

Historical
Bibliography
as an Essential
Source for
Historiography

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Edited by

Kristina Rexová,
Bernadette Cunningham,
Václava Horčáková
and Věra Hanelová

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Kristina Rexová

INTRODUCTION

KRISTINA REXOVÁ, VÁCLAVA HORČÁKOVÁ,
BERNADETTE CUNNINGHAM
AND VĚRA HANELOVÁ

The turn of the new millennium has been associated with the advent of the information age, which influenced all scientific disciplines and historical science is no exception. The impetus to publish the latest research is reflected in the vast amount of new information now becoming available in all disciplines. Likewise, the quantity of information channels used by authors to transmit their outputs to potential readers is also increasing dramatically. These new publications provide the essential framework for further research and development. They require to be registered, absorbed, and ultimately responded to. All these developments are mirrored in new developments in historical bibliography. Such bibliographies have served as a unique and irreplaceable cornerstone for historical research in many European countries for more than a century. But, from the end of the 1980s and early 1990s, the presentation of bibliographic work shifted from filing cabinets and bulky printed bibliographies towards computer databases. These databases, initially conceived simply as a tool for generating printed bibliographic lists, have acquired a brand new meaning with the advent of full-text search engines. The eagerness to make use of new possibilities offered by new technologies was accompanied both by an understanding that specialised bibliographies would gradually lose their exclusive position in competition with other information sources but also by the fact that search engines find only what has been uploaded on the Internet.

An initiative of the European historical bibliographies (EHB) project came into being at Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences in Berlin in 2007. It currently includes historical bibliographies from fourteen countries. One of the main objectives of the EHB is to promote further information exchange among participating institutions at European level, to interconnect diverse national bibliographical projects in ways that will

facilitate comprehensive searching within these resources and thus promote international comparative historical research.

Conferences, organized by the participants of the joint project EHB in Berlin in 2007 and 2008, in The Hague in 2009 and in Munich in 2011, gave significant impetus for further development of the participating national bibliographies. The most important outputs of these meetings were: first, explaining the way individual participating organisations dealt with historical bibliography and secondly, providing a comparison of different methodological and technological approaches for processing specialized bibliographies in various European countries. All of these meetings had an interdisciplinary character in which the opinions and knowledge of historical bibliographers were combined with the perspectives of librarians and IT professionals.

The present conference proceedings contains papers presented at the fifth international conference of the European historical bibliography project. The conference was held in Prague on November 7 – 8, 2013, under the auspices of the Department of Historical Bibliography of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. The hosting of this conference was made possible by virtue of a project called “Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands” (LM 2011018), which aims at modernizing the Czech historical bibliography and its deeper integration into the international project of European historical bibliographies.

The 2013 meeting was again interdisciplinary. Bibliographers, historians and librarians from Denmark, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Germany, Switzerland and from a number of Czech institutions and libraries gathered and discussed a wide range of topics. The main theme of the conference was the significance of historical bibliography for historical science. Given the diversity of professional focus among the conference participants, this topic was approached and examined from a variety of viewpoints.

The historical community was represented principally by Jaroslav Pánek and Helmut Teufel, two strong personalities with their own experience of bibliographic work. They each understand bibliography primarily as a service to historical research. In the opening paper at the conference, Jaroslav Pánek defined the position of historical bibliography within historical sciences and evaluated its importance from the perspective of an historian. He has enhanced the Czech historical bibliography with a number of methodological suggestions and his activity continues to be an inspiration for many bibliographers, especially in the area of creating “classical” printed bibliographies. Helmut Teufel

approached the conference topic from the perspective of a special bibliography on the history of Jews in the Czech Lands and highlighted a lack of financial and personnel support for bibliographic work in some countries. His critical paper also emphasised a need to support specialized historical bibliographies, which describe certain subtopics more appropriately than can be achieved by “national”, all-encompassing historical bibliographies.

Other papers explored the political-cultural contexts of bibliographic work. Using particular case studies they examined the bibliographic approach to sensitive points in national historical narratives, conflicting interpretations, parallel histories or methodologies that have been applied to various types of analysis (Bernadette Cunningham (Ireland), Lene Eklund-Jürgensen (Denmark), Brigitte Keriven (France). Two biographical studies dealing with the founding personalities of Czech bibliographies (presented by Robert Luft and Marie Makariusová) also belong to this subcategory. These papers recall the often neglected political context of bibliographies, which are not always merely a research tool, but in some cases can become instruments that represent and reflect efforts towards national self-determination.

