

Management of archival literary sources: the Greek approach

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In Greece, as in many other countries, literary archives play an important role in the intellectual, social, political and cultural life of the country and are interconnected with the history of the state. Since the phenomenon of the diaspora of literary archives is familiar to all literary researchers, the scope of this article is to promote awareness of literary archives in Greece and to provide an approach to literary sources in an exceptionally wide range of archival institutions. It takes into account the Greek historical background in literary traditions and connects it with the current intensive interest in the archives, the legal framework, the principles of access to archival material and the challenges of on-line access for this category of archives and archivists.

Eternity is quality, not quantity, this is the big but very simple secret.

Nikos Kazantzakis (1883–1957)

Where and how is literary memory safeguarded in Greece?

The purpose of this article is to answer this basic question, presenting a representative picture of Greek literary archives, the places in which they are located and the way they are organized, the mapping of the archival landscape in this field, the accessibility and finding aids of the archival material and the challenges set by new technologies in the digital era.

The profile of literary archives

Literary archives constitute a specialized category of archives and include all kinds of documents, items and testimonies in every format, which were produced and are related to the intellectual, personal and social activity of a litterateur.

More analytically, this material may include manuscripts, typescripts, printed and other formats that are related to published or unpublished works, self-contained or not, drafts

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and notes, photographs, press cuttings, memoirs or diaries, souvenirs of the time, audiovisual material, personal and family documents (certificates, identity cards, awards, notarial and other legal documents), letters of condolence, requiem articles, etc. The totality of their correspondence, official or private, is of particular importance, and in addition litterateurs' libraries may constitute valuable sources of information about their personality and activities.

It should be noted that archives of persons who are not necessarily litterateurs themselves but who are directly associated with the history of literature – such as critics, publishers of literary magazines, newspaper editors and journalists, etc. – are also included among the relevant archival material since they contribute in a definitive manner to the recording of the literary production of the country.

The study of archives of literary unions and associations is of great interest, and is especially important in the context of modern Greek literature. In addition, the collecting of literary periodicals which have contributed to the formation of the literary milieu and through which the course of Greek literature can be charted, is vital in completing the full range of literary archives.

The uniqueness and value of literary archives: safeguarding and promoting this significant part of the international cultural heritage

Literary archives are an indispensable and important part of international archival heritage since literary works, as masterpieces of human creative intellect, constitute “Monuments of Universal Heritage.”¹ Through this material, researchers are not only given the opportunity to study literary movements, to explore litterateurs and their texts, to derive information on their biographies and works, but also to discover the cultural, social, financial and political context in which litterateurs created them.

As early as the nineteenth century, and systematically during the twentieth century, specialist organizations, and important individual intellectuals have initiated activities aiming to safeguard literary memory² and to ensure “immortality” in literary material and its “everlasting power” at both international and national level.

The International Council on Archives has long recognized the importance of literary archives and manuscripts, and since 2009 the Section for Archives of Literature and Art (SLA) has resumed its role, its remit being “to communicate the cultural value and the magic of literary and artistic archives, and to create a worldwide network of literary archivists and users of literary archives”³.

1 UNESCO, Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines> (accessed 15 May 2018).

2 The Memory of the World Programme and Register were established to preserve and raise awareness of documentary heritage which reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. The programme was born of the realization that this memory is fragile and that important documentary material is lost every day. See <https://en.unesco.org/programme/mow> (accessed 15 May 2018).

3 Literary and Artistic Archives: the blog of the International Council on Archives Section on Literary and Artistic Archives at <https://literaryartisticarchives-ica.org/> (accessed 24 April 2018)

A brief overview of the modern literary history of Greece

In Greece, as in many other countries, literary archives play an important role in the intellectual, social, political and cultural life of the country and are interconnected with the history of the Greek state. Greek litterateurs follow international literary developments, mainly in Europe, while making use of the elements of Greek literature and intellectual tradition at the same time.

The origins of modern Greek literature can be traced back to the Byzantine period; and its history is thereafter schematically divided into three main eras: the post-Byzantine period, 1453–1821, and from 1821 to the present. As far as the history of modern Greek literature is concerned, valuable works of reference include those of Constantinos Th. Demaras (1904–1992), Georgios Valetas (1907–1989), Linos Politis (1906–1982), Georgios Zoras (1908–1982) and Mario Vitti (b.1926).

