Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands
The Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (www.hiu.cas.cz) carries out basic research in the humanities and social sciences. This research center deals with issues concerning Czech, Czechoslovak and general human history from the early Middle Ages almost to the present. It occupies a leading position among European and world workplaces focused on research in the field of Czech studies. It also cooperates with an extensive network of domestic and foreign workplaces (universities and others).

The scope of the institute is very wide – in the departments of the Medieval History, Early Modern History, the 19th Century History, the 20th Century History, Biographic Studies, Research Centre of Historical Geography and Historical Bibliography monographs and syntheses are produced, along with historical atlases, editions of historical sources, and comprehensive encyclopedic works of national significance (Academic Encyclopaedia of Czech History, Biographical Dictionary of the Czech Lands). And last but not least, single bibliographic records of publications across the entire field are processed and maintained here as well. The Institute of History also issues the most important professional periodical, the Czech Historical Review. In addition, other field periodicals are published by our institute, e.g. the Slavonic Review (a publication on Slavonic history and research), and a number of other specialized journals. The research is carried out at the Prague headquarters of the Institute, at the Brno and České Budějovice branches, and at the Czech Historical Institute in Rome.
The Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands – “A Compass in the Sea of Books”

The Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands is a continuous programme of creation, processing and evaluation of a comprehensive bibliographic database of Czech studies literature. It is a continuation of the project of field (historical) bibliography which has been continuously lasting in the Czech Lands since 1905, and in the framework of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences since 1956. Nowadays modern methods are applied to these processes and data provided in the framework of this project undoubtedly belong to essential sources of information for historical sciences and related fields.

The Department of Historical Bibliography at the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic sets its aim to capture all the scientific and professional work (books, studies and articles, reviews and reports about literature) published on the topic of Czech history by Czech historians at home and abroad. In addition, the bibliography contains publications authored by Czech historians on foreign history as well as publications by foreign scholars on Czech history.

The aim of the bibliography is to achieve the most comprehensive information, a summary of all available production including extensive regional literature. Additionally, it is meant to inform readers about the theoretical and methodological thinking of the Czech historical community and brings information on research projects and reports from scientific life (conferences, obituaries, jubilees), and observes Czech history in an international context. It encompasses professional and scientific literature from the history field and also from related disciplines.
(such as archaeology, ethnology, legal science, literary science, historic preservation, historical geography and cartography, historical onomastics and toponomastics, historical demography, etc.). Separate sections are devoted to the issues such as teaching history as a school subject, studying history and to the history of education. The domestic and foreign research outputs on J. A. Comenius have been systematically monitored as well. Part of the work is also the continuous monitoring of foreign bibliographic databases and other information sources. The result of our effort is this unique database – especially in terms of articles, reviews and reports, which are not tracked by any other database elsewhere.

The Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands provides a free public access to the internet databases ([biblio.hiu.cas.cz](http://biblio.hiu.cas.cz)) which currently contains more than 420,000 entries. The Historical bibliography database includes literature records since 1990 (selectively since 1945) to the present. The Index database of the Czech Historical Review summarizes the content of each year’s volume of this significant scientific periodical since its inception in 1895 until 2012 (a total of 110 years). The Excerpted documents database provides an overview of all journals, conference anthologies and monographies whose parts (studies, articles, chapters, etc.) were broken down into partial databases of the Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands. Apart from that, our bibliographical database also provides its users with an overview of websites of domestic and foreign periodicals and their contents.
Furthermore, the researchers working in the Department of Historical Bibliography prepare and subsequently make public bibliographic lists, which are released either in paper form or on data carriers. The team members participate in many scientific events. They focus mainly on the history of bibliography and overviews of Czech historical research in the twentieth century, as evidenced by their publications (personal bibliographies of important historians, studies on the history of historiography, etc.). Various conferences and seminars on historical bibliography and bibliography in general are also held in the framework of the project. However, the main task of the Department of Historical Bibliography is the further development of the online database of the Czech historical bibliography, as a continuous, as well as retrospective, bibliography.

