

TERMS OF USE OF THE ARCHIVAL MATERIALS IN THE READING ROOM OF THE CENTRAL ARCHIVES OF HISTORICAL RECORDS

1. Archival materials and their copies from the holdings of the CAHR are accessible to the public under *Regulation no 4 of the Head of Polish State Archives from the 1st of February 2013 on the organization of access to archival materials in the Polish State Archives*.
2. Archival materials and their copies are accessible in the Reading Room which is open from Monday to Friday 9:00–7:00 (brakes for airing of the Reading Room 12:15–12:30 and 17:00–17:15). The Reading Room is closed during August, on Saturdays, Sundays and on official holidays.
3. Detailed schedule of the Reading Room opening hours for the next year is published in December on the website at the following address: http://agad.gov.pl/?page_id=1665
4. Due to the special historical character and value of the holdings, the original archival materials are accessible to the underage person on the basis of the Article No. 426 of the Civil Law Code.
5. The User should first fill in *Application of the User of archival holdings* before starting work in the Reading Room. https://agad.gov.pl/?page_id=2476
All users enroll in the Attendance and Access Register at the supervisor's desk upon arrival.
6. User should fill in a call slip to order archival materials. Please write only one reference number of archival unit on one call slip. Call slip will be processed only if it is filled in properly and legibly.
7. The properly filled in call slip should be submitted directly in the Reading Room, sent by post or via Internet call slip form on-line: https://agad.gov.pl/?page_id=2052
8. User may order up to 7 archival units per day, except the original court books for nobility (*Acta Terrestria et Castrenisia*) and modern records from Austrian chancellery – up to 5 units, and also civil metrical registers – up to 2 units per day. User may keep no more than 7 archival units on his/her account in the Reading Room.
9. User may study only one archival unit at a time and is asked to sign the usage register card attached to every archival unit.
10. Execution of the orders takes place twice a day:
 - 1) before 9:00 – call slip claimed the day before from 13:00 to 18:30,
 - 2) after 13:00 – call slip claimed from 9:00 to 13:00.

11. Only inventoried and marked with pagination or foliation (loose paper) materials can be accessed in the Reading Room. Availability of the original documents depends also on their good physical condition. Pagination of the selected archival unit may take approx. two weeks.

12. Ordered archival materials (units) are stored in the Reading Room depot for two weeks, dating from the last use. After this period materials are sent back to the archival repository. User should notify staff of the Reading Room when he/she finished the work with the unit or recessed the work for more than two weeks.

13. Each access to archival documents is recorded in Attendance and Access Register of the Reading Room.

14. Finds and collections which have been microfilmed or scanned are accessible only in these formats.

15. Certain archival materials/documents may be temporarily unavailable if they are:

- in bad physical condition,
- undergoing the process of cataloguing or digitalization,
- undergoing the archival fond/collection control or relocation,
- undergoing conservation treatment.

16. Original archival materials of the large size (such as plans or maps), which cannot be safely accessed in the Reading Room under normal conditions, need individual arrangement with the Reading Room staff.

17. Access to some archival materials (originals or/and copies) may be timely restricted due to the legally protected data which they comprise. Under the Act of 28 November 2014 on Civil Registry Records (Dz. U. of 2014, item 1741 as amended) access to the birth registry records is possible after 100 years and to the marriage and death records – after 80 years from the closure of the registry book.

18. Archival materials (originals and copies) must be handled with extreme care. Users should observe the proper handling of items. Please exercise all possible care to prevent damage to materials according to the following rules:

- a. Documents must be handled as little as possible and with extreme care. Please turn pages gently. Do not annotate, mark, tear, fold or damage collection material. Do not remove paper clips or staples.
- b. Special care and use of gloves is required when handling specialized collection material such as photographs, parchment charters and other fragile items (e.g. charters with lead seals or wax seals in metal boxes).

c. Making notes is possible only with use of pencil or laptops. Pencils are the only writing implements allowed in the Reading Room while archival materials are in use. Pens, felt-tip markers and adhesive labels are not permitted.

d. Archival materials must be returned after use directly to the Reading Room supervisor in proper order, as they were arranged before studying. Please maintain the exact order of items within a folder. Realign documents in the file folders before returning the material to its container.

e. Do not leave the archival materials unattended on the table after finishing the work. If the work with the records is discontinued for over 1h, records have to be returned to the supervisor.

f. Each archival unit must be safely laid down on the table on available in the Reading Room supporting materials (special weights called “snakes” are available for keeping the volume open).

