 - exhibition, 2 documentary movie, 1 series of public discussion and leads 2 platform of digital archives. In frame of partnership with Community development center, SOVLAB is co-publisher of 2 volumes - history of community initiatives in Georgia before 1921 year.

EINUNG - ASSOZIATION DER DEUTSCHEN GEORGIENS (ASSOCIATION OF GERMANS IN GEORGIA)

Tbilisi | Galaktion Tabidze Street #3/5

 einung.org.ge

 +995 32 2 922042

 Harry Augst

Einung - Association of Germans in Georgia was founded in August 1991. Association collected successors of German settlers of Georgia. Association started variety of activities for research and preservation of material and cultural heritage of Germans in Georgia and fixing memory about mass deportation of Germans in Soviet Union in 1941.

UNION FOR PRESERVATION OF GERMAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SOUTH CAUCASUS (VEREIN ZUR BEWAHRUNG DEUTSCHEN KULTURGUTS IM SÜDKAUKASUS)

Tbilisi | Omar Pkhakadze Street #11

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 Oliver Reisner

Union for preservation of German cultural heritage in South Caucasus was founded as NGO in 2014 with institutional support of German embassy in Georgia.

Union focuses on researches and preservation and popularization of cultural heritage of German settlers in South Caucasus. Since 2014 union developed different projects: Full scale research inventorization of German architectural heritage in Georgia, photo exhibitions and series of lectures, restoration of roof of Alexandershilf (Trialeti) German church (Kirche).

MEMORIAL SITES

Due to results of Soviet totalitarianism and other complex problems, culture of commemoration and preservation of memorial sites is critically low. There aren't well-developed network of memory places and institutions. After 1990's, we have only few example of marking memorial sites, linked with XX centuries mass tragedies. Some of them were result of alternative, public initiative, some of them was developed with assistance central or local governments.

Memorial places linked with of Soviet mass terror are very few. There is no achievement of identification, excavation and memorializations of Mass graves of victims of Soviet repressions. We have only two little exception:

Kutaisi memorial of victims of Anti-Soviet uprising in August of 1924 - Symbolic memorial sign is installed in Mukhnari forest, South-East of Kutaisi city, at supposed area of Mass shooting during August uprising of 1924.

Telavi memorial of victims of Anti-Soviet uprising in August of 1924 - Symbolic memorial sign is installed at »Gigos Gora« little hill, South-East of Telavi city, at supposed area of Mass shooting during August uprising of 1924.

Shorapani memorial of victims of Anti-Soviet uprising in August of 1924 - Symbolic memorial sign is installed in Shorapani village, close to Zestafoni city, at supposed place of Mass shooting of victims during August uprising of 1924, those who were shut with machine guns, captured in Railway carriages.

Chiatura memorial of victims of Anti-Soviet uprising in August of 1924 - Symbolic memorial sign was installed in 2014 year, in Chiatura city center, where at 28 August of 1924, Anti-Soviet uprising started.

Zugdidi memorial of victims of Anti-Soviet uprising in August of 1924 - Symbolic memorial sign was installed in 2017, in Zugdidi city center, in Dadiani palace yard, supposed place where victims of 1924 August Anti-Soviet uprising were shut.

There aren't memorial sites, linked with Soviet GULAG system in Georgia yet. During 1930-1950's more than 100 prison camps and colonies were located on territory of Georgian SSR. Also there was big enough network of city prisons and so called »Isolators«, from where prisoners were distributed in GULAG network. Only part (small itself) of GULAG network is marked due to German POW's traces; During 1990-2000's German War Graves Commission (Volkbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge in German) memorialized 24 places in Georgia. Majority of this standard memorial signs aren't installed in correct location of POW's camps or cemeteries, but generally mark areas.