**The beginnings and the development**

The roots of the periodic Bibliography of the Czech History date back to the early 20th century. Josef Pekař (1870–1937), an important Czech historian and the editor of the *Czech Historical Review*, laid its foundations. The first *Bibliography of the Czech History* was published as an annex in the *Czech Historical Review* in 1905.

![Josef Pekař - an important Czech historian, editor of the *Czech Historical Review*](photoarchivesoftheinstituteofhistory,CAS)
The Czech history was released as an annex in the Czech Historical Review in the times of the Habsburg monarchy. This material, published in 1905, brought together on 48 pages a total of 1,263 partially annotated bibliographic records of literature on Czech history published the previous year 1904. Josef Kazimour (1881–1933), a historian and a bibliographer, became its editor-in-chief in 1907. The bibliography was then published with the support of the Historical Club, a professional organisation of Czech historians. Unfortunately, its yearly publication was interrupted in 1914 due to the outbreak of World War I.

After the end of World War I, it took several years for the Czech historical bibliography to be restored again. Josef Kazimour, the editor of the Bibliography of the Czech History, succeeded in covering the gap created during the war years (1915–1919) in the form of a summary as late as in 1922. He also managed to release another bibliography – again in the five-year period (1920–1924) – in 1926, but he later refused to continue in the editorial work on subsequent planned publications. Josef Klik (1896–1945) directed the following bibliographical work, but only for a limited period of time. Luckily, the Bibliography of the Czech history gained a new permanent editor in Stanislava Jonášová-Hájková (1904–1985), who successfully produced bibliographic records up to 1936. The Bibliography of the Czech history for this year was released in 1938, but then World War II interrupted the process again.
World War II profoundly affected Czech historical science as well as the Czech historical bibliography. *The Czech Historical Review* (and other scientific and professional journals) could not be issued, and the regular issuing of the *Bibliography of the Czech history* was suspended too. As a result of the pause caused by World War I, the gaps from the years 1942–1954 still have not been filled.

The post-war period, associated with the rise of communism and brought to a close by the Communist Coup in February 1948, truly did not favor publishing Czech historical bibliography. At least in 1951, the Historical Club was able to release a retrospective summary for the years 1937–1941. A newly founded Institute of History of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences assumed the task to publish bibliographic yearbooks in the mid-1950s. The institute’s library became home to the bibliographical department at the same time. Bibliographical yearbooks were then prepared by historian and bibliographer Lumír Nesvadbík (1919–2007), together with Stanislava Jonášová-Hájková, who was replaced by Věroslav Myška (1927–1982) in the mid-1960s. The Institute of History in Prague cooperated with the Historical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, which contributed to the *Bibliography of the Czechoslovak history* with data related to Slovak history. However, the comprehensiveness of the bibliographic lists was limited, given the overall political climate, censorship and unavailability of foreign literature. Further, no one was interested enough in organizing this work properly and the bibliographical activity thus lacked support, both technical and personal.

Sadly, new gaps occurred in the continuous series of bibliographic yearbooks in the years 1966–1970, 1978–1979 and 1982–1989. Thus, in the 1980s, a provisional solution was implemented – the preparation of five-year volumes of selective bibliographies, published by the Institute of History of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences on the occasion of world historical congresses. Still, such overviews could not fully replace the unpublished bibliographic yearbooks, which both users and reviewers were aware of even at the times of their releases.

This problematic period clearly demonstrated the Czech historical community’s need for the Bibliography of the Czech history. After 1989, a program of restoration and the stable operation of the continuous periodical historical bibliography became one of the crucial tasks of the newly reformed Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, as one of its missions is to serve as a service centre for historical science. However, the transition period lasted until the mid-1990s, when finally a relatively stable team of bibliographers was created and gradually, the work on the *Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands* resumed.