The second part of these conference proceedings includes papers focused on the use of software applications in historical bibliography with special emphasis on international cooperation. These discussions are principally intended for field specialists and the papers summarise the current state and prospects of bibliographic projects in various countries (the Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, Germany, Switzerland).

A leading role in historical bibliography has been traditionally held by German science (especially by its output called *Jahresberichte für Deutsche Geschichte*). The French attitude is no less interesting, but it has not yet been made available online (*Annual Bibliography of French History*). A Swiss project, linking biographical and bibliographical data online by linking the *Bibliography of Swiss History* with the *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* has emerged as one of the most successful and significant projects. Undoubtedly, this Swiss approach has great potential to inspire the future direction of historical bibliographies in other countries.

As demonstrated at the conference, a shared concern, which is being addressed by many bibliographic projects at this time, is the implementation of name authority files. Normally created by national libraries for processing documents in their collections, the systematic utilization of such name authorities in databases of either continuing or retrospective historical

bibliographies, opens up a way towards processing bio-bibliographical projects.

The Czech historical bibliography has produced a new database created with the support of a project called “Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands” that provides a wide range of possibilities for further development. Above all, it creates an appropriate framework for involvement in collaboration with local libraries and in international cooperation. The Lithuanian bibliography has embarked on international cooperation with the Herder Institute in Marburg, and this has prompted examination of the issues involved when attempting to combine separate bibliographies.

Two other papers (originally a joint presentation at the conference) deal with historical and methodological issues of regional bibliography using the example of Šumava (the Bohemian Forest), a mountain region with a Czech-German past.

A pivotal aim of the conference was to introduce the wider public to the current shape and prospects of historical bibliography projects across a range of European countries. Obviously, such projects must reflect the needs of their users, which mainly comprise historians and librarians. The ongoing development of historical bibliography does not only involve a technical challenge, but also a methodological one. Moreover, if it is interpreted in a broader context, it is a societal one as well. Mutual communication helps form the future direction of historical bibliography, which will undoubtedly face many new tasks and challenges.

These proceedings of the European Historical Bibliographies conference held at Prague are the first printed output after seven years of cooperation. This joint project has come up with many important suggestions concerning both the day-to-day operation of individual bibliographic projects and also long-term strategic visions. We hope that this publication will provide useful information to professionals and other readers – to bibliographers, but also to historians and students – who need and use a historical bibliography.

OPENING ADDRESS

EVA SEMOTANOVÁ

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear visitors,

On behalf of the Institute of History of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic I feel truly honoured to cordially welcome all the participants here, in the neo-Renaissance Villa Lanna.

Publish or perish! A saying known to all scholars who decide to transfer their ideas into a written text. A text, which they do not keep in the computer, a text, which is published. It is published as a monograph, a collection of papers, an article in a journal; it will be distributed, read, reviewed and become a component of the cultural property of the entire nation at home as well as abroad.

Obsession with publishing is well known especially in the scholarly community. But it is not only eagerness to convey to their colleagues or the broad public the new knowledge that the researcher has attained after hard work in the archives, laboratories or libraries. It is also a duty to “settle the accounts” and boast of the results of work, which frequently becomes a lifelong interest and hobby. At the same time, publishing of scholarly outcomes contributes to the development of scientific disciplines and moves them forward. Without publishing, new knowledge would become lost in the flood of information, would be neglected and forgotten. Publishing is also a motivation, a motor and an issue of prestige.

At present, the scholarly presentation is frequently measured by the amount of published works and their citations abroad and in the Czech Republic. The modern scholarly community uses worldwide bibliographic databases for registering, searching and quoting the published works.

Bibliography, its methodology, printed and digital outputs as well as broad international collaboration, is rooted in the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences in the Department of Historical Bibliography headed by Dr. Václava Horčáková. It is one of the fundamental sources of information for historical sciences and humanities, following the tradition of bibliography in the Czech lands since the early 20th century with application of modern methods.

The topic of this conference is bibliography, the worldwide information phenomenon of the scholarly world. I believe that today's meeting of significant bibliographers from many European countries will contribute to the establishment of new contacts, the cultivation of ideas and the development of mutual collaboration.