Here is list of those memorial places:

- Tbilisi, Sairme hill.
- Tbilisi, »Veli«.
- Rustavi, Zedgenidze Street.
- Gardabani, close to Gardabani Electrical station.
- Ksani
- Gori
- Bulachauri
- Khrami Hydroelectric station.
- Jvari pass.
- Stepantsminda.
- Chitakhevi (2).
- Kvabiskhevi (2).
- Surami.
- Sagarejo.
- Telavi.
- Zugdidi.
- Bolnisi.
- Chiatura.
- Sairme.
- Tkibuli.
- Makhinjauri.
- Kutaisi.

In 2014 Soviet past research laboratory identified another former POWs camp and cemetery, in Kutaisi city, near to former Avtomechanical plant. Also with assistance of south Caucasus and Turkey office of DVV international, in 2016–2017 was identified cemetery of POWs in Rustavi city, close to Zedgenidze street (see list of memorials up). In 2017 first test excavations confirmed findings. New stage of excavations is planned in 2018.

DIGITAL DATABASES

PUBLIC ARCHIVE OF SOVIET PAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

 archive.ge
Access: Free

Tbilisi | Kakutsa Cholokashvili Avenue #3 | E block of Ilia state university | room E107
 +995 593 785901
 info@sovlab.ge

Public archive is digital platform created and led by Soviet past research laboratory with several partners from 2010. The goal of the Public Archive is to preserve the alternative, unbeknown and undeveloped information in danger of being lost, losing which would make impossible a thorough research and understanding of the most recent history; to establish the unique, physically present documentary sources and live memory from each family or personal space; and to present them as a database that is as organized, accessible and flexible as possible. Therefore the interest of the Public Archive extends over the information covering the full spectrum of the most recent history: from general processes and events of social-political and cultural nature to private information involving family and hereditary chronicles and stories illustrating social arrangement, subsistence and daily life. Any minor, seemingly insignificant fragment of information is merits attention and right to be preserved, as a detail of a mosaic serving to restore the overall picture. Archive collects, based on family collection and organizations/ archives different types of documentary sources: Photos, documents, audio-visual materials (including oral histories) and artifacts. Web-archive was opened in 2017 and collections are uploading permanently.

Current statistics: 54 collection, 2 105 photo, 348 document, 30 video, 3 audio, 15 artifact.

GERMAN-GEORGIAN ARCHIVE

 german-georgian.archive.ge
Access: Free

Tbilisi | Kakutsa Cholokashvili Avenue #3 | E block of Ilia state university | room E107
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German-Georgian digital archive platform is based on structure of Public archive. Archive was established for anniversary of 200 years of German-Georgian relations in 2017. In 1817, the first German colonists arrived in Georgia, while the 2017 is a 25 anniversary (April

2017) since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Georgia and Germany and launching of cooperation between Georgia and Germany in the development sphere.

German archive platform was created for documenting, historical systematization, protection and promotion of these relationships, as a constantly updating open space for the general public or interested individuals, groups and institutions in the both societies.

Current statistics: 27 collection, 1 401 photo, 200 document, 12 video, 3 audio, 1 artifact.

»IVERIELI«, DIGITAL LIBRARY OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENT LIBRARY OF GEORGIA

 dspase.nplg.gov.ge

Access: Partly free

Tbilisi | Lado Gudiashvili Street #7

 +995 32 2 971655 | +995 32 2 971651

 dspace@nplg.gov.ge

Creation of digital collection of National Parliament Library of Georgia started at 2012-2013. Platform includes varieties of digitized sources from collections of National library and also personal and family collections of photos and documents. National library continues digitization of its own funds and finding collaborator organizations and private persons - families. Digitized sources are available on web-page. Access on part of collection or entire items are restricted by internet and are available only in building of National library.

Digital web-base is simple and experiences some problems of flexibility.

Current statistics: Books - 4 179, Press editions - 63 116, Magazines - 12 680, Posters - 2 957, Paintings - 9 136, Photos - 152 490, Documents (manuscripts) - 1 929, Others - 1 965.

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