
О ИДЕЈАМА И КЊИГАМА ON IDEAS AND BOOKS

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Searching for Serbian History Online: Three Repositories to Explore

The digitalization of historical documents and the creation of online repositories have been highlighted by various stakeholders for their significant benefits.¹ Beyond being a crucial step in preserving primary sources, digitalization—particularly through the development of online archival repositories—has greatly enhanced historical research. It has made archival documents more accessible and searchable, which proved to be especially valuable during the recent health crisis,² allowing historians to continue their work from the safety of their homes. Furthermore, the global reach of online repositories has levelled the playing field, providing equal access to researchers regardless of their institutional backing or resources.

Utilizing digital resources has also helped historians reduce research costs and avoid unnecessary travel. These advantages are equally available to those studying the history of Serbia. Previous issues of *Godišnjak* have already introduced several such resources.³ This article seeks to further contribute to mapping online repositories relevant to Serbian history (and beyond) by highlighting three repositories from three different continents: Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

¹ The National Archives, “Benefits of digitization”, (n. d.), URL: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/commercial-opportunities/digitisation-services/benefits-of-digitisation/> (27.06.2024).

² MacEachern, Alan, Turkel, William J., “A Time for Research Distancing”, published at *Active History*, *History Matters Blog*, March 30, 2020, URL: <https://activehistory.ca/blog/2020/03/31/a-time-for-research-distancing/> (27.06.2024)

³ Indicatively: Slobodan Mandić, Prikazi sajtova (Web adresar) XLV, *Godišnjak za društvenu istoriju god. XXXI sveska 1, 2024*, 95-99; Slobodan Mandić, Prikazi sajtova (Web adresar) XLIII, *Godišnjak za društvenu istoriju god. XXX sveska 3, 2023*. 99-104.

i. Search Culture: The Greek National Aggregator of Digital Cultural Content



Search Culture (<https://www.searchculture.gr/aggregator/portal/?language=en>) is the Greek National Aggregator of Digital Cultural Content, providing open access to 130 digital collections, which include over 935,000 items, from 101 Greek cultural and research institutions, museums, archives, libraries and galleries. The portal is available in both Greek and English language. Search can be conducted either via simple – key word search or advanced search. For example, by entering the keyword „*Serbia*,“ researchers can access 749 items related to Serbia, Greece-Serbia bilateral relations and inter-Balkan relations. These items—such as drawings, photographs, postcards, and more—are held by over twenty Greek institutions. Notable examples of the research outcomes include a Serbian folk doll from 1960 (see figure 1), a telegram concerning Serbia’s role in maintaining Zogou’s power in Albania in 1924 (see figure 2), and a railway map of Serbia from 1885 (?) (see figure 3).



Figure 1: Serbian folk doll URL: https://www.searchculture.gr/aggregator/edm/medusa/000114-3_3571manifest

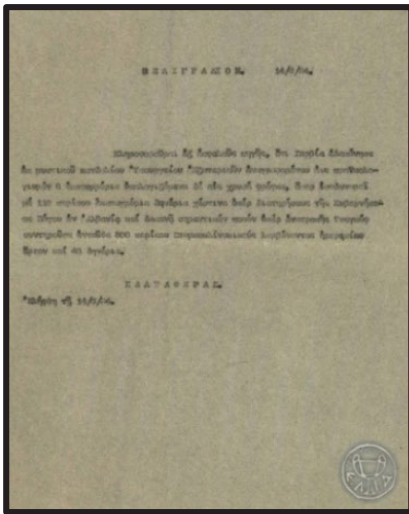


Figure 2: Telegram URL:
<https://www.searchculture.gr/aggregator/edm/venizelosdig/000132-41111>