PART I:

**HISTORICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND THEIR
UTILIZATION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH,
THEIR HISTORY AND ESSENTIAL
PERSONALITIES**

CHAPTER ONE

A HISTORIAN'S REFLECTIONS ON HISTORICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

JAROSLAV PÁNEK

Abstract: An extremely rapid increase in the number of monographs, articles and reviews on a particular subject (in the Czech Republic alone with a population of 10 million it is nearly 10,000 items every year) is a characteristic feature of historiography in the early 21st century. Such quantity along with thematic atomization makes it more difficult to work on widely conceived topics of European or global range. This discrepancy is accentuated by the immense, almost unmanageable linguistic diversity of works being published recently in historiography and other humanities. The author considers a redefined connection between historiography and historical bibliography as two equal disciplines to be the only tool to manage this problem. After setting common objectives, bibliographers together with historians should be producing continuous critically evaluated evidence of basic historiographical outputs in the form of annotated bibliographies (selectively evaluating, thematically-focused annotated bibliographies; thematic bibliographies for selected themes and thematic units) and thorough bibliographic background of historical and universal encyclopedias (historical encyclopedias and biographical lexicons, lexical and biographical entries, accompanied by detailed bibliographic apparatus).

The four international conferences on historical bibliography, that have taken place so far, have opened up new perspectives on this theme. Whilst at the beginning it was necessary to share fundamental information on which bibliographies existed at national levels, it has become increasingly possible to implement real cooperation and gain a realistic perspective on how to guarantee a valid correlation of the results of bibliographical work in individual European countries.¹ New possibilities have opened up to

¹ HORČÁKOVÁ, Václava – REXOVÁ, Kristina. Mezinárodní konference o historických bibliografiích. *Český časopis historický (ČČH)*. 2008, vol. 106, pp. 206–209; HORČÁKOVÁ, Václava – REXOVÁ, Kristina. Konference o

respond to the global information revolution and to provide access to a vast wealth of information which has been hitherto concealed in hundreds of thousands, or rather millions of bibliographic files. Understandably, this happened rightly within the boundaries of the discipline of historical bibliography. As no discipline, however, exists in isolation but finds its true meaning only in the context of other disciplines and in the relationship to the cognitive needs of society, new and fundamental questions have emerged. How can this wealth of information be fully utilised? And can it be adequately used in resolving the most complex problems of the present day?

Obviously, an interconnection of a number of national bibliographies provides a considerable source of information to the person who researches the history of an important place or a region; to the person undertaking research on the biography of a prominent personality or dealing with a relatively easily named event in a historic timeline (war, revolution, etc.) or some aspects of historical anthropology. (This was, after all, exemplarily demonstrated by Prof. Claudia Zey from the University of Zurich in respect of one well-known event from medieval history when searching for bibliographic information on the topic of *Investiturstreit* or *Investiture Contest*).² In principle, these are events that can be expressed in one or several cogent key words. The situation is much more difficult when the historian works with complex concepts which can also be named (civilisation, culture, interpersonal relationships, et al.), yet they have so many different aspects that a group name cannot even attempt to capture them. Is this the moment when the role of historical bibliography ends once it has offered the historian huge databases of information and lets him deal with them somehow?

I am well aware that the historian's dilemma (what to do with the unending and continuously increasing amount of data) is not the bibliographer's primary task to address. The work in the area of historical bibliography is, as a matter of fact, not completely novel for me. I started my academic career in 1970 as an archivist in one Central Bohemian

historických bibliografiích. *ČČH*. 2009, vol. 107, pp. 696–698; WIEDERKEHR, Stefan. The Third Conference on European Historical Bibliographies. 03.12.2009–04.12.2009, Den Haag. In: *H-Soz-u-Kult*. [online]. [Cit. 5. 8. 2014]. Available from: <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3007>.

² ZEY, Claudia. Was erwartet die Geschichtswissenschaft von der Fachbibliographie der Zukunft? In: *Die geschichtswissenschaftliche Fachbibliographie der Zukunft – moderne Informationsdienstleistungen für Historiker* (Workshop, Historisches Kolleg, München, 8.–9. 4. 2013) [online]. [Cit. 31. 7. 2014]. Available from: <http://edoc.bbaw.de/volltexte/2013/2468/>