Since 1990, the Institute of History has published 16 volumes of bibliographies. These include five volumes of *The bibliography of the history of Czechoslovakia*, and, after the division of Czechoslovakia, nine volumes of *The bibliography of the history of the Czech Lands* and two volumes of *Select Bibliography on Czech History*, i.e. selective lists of foreign-language works on Czech history, primarily serving foreign Czech science/Bohemistics researchers. Since 2006, a CD-ROM containing a complete bibliographic database was attached to the bibliographic yearbooks. Finally, the *Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands* for the year 2001 was published in print in 2009. In 2010, the management of the Institute of History decided to stop issuing printed bibliographic yearbooks.
The bibliographic workplace also played an important role during the preparation of three volumes of the lexicon of foreign historians/Bohemists, authored by Jaroslav Pánek and Svatava Raková, called *Scholars of Bohemian, Czech and Czechoslovak History Studies*. It was published in 2004 in hard copy format and a year later as a CD-ROM.

At the beginning of the 1990s, all the data were transferred from original filing cards to digital format. All the data are freely available without registration. The Web interface has been available in Czech, English and German versions since 2000.

In 2013, the bibliographic workplace of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic was separated from the library and included in the organizational structure as an independent scientific unit, under the name the Department of Historical Bibliography.

### Projects and international cooperation

In 2010, the *Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands* was included as a priority project in the Roadmap of the Czech Republic of large infrastructures for research, experimental development and innovation. This strategic document was created in response to the European roadmap (ESFRI Roadmap) and reflects in itself the engagement of Czech large infrastructures in the European Research Area. The Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic is the recipient of this project under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.
Its full title was **Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands** and it ran from 2012 to 2016.

The principal aim of the project was further development of the online accessible database of Czech historical bibliography as both a retrospective and continuing bibliography. Secondly, it was a continuation in publishing partial outputs on data carriers or in paper form. Another important task was the integration of the historical bibliography into the European system of national historical bibliographies within the framework of international projects. Besides a traditional Czech-Slovak cooperation this was primarily the initiative European Historical Bibliographies under the auspices of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. The other leading European programme is a database for documentation of literature on the history of Central and Eastern Europe, coordinated by the Herder Institute in Marburg, Germany.

In 2012, which was the first year of running the project of the Bibliography of the History of Czech Lands, a contract for work on complex software providing for bibliography with KP-SYS Ltd. was signed on the basis of a public tender for the duration of the project. The purpose of this contract was to support the library software Verbis and electronic catalog Portaro with integrated features of Web2.0, OAI-PMH provider/harvester, Z39.50 server, etc. Based on a truly intensive and successful cooperation, it is now possible to say that this was a very good choice.
Thanks to the knowledge, experience and care of the KP-SYS Ltd. programmers, the bibliographical data were smoothly transferred to the new system in an international format (MARC 21) without any data loss during the first half of 2013. There were roughly 300,000 records of books, articles, serials, reviews and reports on literature issued to Czech history at home and abroad. These databases were created by processing individual items from the library of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and from other libraries and the result of more than twenty years of activity in bibliographic workplace.

All the data were newly divided into several collections – monographs, articles, series and reviews. The largest of these is the articles collection (about 210,000 entries), followed by the reviews collection (about 90,000 entries). Of no less importance is Excerpted documents database which contains excerpted journals, conference anthologies and monographs. Those provide users with an overview of processed source documents. In addition, the unification and arrangement of name authorities has been carried out as well, which means that they were added to most of the records. Furthermore, the Department of Historical Bibliography has begun to cooperate with the National Library of the Czech Republic on completing the Czech National Authority Database. Our department not only takes over their records, but also sends corrections and add-ons to the National Library and often creates completely new records that can then serve the general public. Furthermore, new excerpts of data are continuously inserted into the database. Thanks to the strengthening of the team by doctoral history students, funded by the project the Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands, the contents of the databases have grown by about 15,000 entries a year, and the database currently contains more than 420,000 entries.

