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*Laws and By-law Regulations Relevant to the Work of Registrar's Offices
and the Archive in the Republic of Croatia*

Summary

The position and role of contemporary archives and registrar's offices is determined by a series of elements amongst which the relevant national and international laws and by-law regulations hold a special place. Since 1990 the Republic of Croatia has passed numerous regulations regarding the following: the archive materials and archives, cultural goods, information availability, providing of services by the information society and numerous international agreements. ISO standards 15489 and 11108 have been adopted. Business office regulations have not been amended since 1987. The administrative bodies mandated for culture (archives) and the office business management of the administration are the Ministry of Culture, the Central State Administration Office and the Central State Administration of Croatia. As the official candidate for EU membership (since 2004), the Republic of Croatia should adopt EU legislation.

A series of changes occurred in 1990 which included the field of the archive services. In the 1997 Archive Law the essential new provisions, in comparison to previous legislation, pertained to private material, obligatory protection and handing over all public archive material to the archives, as well to the expert and educational profile of the staff in registrar's offices (secondary level education, expert exam).

However, legislation and practice are unbalanced. Regulations are not harmonized as far as terminology and concepts are concerned. The competent ministry has not introduced any regulations on hardware and software of the administration bodies, and neither have the archives produced any concrete requests regarding electronic material. Problems the archive service encounters are not new. Coupled with insufficient premises for taking over the material, a large problem for the archives, as well as for the whole administration, is the staff.

The development strategy of Croatia for the 21st century defines high tasks and goals of the archives: «Organizational and financial enabling the archive services to protect the overall archive material (state owned, public and private), to develop and integrate the documentation management system in the administration and the archives and securing the education of expert staff». It is hard to expect that a country with a planned increase of foreign debt up to 27 billion dollars will be capable of allocating increased funds, whether state owned or private, to the field of culture..

The administration and archives are in a difficult situation. On the one hand, the Weber's administration ideal has not yet been achieved, and on the other, for reasons of competitiveness, e-management should be implemented. Regulations by themselves mean nothing if the society tends to disregard them.