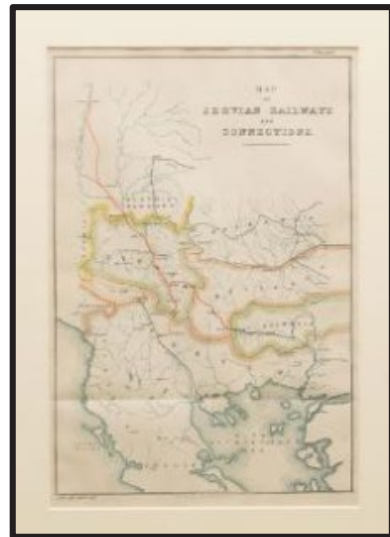


Figure 3: Railway map of Serbia 1885 (?) URL:
<https://www.searchculture.gr/aggregator/edm/DigMacedStruggle/000180-307>

ii. The National Archives of India Digitized Collections



The National Archives of India (<https://www.abhilekh-patal.in/jspui/>) provide access to over 1,207,000 digitized records. Both simple keyword and advanced search options are available. For instance, a simple keyword search using the word „Serbia“ yields 109 results, while the word „Yugoslavia“ brings up 772 items, covering a wide temporal range and various topics. A significant portion of the available items is in English, which facilitates research for non-Hindi speakers.

Last but not least, this repository contains material not only related to the country’s bilateral relations with India but also reports concerning its relations with neighboring countries. For example, see Figure 4, the front page of the folder on Yugoslavia-Bangladesh economic relations, dated 1972.

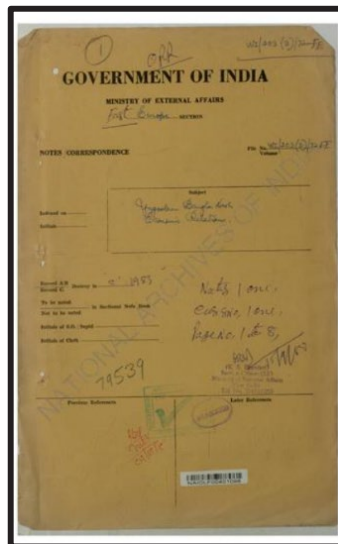


Figure 4:Yugoslavia - Bangladesh Economic Relations. URL: [https://www.abhilekh-patal.in/jspui/handle/123456789/4669884?searchWord=Yugoslavia&backquery=\[location=123456789%2F1&query=Yugoslavia&rpp=20&sort_by=dc.date.accessioned_dt&order=desc\]](https://www.abhilekh-patal.in/jspui/handle/123456789/4669884?searchWord=Yugoslavia&backquery=[location=123456789%2F1&query=Yugoslavia&rpp=20&sort_by=dc.date.accessioned_dt&order=desc])

iii. Papers Past: New Zealand and Pacific newspapers, magazines and journals, books, and other formats.

Papers Past

Papers Past (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>) is an online repository provided by the National Library of New Zealand, featuring a rich collection of New Zealand and Pacific newspapers, magazines and journals, diaries and letters, parliamentary papers, and books. This open-access repository, like the previous ones, offers both simple keyword and advanced search options. While the majority of the available material is in English, there are also items in Māori.

Researchers can freely navigate and explore the different collections on the portal: i. Newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries, ii. Digitized New Zealander magazines and journals covering a wide range of subjects, iii. Letters and diaries, iv. Digitized reports from the Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives, v. Digitized New Zealand books in English and Te Reo Māori.

Applying a simple keyword search to the first collection, we find over 52,000 results related to „Serbia.“ Search results can be narrowed down by applying additional filters, such as dates, titles, regions, and types of content.

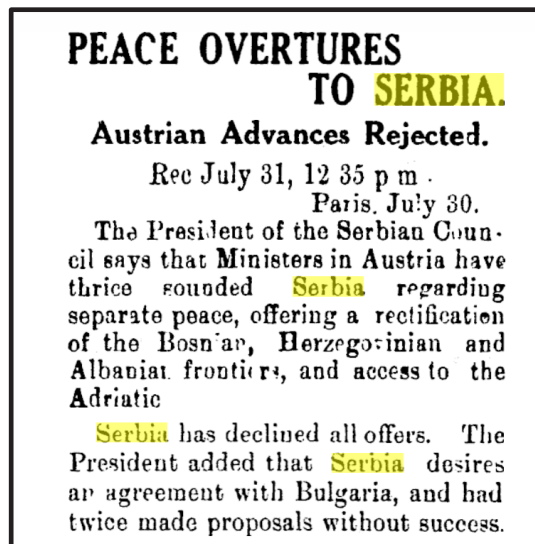


Figure 5: Bay of Plenty Times, Volume XLIII, Issue 6149, 31 July 1915, Page 3.
URL: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/BOPT19150731.2.21?query=Serbia&snippet=true>