Due to advanced technological equipment, individual pieces of bibliographic data are publicly accessible immediately after being processed and the general public has a wide range of search options (registers, hyperlinks, etc.). All the data follow the international format MARC 21, whereas data processing itself is governed by RDA (Resource Description and Access) rules. Further software development, in which the Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands is actively involved, is aimed both at the processing of printed outputs (bibliographic publications with registers) as well as at the enrichment of the existing records (references to digital libraries, open access journals, attachments of full texts to records, GPS coordinates and links to maps, etc.).

The project website was made available to the public on August 27, 2013. The project retained its original Internet address to which users are accustomed (biblio.hiu.cas.cz). Databases that are presented on the web catalog Portaro and also the website itself have both Czech, English and German versions. In addition to a classic web presentation, Portaro also offers a simplified view for mobile phones and tablets. These applications are beneficial not only for users of these particular devices, but also for visually impaired users. Apart from the access to the database, the Bibliography website also includes information about the project itself and in a new development offers search services as well. Further, there are current reports on the progress of the project and on the events organized by the Department of Historical Bibliography, and contact information.
Another important task of the project was to manage the integration of the Bibliography of the History of Czech Lands into the system of national historical bibliographies in European countries in the framework of the international project called “European Historical Bibliographies”. This project has been coordinated by Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences in Berlin (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften), and is an international project involving 15 historical bibliographies from 13 European countries. The project is to promote the continuous cooperation of the participating institutions and is aimed to combine diverse national bibliographic projects at the European level, especially databases available online. The goal of this project is to enable the most complex searching in these databases in Europe, thereby allowing and facilitating such comparative international historical research.

The Department of Historical Bibliography was entrusted with the organization of the 5th International Conference of the European Historical Bibliography in 2013. The conference was held in Prague on November 7–8, 2013 with the participation of historians and bibliographers from Denmark, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Germany and Switzerland, as well as from many Czech institutions and libraries. The proceedings from this successful event, called *Historical Bibliography as an Essential Source for Historiography*, have successfully been offered to the British publishing house Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Our cooperation with this publisher, whose outputs are included in the Web of Science, was later extended by

Website Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands (biblio.hiu.cas.cz)
Union Catalog Bibliography of Czech and Slovak Historiography (hucentral.kpsys.cz)
the release of other proceedings in March 2017, this time with topics regarding the history of social care. The Department of Historical Bibliography was widely involved in this as well.

The researchers working on the Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands also collaborated to create a database called Literaturdokumentation zur Geschichte Ostmitteleuropas (www.litdok.de/cgi-bin/litdok). The involvement of the Czech party began in 1996, when a cooperation agreement was signed. This database is basically a bibliographic documentation of historical research on the history of Central and Eastern Europe. It mediates and further develops the electronic online research system for all of the relevant scientific literature. This database is created within the framework of international cooperation which is participated in by partner institutions in Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania and Hungary. The project has been coordinated since 1996 by the Herder Institute in Marburg that manages the database. The data are accessible online without limitation, in language versions of all the partners involved.

Another very important result, achieved in the framework of that major infrastructure is the Union catalog Bibliography of Czech and Slovak Historiography (hucentral.kpsys.cz), released in 2016, which allows access to the databases Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands, Bibliography of the History
of Slovakia and Bibliography of the Czech archival science and enables their common search in Czech, Slovak, German, English and French. The basis for this cooperation is an agreement among the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences, The Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the National Archives, signed in 2014 (the Bibliography of the History of Czech Lands also methodically assisted with the modernization of the Bibliography of the History of Slovakia, in particular with the data migration into the library system Verbis). It enables a joint search in the databases of these institutions, which altogether contain more than 500,000 entries. Further development of Union Catalog is planned to be focused mainly on the needs of its foreign users.

The bibliographical project that ran under a grant provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (LM2011018) ended in 2016, but the development of the database is still ongoing and the contract with the software supplier KP-SYS Ltd. has been extended for another five years. At present, the project is financed by the internal funds of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and it is also supported by the money from Strategie AV 21.

