

Archival History: A Case in Point

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Abstract: There is no conceptual framework or archival literature addressing archives impacted by political violence and the special archival practices they need and the broader issues they raise. This article proposes the concept of ‘archives under siege’ as a possible framework to address these issues and discusses the author’s processing of Holocaust impacted archives of the Jewish Community of Vienna, Austria, as an example.

About the author: Susanne Belovari became the Archivist for Reference and Collections, Digital Collections and Archives (DCA), Tufts University, during the summer of 2005. At DCA, she supervises all reference and processing, is responsible for manuscripts and university records, and carries out various outreach projects. Prior to DCA she worked as Holocaust restitution historian and archivist for the Jewish Community of Vienna, Austria where she also designed an archival framework and infrastructure and processed, organized and supervised the microfilming of the newly discovered Holocaust impacted/related records. She has focused on the history of archives, Holocaust impacted archives, processing, and international archival issues reflecting her academic background in international development, Latin American Studies, the History of Colonialism, and the history of science.

Belovari has been a member of the International Council on Archives - Section on University and Research Institution Archives (ICA-SUV) board since 2006 and serves on a number of their committees. She is a co-organizer of the 2009 ICA-SUV Annual Seminar, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and part of the panel evaluating proposals.

She has a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and was a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison focusing on the history of science.