The present article will focus particularly on the generation of the 1920s and the 1930s, including those litterateurs who were at the peak of their creativity in these decades, as well as on the post-war period, when their literary work was influential and of international significance, and on more recent years of literary production.

Greek litterateurs, men and women, have been recognized internationally: the Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to the distinguished poets Georgios Seferis⁴ (1900–1971) in 1963 and Odysseas Elytis⁵ (1911–1996) in 1979. The first Greek litterateur to be nominated for the Nobel Prize was Demetrios Vernardakis (1833–1907) in 1905, while Nikos Kazantzakis (1833–1957) since 1947 until his death was nominated nine times. In addition, Antonis Samarakis⁶ (1919–2003), one of the most translated Greek litterateurs, was honoured in 1982 for the entirety of his work with the award of the Europalia Prize in Literature.

Where is literary memory safeguarded in Greece?

The diaspora of literary archives: preliminary remarks

The archival remains of Greek literary production are often found in public and private organizations after a donation by the literary producers themselves, or their heirs, or by others who have come into possession of the papers.

Archival organizations, libraries and museums collaborate closely and emphasize their role in the preservation and the promotion of cultural heritage in this field. The majority of this type of archival material is concentrated in private organizations. Several institutions bear the names of novelists, prose writers and poets such as the Kostis Palamas Foundation, Georgios Drosinis Museum, Nikos Kazantzakis Museum, etc., along with important political personalities who were also significant literary figures, such as Panagiotis Kanellopoulos (1902–1986, politician, philosopher and academic) and Evaggelos Averof-Tositsas (1910–1990, politician and writer), etc. It is also noteworthy that in several cases, archival material relating to a particular litterateur is split and kept by different archival organizations.

4 His real full name was Georgios Seferiadis. A Greek diplomat and poet, he was the first Greek to be awarded a Nobel Prize.

5 His real full name was Odysseas Alepoudelis. A Greek writer, poet and art critic, he was awarded the State Poetry Prize in 1960.

6 Antonis Samarakis was a Greek prose writer whose work has been recognized world-wide. His archive is split between the Library of Parliament of Greece and the Hellenic and Literary Historical Archive.

In many cases, family members will have the archives in their possession, sometimes without declaring them officially. There are also cases when the writers themselves possess them since they are still alive. In the worst of cases the archival material cannot be found or has been destroyed. And often, legal disputes among the heirs, the lack of knowledge that the archives they hold in their possession constitute arks of history and memory, and the general lack of any archival consciousness means that there is little security the future of the literary archives.

A typical example of litterateurs' own concern over the fate of their archives the final words of the distinguished litterateur Antonis Yalouris (1874–1945) whose last, anguished cry was said to be “My manuscripts!”

The mapping of Greek literary archives

The General State Archives (G.S.A.),⁷ as the national archival organization, holds remarkable archival collections. In both the Central Service and the 64 Regional Services in the prefecture capitals and cities with particular cultural legacy, interesting material has been collected. The foundation and the function of G.S.A. are inextricably interconnected with litterateur and historian Giannis Vlachogiannis, who was the first Director of the Service between 1915 and 1937.⁸ In 1914 Vlachogiannis proposed the establishment of the GSA to Eleftherios Venizelos, Prime Minister of Greece, which was founded thanks to his prompting and to that of Spyridon Lambrou, a politician and historian, who had received first prize in the Voutsinaios competition for his metrical drama in 1870.

The litterateur and poet Constantinos Ath. Diamantis, who served as G.S.A. Director and for a short period as Director of the National Library of Greece, wrote and published literary and prose texts, poets in literary magazines and newspapers from 1931. Nikolaos Politis, who served as the first President of the Supervisory Council of G.S.A., was, in addition, the founder of the Folklore and the Folklorist Archive, while the current President of the Supervisory Council of G.S.A., historian Nikolaos E. Karapidakis has served since 2012 as the Director of the periodical *Nea Estia*, the longest running literary periodical of Greece which first appeared in 1927.

In the Central Service, rich material is found in “Small Collections K” such as the manuscripts of Georgios Vizyinos (1849–1896), Minutes of the Award Committee of Literary Works, the Archive of Constantinos Ath. Diamantis Archive, the Archive of Ioannis Dambergis (1862–1938), the Stephanos Xenos Collection (1821–1894), the Constitution of the Literary Authors Association, a single leaf of Authors of the National Liberation Front, etc. The “Giannis Vlachogiannis Collection” includes linguistic, literary, artistic, historical manuscripts such as those of Ioannis Vilaras (1771–1823), material about oral poetry and prose and poetic competitions; in addition, unique material in public archives includes the service files of Costas Karyotakis (1896–1928) and Maria Polydouri (1902–1930), and of literary societies, etc.