# Search options in databases and other utilities

Searching in databases of the Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands can be carried out in three ways: as a one-line, advanced or special search. The most common is the one-line search, which occurs in 93% of all accesses. Different search criteria appear in the menu and the combination of those criteria makes specifications of users’ requirements even more precise.

There is also a wide range of indexes. The most commonly used one is the **Authors index**, which, along with relevant bibliographic records, also summarizes biographical information on that given person. The Department of the Historical Bibliography cooperates with the National Library on creating and improving name authorities, and therefore users find the same information on the requested persons’ names as in the Czech National Authority Database. In addition, the Department of Historical Bibliography also creates its own name authorities that we do not send to the National Library. Some names are newly illustrated by photographs in the index.

The **Geographical index** contains locations which have relevant records in the databases. These specific places are located not only in the Czech Republic, but also abroad. A chosen, specific location is displayed, along with its description and a link to the Wikipedia page, if one exists. Subsequently, the location is shown on the map. This feature has been made possible by inserting GPS coordinates manually for each locality. The geographic index also focuses on specific places such as fortresses, castles, monasteries, abandoned settlements, archaeological sites, manors, regions or districts.

The **Keyword index** offers the option to search according to particular topics, using single words or phrases. There is also a helping tool – alphabetical displaying of the keywords by their initial letters as they appear in the databases.

The **Chronological data index** displays specific years or time periods covered by the bibliographic records.
What is it... Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands 12–13

Name authority - Karel Havlíček Borovský

Geographical authority - Konopiště castle
Systematics represents another interesting type of indexes. It is a bibliographic system that primarily serves the Department of Historical Bibliography for search services. Users can thus see how bibliographers sort individual records. The systematics consist of three parts. First is a thematic one that covers politics, economy, military, church history, history of society, culture, science, art and technology. The general section includes the auxiliary historical sciences and related disciplines as well as the theoretical and methodological foundations of history. Lastly, the chronological part determines what time period of Czech history (including the history of Czechoslovakia) or world history is described.

The “History of Countries” menu brings up single states in the form of flags. When the user clicks on a chosen flag, all available records, concerning that particular country/historic state formations are displayed. Today’s countries are divided by continents into Europe, Asia, Africa, North and Central America, South America, Australia and Oceania. Historic state formations such as the Habsburg Monarchy, the Great Moravia, the Ottoman Empire and Yugoslavia are listed separately.

The last section of the indexes is the List of acquisitions, which tracks each month of the year and the records that were processed that particular month. On average, there are about 2,000 records processed a month.

Public services, provided by the Department of Historical Bibliography, also include search services. An application for a search can be sent directly from the website using the online form. Selected searches that are of a greater information value for the wider public are also accessible on our website. Moreover, there is another useful feature available on our website: the option to compile and store searches created by individual users on their accounts. To use this service, a registration is required under a username and password. Anyone can easily create their own account without any restrictions.

The Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands offers a direct link to the Union catalog of the Bibliography of Czech and Slovak Historiography, and thus users can conveniently navigate between these websites. Furthermore, our website also gives updated information on current events at the Department of Historical Bibliography (meaning that reports on conferences, workshops or similar events that have been attended or organized by the Department of Historical Bibliography are all publicly available).