regional archive and my task was, amongst others, to prepare a retrospective bibliography of the history of this region. After several years of strenuous work, a four-volume publication saw the light of the day which even after nearly forty years remains the basis for all research work in the humanities providing a greater knowledge and understanding of this region.³ During this task I came to realize that it required a high level of systematic effort and how well-thought out it had to be to fulfil its aim. I only mention this in order to emphasise that I do not consider the preparation of historical bibliographies to be a mere act of service to historical science but its integral component, and in order to acknowledge the results of this activity; in the Czech environment historical retrospective bibliographies are linked with eminent names of the 19th century, beginning with the founder of Czech philology Josef Jungmann and ending with the cultural historian Čeněk Zíbrt; from the beginning of the 20th century with recognized researchers right up to the contemporary group of bibliographers of the Historical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic headed by Václava Horčáková. Having engrossed myself in bibliographic activity several decades ago, I have then merely followed the development of this discipline as an outside observer. I am well aware of a remarkable transformation – especially in the technological sense – which has occurred in bibliographic research over recent decades. Therefore, please, do not expect me to enter into a discussion about those special themes. Indeed, I am now just a historian who draws upon the results of historical bibliography; however, at the same time I have not given up reflecting on the development of historical disciplines and other humanities and on the role which bibliography plays or may play in them.

Although historians spend most of their time performing analytical work and they only arrive at a proper synthesis at certain periods of their research development, they do manage to address the wider public especially through their summary results. In general, it is possible to create a truly trans-national historiography and to address European society in two ways – by re-addressing several key questions of contemporary history particularly (the Holocaust, Stalinism and totalitarian regimes, the dynamics of economic development, etc.), and by addressing historical problems of the development of human civilization within the framework of the controversial formation of a global world system. There is no need, for example, to revisit topics of the clashes of civilizations in history as it sometimes suffices to search for the answer in the nature and definition of

³ PÁNKOVÁ, Ludmila – PÁNEK, Jaroslav. *Bibliografie historicko-vlastivědné literatury okresu Benešov*, Part I-IV. Benešov: ONV v Benešově, 1979–1980.

the civilization itself. I can state as an example an ambitious project and a conference linked to it which is being prepared for 2016 by the Learned Society of the Czech Republic and the Historical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the CR in cooperation with their partner institutions in other Central European countries. Its theme will be the seemingly simple question: *How to define Europe?*

At first sight it might seem that the theme could be easily addressed on a geographic basis and afterwards further specified by some characteristic features of European culture, ranging from Greek philosophy and art, Roman law, the Judeo-Christian tradition, the Enlightenment and the modernization and technology of the Industrial Age. Even if we adopted this simplified model, let us try to imagine how complex a heuristic programme of preparation, obviously based on good quality bibliographic resources, would be. However, if we choose a more considered approach to the chosen subject-matter, we come to realize that we would face a near endless range of partial topics in the sense of disciplines, themes, chronology and space. Even when we opt for a primarily historical approach, we cannot overlook certain aspects of philosophy and religiosity, sociology, social psychology and jurisprudence, art history, history of natural sciences and technology, as well as a number of other disciplines. However, do we have at our disposal bibliographies which could provide us with sufficient information about all the above mentioned and related disciplines?

When we pay closer attention, a range of themes which arise from the internal differentiation of Europe and its relationships with other continents expands further. The reason is that every partial answer also poses new themes and throws doubt on preliminary answers. Can the origins of Europe really be found in the territory of present-day Greece or were they formulated in the wider Mediterranean, in Egypt and in the Near East? How should we interpret the religious and political differentiation of Europe in the 1st and 2nd millennia A.D., when interpretations and perceptions from different parts of the Continent differ so widely? How does one assess the rise of Europe between the 15th and 20th centuries when a section of world historiography (namely the revisionist one) assumes that it was the result of a unilateral exploitation of other continents by the (West-)Europeans? It would be possible to pose a long sequence of such questions. When searching for answers to each of them, we cannot simply refer to the standpoint and interpretative approach of a historian from one side but we have to take into account differing, even opposing views of at least two, yet usually several interested parties. These are important factors

which extraordinarily complicate the preparatory heuristic phase of research.

If we assume the historian's principal commitment to arrive at a complex understanding of the topic, we have then to admit that their resulting interpretation will depend, to a considerable degree, on the level of their foreknowledge of the level arrived at by other researchers in historiography and other related disciplines, be it researchers in different countries of Europe or of the world, researchers publishing not merely in congress languages or in major western European languages but also, at least, in the languages of the Slav-speaking half of Europe. If the preparation of background materials for a really complex answer is involved, even at the very beginning, we find that we face a major challenge on our path to acquire information on the sources of the already published knowledge. It is a task which a historian cannot surmount without a bibliographer, nor the bibliographer without a historian.

