Memory of nazi loots: the archive collection of the Office des biens et intérêts privés

Archives départementales de la Moselle, autumn 2005

Freie Universität Berlin, June 29th 2017

I- Why this collection?

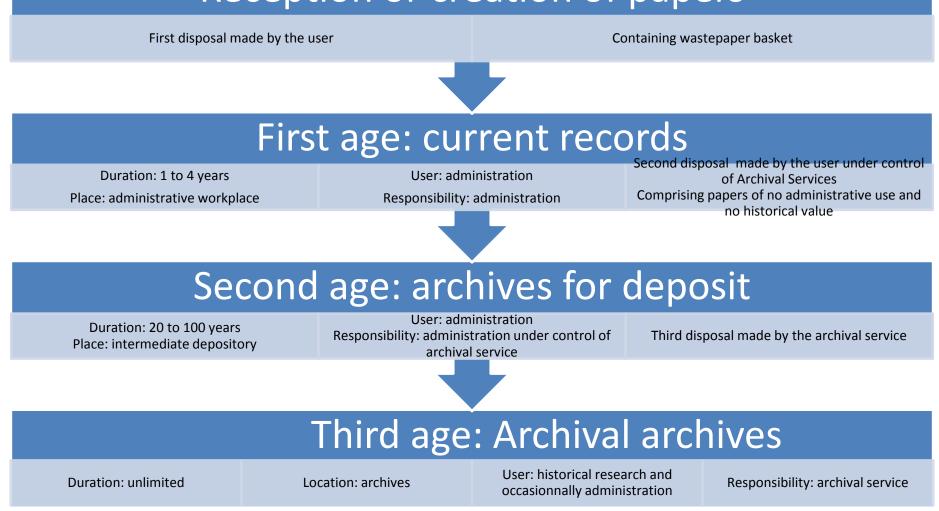






The three ages of archives

Reception or creation of papers



« Administration and the 'Three Ages' of Archives », The American Archivist, n° 29-3, 1966, pp. 363-369.

About archives...

- Ancient series before 1790
- Revolutionary series from 1790 to 1800
- Modern series from 1800 to 1940
- Contemporary serie from 1940
 - The W serie was created in 1979. It applies to all public archives produced after 1940
 - 1 to 999W for archives produced before 1980
 - 1000W and so on for archives produced after 1980
- Series with no limitation of date: E-dépôt, Hdépôt, Fi, etc. including the J serie: documents entered by extraordinary way

What happened in Moselle

- Extension of racial discrimination under direct nazi administration
- Repression against political opponents
- Economic plundering of the country

The frame of dispossession: A continuum of nazi violence with a legal frame

Process of racial oppression and extermination: location, exclusion, expelling, internment, extermination

Process of aryanisation of businesses :
1) location of some goods, buildings or a business to dispossess;
2) appointment of a temporary manager;
3) evaluation of the nature and interest of the goods ;
4) search for an aryanisation solution;
5) transformation, sale or liquidation ;
6) consignment of the dispossession product on a bank account.

Process of dispossession of material goods in the frame of « Aktion-Möbel »

The legal frame of compensation

- 1943-1944: London declaration, decree of Algiers
- 1946: french law about the compensation of war damages
- 1958: german BRÜG law

The Office of private goods and interests

- Created in 1919
- Settled in Metz in 1945
- Dismantled in 1953
- The compensation files were managed by the service des Domaines until 1974 (73000 files)

The collection

- 468 W 1-321
 - Zivilverwaltung Uberleitungstelle f
 ür das Volks- un Reichsfeindliche Vermögen.
 - Office des biens et intérêts privés
 - General information
 - Files
 - BI-Industrial activities
 - BII Wholesale trade
 - B III Retail trade
 - BIV Handicraft
- Only a sample: 32 out of 515 linear meters

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The current compensation of victims

- 1995, président Jacques Chirac, commission Matteoli, Commission d'indemnisation des victimes de spoliation auprès du Premier ministre
- Other Archive collections available: franche diplomatic archives, Archives du ministère des affaires étrangères, 3 rue Suzanne Masson, 93126 La Courneuve
 - Creation of a single research database (50000 records, on test)
 - Digitisation of photographix documents, classified by owner
 - Digitisation, indexing and uploading (in 2014) of photographs of the Goering collection
 - Digitisation and uploading of german lists (ERR...) of looted property