One of the aims of the Department of Historical Bibliography is monitoring all rapidly evolving new information sources, i.e. not only databases, but also digital libraries. Bibliographic records are enriched with references to full texts that make it easier for scientists and students to search the content in digital libraries and therefore lead them to the full texts that are sometimes difficult to find within a given digital library unless we know the exact quotation of the document. Bibliographic descriptions for most documents stored in digital libraries are missing, therefore there is no possibility to search according to locations, biographical keywords, or keywords in general. Mostly, one has to be satisfied with a full-text search. Thus, in this respect, the role of bibliography remains irreplaceable. The Department of the Historical Bibliography currently has all technical prerequisites to follow this latest trend and our staff continuously enriches the database records with links to full texts. By clicking on a button called “Digitalized Documents”, all records that
exist in a digital form can be fully viewed. About 15,000 links to domestic as well as foreign digital libraries, such as the Moravian Library in Brno, Czech Krameriusr or Gallica (operated by the National Library of France), have been added to the database so far. The Department of the Historical Bibliography is gradually working on making foreign publications on Czech studies available in Austrian, German and Polish digital libraries. In most cases, these links refer to older literature, as the availability of newer works is hindered by copyright law. However, access to this older literature is still very useful for historical research and it really is worthwhile to incorporate these pieces into the historical bibliography, whether they are studies in the French *Revue Historique* or articles by Josef Pekař and other historians in the *Národní listy* newspaper which were reviewed in the *Czech Historical Review*.

Each bibliographic record contains the author’s name, the title of the document, keywords and the systematics. If it is convenient, in terms of improving and enriching the search, the record is also complemented by geographic and biographical term or chronological data. Books and periodicals also display the ISBN, ISSN, source document and date of publishing, and often their covers or contents are scanned as well. Unique features characterising bibliographic records are the reviews that are attached to books, periodicals or articles and are a very interesting source of information. Periodicals, proceedings or collective monographs are analysed in detail, which means that their individual articles are stated, and the user sees them in a clear overview. Another bibliographic specificity is its ability
to create links between related documents – if a book has more than one part or if a given article consists of several parts, there is no long and complicated search needed, as those parts have already been identified as one entity.

The option to report a correction is also available at our website. There is a special field where one can specify what is necessary to correct and send it to our department.

The accuracy of citation is fundamental. A precise citation of records allows one to search for a book or for an article directly by using a link from our website to domestic and foreign union catalogs and portals as the Uniform Information Gateway or the Union Catalog of the Czech Republic.

The Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands is also presented on social networks, especially on Facebook and Twitter. This approach has been chosen with respect to the character of the user community, consisting mainly of students of history and related disciplines (45%), scientific researchers (30%) and others (25%). In terms of institutional users, the most frequent visitors come from various scientific institutions at the Academy of Sciences, universities and the research libraries. The number of users grows every year. In 2017, there was an average of 30,000 visits per month. Obviously, most users are from the Czech Republic and Slovakia (together 80%), yet we can see a growing number of foreign visitors, mostly from Germany, Austria, Poland, Russia and the USA.

In connection with the onset of the digital age, the historical bibliography has undergone a significant change that is still far from being complete. It is constantly adapting to the latest trends and needs expressed by its users (not only from the historical community). As the number of records increases, their quality increases as well. At present, the historical bibliography definitely keeps pace with European developments and contributes to informing the Czech and foreign public on the results of historical research on Czech history, just like a century ago. All we have to do, is to continue in the future as successfully as we have up to today.
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The Bibliography of the History of Czech Lands provides its users with:

• experience of more than a century-long tradition of bibliographic work
• online database with more than 420,000 records available free of charge, gradually complemented by attaching full texts (biblio.hiu.cas.cz)
• English and German interfaces for foreign users
• research services to students, domestic and foreign researchers, and those interested in Czech history
• bibliography published in a printed form or on data carriers.
The Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands is a continuous programme of creation, processing and evaluation of a comprehensive bibliographic database of Czech studies literature. It belongs to essential sources of information for historical sciences and related fields.

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### COMING UP IN THE SCIENCE AROUND US SERIES:

- Stanislav Bouček: *Migrace a česká etnologie*
- Vítězslav Jarý, Jan Pejchal: *Scintillators around us (English edition)*
- Alena Sarkissian: *Databáze Olympos*

### ALREADY PUBLISHED:

- Ondřej Beránek: *Oriental Institute (English edition)*
- Věra Exnerová: *Historical Geography Research Centre (English edition)*
- Jan Vít: *Jan Patočka (English edition)*