Let us imagine that an enormous bibliographic database, fully compliant with demands for a universal interconnection of the retrospective historical bibliographies of European countries with their analogous bibliographies of the above mentioned related disciplines, were to emerge in the near future. It would be a magnificent outcome of the work of bibliographers and computer scientists, and would, undoubtedly, be used by thousands of humanities scholars, with much gratitude. The absolute majority of them would work with key words and they would select bibliographic data which each and every researcher could manage in real time and with their (limited) language capabilities. There is no doubt that this selection would primarily involve texts in English and that it would be very narrow, indeed, compared to the wealth of information on offer by this bibliographic megabase.

Historians who would want to devote themselves to complex themes, would agenda-wise either select a strongly reduced basis of their research (by which they would resign themselves to never achieving a multi-sided balance of view), or they would be driven to despair by the unmanageability of their chosen task. If we realise the speed with which the amount of information data grows (indeed, Czech historians on their own, who represent a nation of ten million people, produce annually over ten thousand bibliographic entries),⁴ we have to concede that not much more could be done with the help of such a bibliography. Immense

⁴ When preparing the work *Bibliografie dějin Českých zemí* about 15,000 entries were processed annually at the beginning of the 21st century with a yearbook, still printed at that time, comprising about 9,000 bibliographic entries; HORČÁKOVÁ, V. – REXOVÁ, K. Mezinárodní konference o historických bibliografiích, p. 207.

information databases on their own and access to them, unfortunately, encourage two escape routes, albeit not optimal ones. The first one leads to the atomization of research in the humanities, the results of which are increasingly limited to isolated details which are of importance merely to a narrow circle of specialists and which are not sufficiently integrated to either the total stream of knowledge or the relevant scientific discipline. The second stream attempts to disengage itself from “details”; it does not take into account knowledge acquired; it retreats from them and endlessly “theorises” on issues, which would benefit from further comprehensive scrutiny. Both approaches can be understood as each and every researcher’s work capacity and time are limited and it is not possible to put together a sufficiently numerous research team and let them spend years on each important theme. However, there is no doubt that such an approach does little to increase the prestige of the humanities in contemporary competitive society.⁵

Yet, what should bibliographers do in such a paradoxical situation wherein with maximum effort they excerpt and make accessible such an amount of data that their potential users – historians – do not even manage to take them into account, not to mention using them scientifically? Are they to rest happy with the construction of bibliographies as thesauri (in the context of information retrieval) which form part and parcel of the cultural legacy of each advanced society? Or should they lower their expectations and merely construct selective bibliographies? The simplest approach would be to reduce the excerpt basis of national and multi-lateral international bibliographies – be it by reducing the number of excerpted journals or by selecting genres. In terms of the former, guidance might be, for example, sought with regard to journals recorded in the European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH). Yet, in my view, this might not benefit the case since the ERIH and other selected lists have emerged to a large degree upon the initiative of periodical publishers, thus randomly and in an unbalanced way. The gaps, created in this way, were filled, to a lesser degree, during categorization (activities of scientific discipline Commissions of the European Science Foundation), this time upon the initiative of the members of the Evaluation Commission. In addition, the editorial boards of certain journals considered the evaluation

⁵ The issue of the insufficient reception of the knowledge of the historical sciences amongst individual national historiographies is dealt with – in the case of Czech historiography – for example, by PEŠEK, Jiří. Die deutsche Rezeption der tschechischen Publikationen zur modernen Geschichte und zur Zeitgeschichte. *ČČH*. 2012, vol. 110, pp. 575–595; PÁNEK, Jaroslav. Die tschechische Historiographie und die Welt. *ČČH*. 2012, vol. 110, pp. 482–500.

assessments to be incorrect and rejected their own inclusion into the ERIH; thus an entire group of important journals on the history of the natural sciences came to be excluded.⁶ Thus, a reduction in the number of excerpted journals based on external evaluation criteria cannot be recommended because it would undoubtedly impoverish and distort the actual state of historical knowledge.