⁷ General State Archives of Greece: <http://www.gak.gr> (accessed 15 May 2018).

⁸ KARAPIDAKIS N. E. & KOULIKOURDI A. ‘The moment of Vlachogiannis’, in VAKALOPOULOU M. X. & KARAPIDAKIS N. E., eds., *The science of archives: the practice of the General State Archives*, Athens, 2012, pp. 39–55.

An important role is also played by the following bodies:

- the National Library of Greece⁹ (established in 1832), with archival material of personalities such as the national poet of Greece Dionysios Solomos (1798–1857), Dionysios Romas (1906–1981), Demetrios Vikelas (1835–1908), Aggelos Sikelianos (1884–1951), documents of Alexandros Papadiamantis (1851–1908), Katina Pappa (1900–1959), etc;
- the Library of the Parliament of Greece¹⁰ (founded in 1844) with the archive and library of Yannis Psycharis (1854–1929) – kept in the Benakeios Library – and Antonis Samarakis (1919–2003);
- the Academy of Athens¹¹ (established in 1926) and its research centres, where private archives of litterateurs and other persons of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are acquired such as those of Dionysios Solomos (1798–1857), Alexandros Rizos Ragkavis (1809–1892), Georgios Tertsetis (1800–1874), manuscripts of Ioannis Vilaras (1771–1823), the Elli Lamridi's (1896–1970) Philosophical Library, etc.

Other institutions which must be considered to be of primary importance for Greek literary archives include the Gennadius Library¹² and the Hellenic and Literary Historical Archive.¹³

The Gennadius Library, which opened in 1926, holds a richly diverse collection of over 120,000 volumes of books, as well as rare book bindings, archives, manuscripts and works of art, and is internationally renowned as a centre for the study of Greek history, literature and art from ancient to modern times. Its archives and collections, accompanied with systematic descriptions, include material from major Greek litterateurs, including living writers such as Vassilis Vassilikos (born 1934); in its library all the periods of modern Greek literature are represented.

Examples from its archival collections include papers of Odysseas Elytis (1911–1996), Georgios Seferis (1900–1971), Demetrios Kapetanakis (1912–1944), Georgios Theotokas (1905–1966), Stratis Myrivilis (1892–1969), Aggelos Terzakis (1907–1979), Costas Varnalis (1884–1974), Elias Venezis (1904–1973), Demetrios Vikelas (1835–1908), Ionas Dragoumis (1878–1920), the archive of the litterateur, philosopher and academician Constantinos Tsatsos (1899–1987), etc. The Gennadius Library is renowned for its excellent online presence and the provision of finding aids to researchers.

The Hellenic and Literary Historical Archive, founded in 1980 by Manos Charitatos and Demetrios Portolos, constitutes one of the most important centres of promotion and production of research in the field of humanities. It possesses a large number of archives of persons connected with Letters and the Arts. The Archives Department brings together more than 1,300 archive collections, of which the literary ones form a majority, including those of Elli Alexiou (1894–1988), the family of Aristotle Valaoritis (1824–1879), Napoleon Lapathiotis (1888–1944), Tellos Agras (1880–1907), Petros Vlastos (1879–1941), documents of the Association of Greek Literary Authors etc.

9 National Library of Greece: www.nlg.gr (accessed 15 May 2018).

10 The Library of the Hellenic Parliament: <http://library.parliament.gr> (accessed 15 May 2018).

11 Academy of Athens: www.academyofathens.gr (accessed 15 May 2018).

12 The Gennadius Library, The American School of Classical Studies at Athens: www.ascsa.edu.gr (accessed 15 May 2018).

13 Hellenic and Literary Historical Archive: www.elia.org.gr (accessed 15 May 2018).

With a more regional focus, the Hellenic and Literary Historical Archive of Thessaloniki,¹⁴ founded in 1997, brings together archives of litterateurs who lived and worked in Thessaloniki. In the Archive a small museum area displays the household effects of Thessaloniki-born litterateur Nikos-Alexis Aslanoglou (1931–1996).

