

When contemporary technologies help manage complexities

Marc Quaghebeur, Archives et Musée de la Littérature, Bruxelles

As a result of Belgium's history – its progressive constitution and its ongoing federalization – the purpose of Archives et Musée de la Littérature (Brussels) concerns only the French-speaking corpus of the Kingdom's cultural life, theatre (including its performing arts dimension) and literature, but it also concerns Central Africa (Burundi, Congo, Rwanda) due to Belgium's colonial past and Ex-Czechoslovakia with a large number of Czechoslovakian samizdats.

To the departments that collect all kinds of archives (books, serial publications, manuscripts or typescripts, programs, posters, paintings, photographs, audio or video recordings,...), we can add an international library (books and serial publications) specialized in Romance languages and other French-speaking literatures as well as an active publishing department sustaining our research programs.

I am going to examine the history, the mechanisms and the problems presented by the gathering of this kind of archives in the context of current technological development.

Co-director of several foreign centres for Belgian literature studies, Marc Quaghebeur has been directing since 1980 – beyond the collections Archives du Futur and Documents pour l'Histoire des Francophonies – the institution Archives et Musée de la Littérature. Doctor of philosophy and arts at the Université catholique of Louvain. Adding up scientific publications which are considered authoritative in the subject, he is also interested in the relationship between Belgian literature and other ones and, in addition, has specialised in the study of the history of French literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, in Central Africa literature or in Charles Quint (*La Nuit de Yuste*, 2001).