If, when constructing bibliographies, a reduction in the number of “smaller genres” were to occur, this would probably impact on critical reviews, yet we would thus lose evidence on the dialogue within the historical sciences and we would deprive ourselves of a tool for the objective hierarchization of knowledge. That would be a very wrong step, indeed. It seems, then, that the premise of a solid historical bibliography should continue to be *a complete recording of all specialist historical monographs, academic articles and reviews* published in the area covered by the given bibliography. We have no choice but to accept the fact that an increasing amount of bibliographic material is a specific given feature of historiography which – in contrast to the *sciences* – can never ever separate itself from the earlier results of research and has to return to them periodically as if they were the mycelium from which current historical knowledge sprouts.

Once again we find ourselves in a blind alley in which the bibliographer constructs a relatively complete evidence of information sources, whereas historians find themselves unable to grasp it in a complex manner and they necessarily capitulate to this quantity. Is there any scientifically justified starting point? I think there is but this path is neither easy nor of short-term duration. In my opinion, it requires *an intense and conscious cooperation of historians and historical bibliographers* and the establishing of some new focal points in historical activity.

The historians have long been aware that they could not grasp and utilise all preserved primary resources when tackling any broader theme. Therefore, they use *primary source editions* (whereas critical editions are in themselves a sort of resource interpretation) or rely on analytical works and evaluations by other historians, their predecessors. The same approach, based on the limited work capacity of individual researchers or teams, does not merely apply to primary sources but also to historical literature. In my view, it will also become increasingly prevalent in relation to secondary sources. Similar to the publishing – be it in printed or

⁶ I addressed this issue in my study *Regionální historické časopisy v evropském kontextu*. In: PÁNEK, Jaroslav – PROCHÁZKOVÁ, Eva (ed.), *Regionální historická periodika a jejich místo v historiografii*. Benešov – Vlašim: Státní oblastní archiv v Praze, 2012, pp. 13–28.

electronic form – of *bibliographies, registers of sources* are emerging, so that historians may be able in future to orientate themselves. This is already an inalienable feature of the contemporary *modus operandi* in the discipline of historiography.

Further levels in this mirror reflection of the activities of a historian and a bibliographer are less common, here and now, although the parallel would be welcomed. Intentionally chosen, *selectively evaluating, thematically-focused annotated bibliographies*, on which bibliographers would obviously have to co-operate with historians, would correspond in their nature to *critical editions of sources*. This already happens, though only partially (for example in an online bibliography of the *CEJSH – the Central European Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*), albeit more in the sense of the presentation of scientific results of several Central European countries, rather than being an effort to provide systematic access to historiographic knowledge. Nevertheless, I consider this form of annotated bibliography to offer good prospects for two principal reasons: primarily it provides access to at least some of the most important results of one section of European humanities to the entire world; in addition this is done in English, although the annotated publications were originally published in Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and other languages, which continue to remain inaccessible to the majority of western researchers. No one expects that the readers of these English summaries will read entire annotated studies; on the contrary, the premise here is that items of knowledge emerging from the countries situated behind the former Iron Curtain will be taken into account – during synthetic, comparative and other complex research – in this condensed form and utilised with the minimum amount of time expended.

A higher form of providing access to new knowledge is on the basis of a systematic review activity which is facilitated in our region by, for example, the electronic resource portal H-Soz-u-Kult. This, however, involves an evaluation of individual books and their selection is rather influenced by whether a suitable reviewer can be found for individual titles. In terms of an international exchange of information it would be desirable to develop slightly more demanding forms of the evaluation of historiographical results, namely in the form of review articles, which – although in insufficient numbers – are published by a number of leading national journals in the field of the historical sciences (e.g. the central historical journal of the Czech Republic, *Český časopis historický – The Czech Historical Review*). The writing of them places considerable demands on the expertise and language skills of the author, also, when the comparative concept from an international point of view is involved. This

cannot be achieved without a sufficient *bibliographic background*. That is where a huge potential exists for the cooperation of historians and bibliographers for whom the writing of high quality review articles on the key themes of historical research could become a common aspiration. In turn, they could, then, provide invaluable support for even those historians who are unlikely to ever master “the minor” European languages, yet who are most interested in seeing that their notions on the history and historiography of Europe are not restricted to the Elbe River and the Šumava Mountains axis.