Rich collections of books, periodicals and newspapers are available in the libraries of these institutions.

We can also mention the more political interests represented by the collections of Contemporary Social History Archives,¹⁵ founded in 1992, where researchers can find rich material for the post World War II period and the history of left-wing scholars as well as many left-wing litterateurs.

Material for female litterateurs can be found in the Library on Gender and Equality and the Historical Archive of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality.¹⁶ The Guide to Women's Archives in Greece "Clio" of the Library on Equality and Gender is an important addition to these useful finding aids, including 980 archives and reflecting women's personalities from the field of literature.¹⁷

The archive of Constantinos P. Cavafy¹⁸ (1863–1933), arguably the most distinguished Greek poet of the twentieth century, consists of manuscripts, books, documents, photographs and other items, left to his heir Alekos Segopoulos in 1933. The Cavafy archives were acquired by the Onassis Foundation towards the end of 2012 and consists of more than 4,600 manuscripts and personal objects of the poet.¹⁹

The Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, founded in 1933 has established itself as a prominent presence. It holds, among its collections important archives such as that of the University professor and scholar of ancient, Byzantine and modern Greek literature Ioannis Sykouris (1901–1937), the library of the poet Veroniki Dalakoura (1952–), of Penelope Delta (1874–1941), a part of the archive of the poet and lyricist Manos Eleftheriou (1938–), the library and the archive of the literature critic and litterateur Cleon Paraschos (1894–1964), etc. In 2000 the Foundation launched the Literary Contest in memory of Kaiti Laskaridi.

A unique national wealth of audiovisual, photographic and written material, which constitutes over 80% of the audiovisual archive of Greece, is located at the Archive of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation.²⁰

Several local libraries have collected literary archives. Examples include the archive of Nikiforos Vrettakos (1912–1991) in the Public Central Library of Sparta; the archive of Dinos Konomos (1918–1990) in the Public Library of Zante; the archive of Adamantios Korais (1748–1833) in the Public Central Library of Chios Korais; the archive of Costas Krystallis (1868–1894) in the Zosimaia Public Central Library; literature of people from the Ionian Islands in the Korgialenio Library of Argostoli; the Vikelaia Library where Dimitrios Vikelas bequeathed his rich and valuable library to the Municipality of Heraklion in 1908; and the archive of Eirini Dendrinou (1879–1974) in the Reading Company of Corfu.

14 Hellenic and Literary Historical Archive of Thessaloniki (Available at www.elia.org.gr/elia-thessaloniki/).

15 Contemporary Social History Archives: www.askiweb.eu (accessed 12 June 2018).

16 General Secretariat for Gender Equality: www.isotita.gr (accessed 12 June 2018).

17 The Women's Archives in Greece: www.isotita.gr/vivliothiki-thematwn-isotitas/kleio (accessed 12 June 2018).

18 The Onassis Cultural Centre-Athens: www.onassis.org/en/cultural-center.php (accessed 24 April 2018).

19 Archive of Cavafy: www.onassis.org/cavafy-archive-overview.php (accessed 24 April 2018).

20 Archive of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation: <http://archive.ert.gr> (accessed 12 June 2018).

In the field of museums, the Historical Archives Department of the Benaki Museum,²¹ which was founded in 1955, is today one of the best organized institutions of deposit and storage in Greece, with more than 1,200 archival collections. They include the archives of Aggelos Sikelianos (1884–1951), Penelope S. Delta (1874–1941), Giannis Ritsos (1909–1990), Iakovos Polyas (1825–1896) and a collection of documents of Constantinos Cavafy (1863–1933).

Similarly, in the Byzantine and Christian Museum of Athens, can be found one of the most important and largest preserved archives of a Greek artist and literary writer of the twentieth century, that of Fotis Kontoglou (1895–1965).

The museum dedicated to Georgios Drossinis²² (1859–1951), founded in 1997, has collected his entire poetic, prose and folklore work as well as his rich archive with manuscripts and relevant historical documents of the same era. The archive of Kazantzakis (1883–1957), one of the biggest literary archives in Greece, was initially formed in 1976 by the founder of the Kazantzakis Museum, Georgios Anemogiannis. It has now accumulated more than 50,000 items, including letters, autograph manuscripts, published works, essays, criticism and journalism, photographs, audio documents, personal objects, etc.²³

Other museums playing a significant role are the Museum of Solomos and Prominent Zakyntians²⁴ with the collection of Solomos manuscripts, and the Museum-House of Alexandros Papadiamantis (1851–1911) in Skiathos.