Materials should be laid flat on the table, should not be placed face down, rested on another book, or held on one's lap. Do not stack or overlap documents and do not lean on them; do not press down on documents and bound materials to keep the pages open.

g. Do not write on paper laid on top of the documents or books (regardless whether the books are open or closed). Tracing or rubbing is not permitted. Do not put any writing utensils on the archival materials.

h. Do not moisten fingers to turn the pages.

i. Microfilm reels must be handled with extreme care, do not fold nor scratch the tape; in case of any problem with the microfilm reader or the reels contact Reading Room supervisor.

j. Users must leave all personal belongings such as handbags, briefcases, umbrellas, outerwear (e.g. coats and caps) and computer cover pouches in the ground-floor cloakroom or lockers. It is necessary to leave also food and beverages (including bottled water) in the lockers.

If needed, special transparent bags are available at the security counter.

k. Do not bring to the Reading Room any substances which could be harmful to archival materials.

19. For the benefit of all users there should be maximum silence in the Reading Room. Mobile phones, computers and photo cameras must be on silent mode. Conversations are to be avoided whenever possible.

20. The following are freely accessible in the Reading Room:

- archival inventories, catalogues and other descriptive archival information and databases and scans,
- CAHR Library (from 9:00 to 15:00); call slip for books should be submitted in the Library,
- microfilms of selected documents from the holdings of foreign archives (*Polonica*),
- microfilm readers, desktop computers (connected to the Internet, Intranet and Wi-Fi) and electric sockets for laptops.

21. Under the Article 8 of the *Regulation No. 4 of the Head of Polish State Archives from the 1st of February 2013 on the organization of access to archival materials in Polish State Archives*, User can bring his/her own camera or tablet to the Reading Room to take his/her own pictures of documents, which he/she is then free to use at home or in the classroom etc. Cameras must be secured against the possibility of falling down on documents. It is prohibited to displace documents, stand on chairs or place collection material on the floor to capture an image.

22. Handheld scanners are not permitted in the Reading Room.

23. User may:

- Make drawing copies from plans and maps (in respect of document safety), upon prior arrangement with the Head of Cartography Division.
- Order a copy according to the *Rules and Price List of Archival Services*: http://agad.gov.pl/?page_id=3064

24. User can borrow microfilm copies of archival materials from other state archives and institutions in Poland via CAHR as well as he/she can borrow microfilms from CAHR via other state archive or institution.

- To request microfilm copy from other state archives/institutions User have to place an order (Full name, name of the fonds/collection and state archives, reference number of archival unit).
- To request microfilm copy from CAHR the borrowing institution must send an order of the User (Full name, name of the fonds/collection and state archives, reference number of archival unit).
- CAHR lends its microfilms for a period of two weeks.
- Payment for the shipment (back and forth) of a microfilm has to be transferred to the bank account of the CAHR: NBP O/O W-wa (SWIFT – NBPL PLPW) 86 1010 1010 0008 9522 3000 0000.

25. It is forbidden to take out of the Reading Room archival materials nor any items belonging to CAHR. After leaving the Reading Room, User might be asked by security to present their belongings for inspection under the Act of 22 August 1997 on the security of people and property (Dz. U. of 1997, No 114, item 740, as amended).

26. Smoking is allowed only in the open areas outside the building.

27. If the fire alarm sounds, Users should leave archival materials and personal belongings at their desks and leave the building immediately under the direction of the staff. Once outside, users are required to gather at the indicated assembly point.

28. First aid kit is available by the supervisors' desk.

29. Director of CAHR will be informed immediately about any serious breach of the above regulations; such a violation could be considered as the reason for the administrative decision, which may suspend User's access to the archival materials.

Warsaw, 2nd January 2017