The mutual complementarity of a historian and a bibliographer comes to the foreground in other historiographic genres, also. Putting aside analytical studies and monographs in terms of which the author can usually rely on accessible bibliographies or consultations with knowledgeable bibliographers, large synthetic works and multi-volume summary works are involved. The latter genre, especially, merits special attention. *Historical encyclopaedias* and *biographic lexicons* have become an indispensable part of the cultural representation of highly advanced nations.⁷ However, they also occupy an irreplaceable place in modern historiography, both within the framework of individual countries and in international scientific relationships. Yet again, it is necessary to take into account the actual unmanageability of the entire range of literature on complex and comparative themes of European or European-American dimensions and simultaneously the need not to systematically overlook the lesser known parts of our Continent in synthetic works. Solid, good-quality, *lexical and biographic entries, accompanied by detailed bibliographic apparatus*, may to a certain degree compensate for the ignorance of detailed studies and monographs in difficult-to-access languages. Bibliographers should participate in the preparation of these summary works, yet at the same time they should incorporate them in their databases, in an appropriate manner. Consequently, the natural duty of the creators of these works should be their publication not merely in national but also in congress languages, as is done in an ideal manner by the creators of the Historical Dictionary of Switzerland.⁸

⁷ More in detail PÁNEK, Jaroslav. *Historical Encyclopedias* (Current research results – an outline of typology – perspectives). Prague: Institute of History, 2005. (A paper to be presented at the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences /Sydney, 2005/ Round Table 12 – Historical Dictionaries and Encyclopedias).

⁸ Cf. *Continuité et changement dans la lexicographie historique – Kontinuität und Wandel in der historischen Lexikographie* (Schweizerische Geschichtstage – Journées suisses d'Histoire – Congresso Svizzero di Scienze Storiche – Swiss Congress of Historical Sciences 2007), Bulletin du DHS (Dictionnaire historique

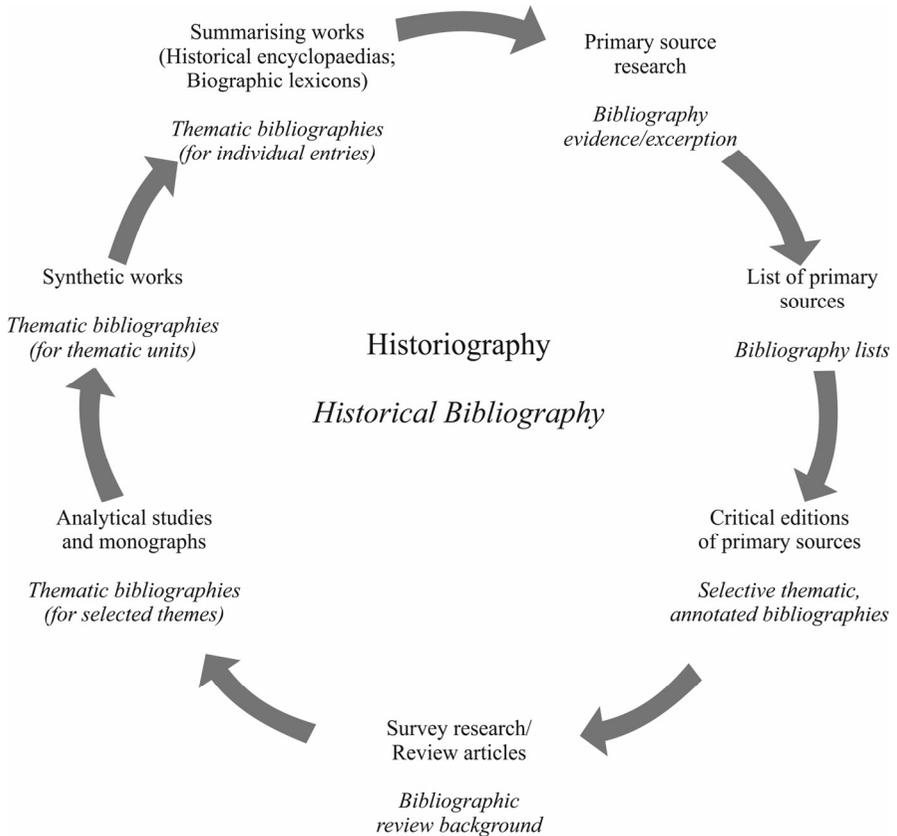


Fig. 1-1

A graphical representation is in the form of a circle which in its basic arc starts from an item “Primary source research – Bibliography evidence/excerption” and returns to it again once the cycle is completed; all other items, at a higher level, become a primary source for understanding the intellectual development of the period in which they originate and simultaneously the subject of new bibliographic work.