The Kostis Palamas Foundation²⁵ has undertaken the work of safeguarding the Library and the Archive of Palamas (1859–1943), which were rescued by Palamas' daughter Nafsika. In 2014 the Kostis Palamas Cultural Centre²⁶ in Patras was founded; its principal aim is the dynamic presentation of the poet's work – and not the preservation of his memory – by organizing international conferences dedicated to the poet.

Within university institutions, the Archive of Modern Greek Literature of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,²⁷ established in 1973, includes an impressive number of archival materials of modern Greek litterateurs, such as the 14 draft notebooks of *Axion Esti* by Odysseas Elytis (1911–1996), manuscript notebooks and draft works of Aggelos Sikelianos (1884–1951), the archive of Melpo Axioti (1905–1973) and that of Elli Papademetriou (1906–1933). The Historical Archive of the University of Athens,²⁸ founded in 1991, also plays an important role.

Material is also found in the Library of the University of Crete²⁹ (such as the Library and the Archive of the academic Georgios Giannaris; the Digital Library of Modern Greek

21 Catalogue of literary archives kept at the Historical Archives Department of the Benaki Museum: https://www.benaki.gr/index.php?option=com_collections&view=collection&id=71&Itemid=511&lang=el (accessed 12 June 2018).

22 Georgios Drossinis Museum: www.drossinismuseum.gr (accessed 12 June 2018).

23 Archive of Nikos Kazantzakis: <https://www.kazantzaki.gr/gr/nikos-kazantzakis-archive> (accessed 12 June 2018).

24 Museum of Solomos and Prominent Zakyntians: <http://zakynthos-museumsolomos.gr> (accessed 12 June 2018).

25 Kostis Palamas Foundation: www.kostispalamas.org.gr/file.html (accessed 12 June 2018).

26 Cultural Centre Kostis Palamas: www.sgkpalamas.gr/home (accessed 12 June 2018).

27 Archive of Modern Greek Literature of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: https://www.auth.gr/museums_archives/logotexnia (accessed 12 June 2018).

28 Historical Archive of the University of Athens: www.archive.uoa.gr (accessed 12 June 2018).

29 Closed collections of the Library of the University of Crete: <http://www.lib.uoc.gr/info/absrv/rare/ab/ag> (accessed 12 June 2018).

Studies ANEMH³⁰ hosted by the University including the archival collections of Pantelis Prevelakis (1909–1986) and Aggelos Papakostas (1903–1981); and the Historical Archive of the University of Patras.³¹

The Centre for Neo-Hellenic Studies,³² has as its purpose the research and the promotion of Modern Greek Literature, containing an anthology of texts in electronic form, as well as the preservation of the intellectual and academic tradition of the critic and historian Constantinos Th. Demaras (1904–1992) and the scholar and professor, Georgios P. Savvides (1929–1995).

Equally valuable for literary researchers are the databases “Archive of Literature Awards,” “Hospitality Centres for Literary Authors in countries of Europe and the Mediterranean,” “Archive of Literature Critics” held by the National Book Centre, and available on its website.³³ This Centre, whose aim is the implementation of a national policy for the promotion of books, has created a series of anniversary websites honouring well-known Greek litterateurs; these comprise celebratory activities with cultural events, conferences, exhibitions, workshops, special editions and so on.

Legal framework and principles of access

According to the Greek legislative framework for archives in Law 1946/1991,³⁴ literary archives belong to the category of private archives defined in article 4, par. 1b: “archives of persons that were distinguished in sciences, letters, arts.... and the archives of other individuals the content of which presents special interest”).

As far as access is concerned, the archives and collections donated to organizations are provided to researchers according to the terms of the donor (open or closed archives, reproduction/digitization of the archival material, etc.) and literary copyright issues, otherwise they fall under the general or special provisions of the operational rules of each organization.

As this literary material is distributed among so many different institutions, the General State Archives (G.S.A.) has assumed an important role through its implementation of the National Archives Index, which gives an overview of all archival collections in the country and provides a vital service for researchers. Organizations or individuals that possess archives are required to notify their existence to the G.S.A. according to article 40 of Law 1946/1991.

The Society of Greek Archivists and the Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive have also created a special listing of literature archives of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, by surveying libraries and archives in Greece and in other countries, university departments, litterateurs themselves and persons who had a relationship, whether based on family or friendship, with a deceased litterateurs.³⁵

30 Digital Library of Modern Greek Studies ANEMH: <http://anemi.lib.uoc.gr> (accessed 12 June 2018).

31 Historical Archive of the University of Patras: <http://old.library.upatras.gr/en/digitalcollections-en> (accessed 12 June 2018).

32 Centre for Neo-Hellenic Studies: www.snhell.gr (accessed 12 June 2018).

33 National Book Centre: www.ekebi.gr (accessed 12 June 2018).

34 Law 1946/1991 “General State Archives and other provisions,” at www.gak.gr/org/legi/diaf/law1946_%201991.pdf (accessed 12 June 2018).

35 GREEK ARCHIVAL SOCIETY, Literary Archives: www.eae.org.gr/index.php/research-t (accessed 12 June 2018).

In addition, the Society of Greek Archivists has produced the second complete edition of the *Guide to private archives*, a useful finding aid for private original historical sources.³⁶

Challenges of digital era: easier access, better promotion

At a time when a large number of items from libraries and archives is available in a digital form with open access, the question has been asked: *how much more “openly” do we participate in the narration of our literary past?*³⁷ Beyond the policies and the methods used for the management of literary archives in their analogue form, a significant number of bodies holding literary archives in Greece follow contemporary requirements for open access, providing access via the Web to a wide range of resources. Many have also proceeded to the digitization of their collections, eliminating the need for the researcher to be present and providing direct and free access to literary archives.

An example is that of the Cavafy archive, which is currently in a stage of transition from an open physical archive to an open digital archive. All the archival documents within the Cavafy collection have been digitized. The process has produced more than 7,500 discrete digitized documents: manuscripts, notes, newspapers, photographs, personal items of the poet and works of art.

The global use of the internet has changed the approach needed by archivists in respect of management of copyright, as so many works are available either additionally in digital format or only in digital format. Copyright is increasingly managed through licensing arrangements.

The documentation and digitization of the literary archives meets the organization's requirements for safeguarding the material while its publication and availability (whether through provision of digitized material and finding aids, internet exhibitions and so on) provides the international research community with the possibility of knowing, understanding and interpreting literary works, such as the works of Cavafy and Solomos, their opinions, their experiences on books, the archival fate of the creators, etc. But beyond management practices derived from the analogue environment, archival organizations must now invest in systems for the management and permanent preservation of born-digital archives.

Increasing interest of the research community and the broader public

Proof of the increasing interest in Greek literature can be found not only in the emergence of university studies on Modern Greek Literature, the presence of major Greek litterateurs in universities abroad, the increased number of international conferences and scientific symposia dedicated to Greek literary writers, and the establishment of year-long tributes to Greek cultural figures (2017 was announced as the Year of Nikos Kazantzakis by the Ministry of Culture), but also in the large number of theses that are being completed in European

³⁶ GREEK ARCHIVAL SOCIETY, Committee of Private Archives, *Guide to Private Archives*, 2nd ed., at http://www.eae.org.gr/testportal/index.php?option=com_sppagebuilder&view=page&id=64 (accessed 12 June 2018).

³⁷ SIHANI A. M., “Literary archives and digital media: the future through the past” [in Greek], blogpost, Oct. 2013, at www.chronosmag.eu/index.php/s-lg-psf-s-ll-p-plth.html (accessed 15 May 2018).

countries. The lively interest in Greek literature is also proved through organization of literary evenings, activities held by bookstores, etc which engage a wide range of audiences within the literary community in a dialogue.

Conclusion

Literary archives constitute an important and valuable heritage for the Greek, the European and the worldwide community since they help us explore the study of literature in a globalizing world and increase both our sense of identity and our understanding of world literature and their distinctive reflections.

Since literary archives are divided between many collecting institutions, in Greece and abroad, archival bodies need to coordinate their activities, participate in national and international literary networks, develop digitization projects and engage in dialogue both with the research and educational communities as well as wider society.

In this work, the General State Archives will play the leading role, through the development of the National Archives Index, in order to raise the profile of literary archives, to promote awareness, to develop ways of enabling research and to deal with the phenomenon of “split collections”.

In this changing archival landscape, the archivists, as information professionals, through a combination of education and experience, are adopting roles for ensuring the identification, preservation, documentation and availability of this unique archival material and determining their continuing value.