

## Formation of Archival Institutions and Document Preservation Practices in Navoi Region: Based on Archival Sources

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### Abstract

This article provides a scholarly analysis of the formation, developmental stages, and contemporary status of archival work in Navoiy Region. It examines documents, archival collections, and normative-legal instruments, including the Law “On Archives” and the regulations of the “UzArchive” Agency, preserved at the Navoiy Regional State Archive and its district (city) branches. Along with highlighting the development of archival work during the Soviet era and the years of independence, the study focuses on the unification of the regional archival system under a centralised administration, as well as the scientific classification and preservation of historical documents. The essay also highlights the scientific and practical contributions that Navoiy’s archival institutions have made to the field of archival science, as well as its historical relevance on a regional and national level.

**Keywords:** globalization, archive, society, preservation, development, resolution, state custody, culture.

### 1. Introduction

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, archival work constitutes an integral part of the national cultural heritage and serves as a crucial source for the study of state and societal history. Archival documents function as primary evidence in illuminating the socio-political, economic, and cultural processes of past periods. The Republic of Uzbekistan’s archival system is an important institution that was set up to preserve the history of the country and its people, pass on the documentary legacy to future generations, and offer trustworthy materials for academic research. As a result, Uzbekistan has legal regulations governing the processes for obtaining, preserving, and using archive materials [1].

Preserving historical memory and accurately passing it on to future generations has emerged as a crucial area of state policy in the context of modern globalisation, which makes this study pertinent. Therefore, examining the development of archival work in the Navoi region, integrating existing archival collections into scholarly circulation, and analyzing them enriches the source base for historiography in Uzbekistan. From this perspective, the study of

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the establishment of archival institutions and the practices of document preservation in the Navoi region stands out for its scientific and practical significance. The research is conducted based on documents preserved in the Navoi Regional State Archive and district (city) archival departments, as well as related archival fund records. In addition, the Law “On Archives” and the regulations of the “UzArchive” Agency provide the normative and legal framework for this study [2].

## 2. Research Method

The research methodology is based on studying the archival activities of the Navoi region within a historical and legal context. The study focuses on analyzing archival work during the Soviet period and the years of independence from a chronological perspective. Documents preserved in the Navoi Regional State Archive and its district (city) branches, archival fonds, and normative-legal documents, including the Law “On Archives” and the regulations of the “UzArchive” Agency, serve as the primary sources. Additionally, the processes of scientific classification, preservation, and systematic analysis of archival documents form the practical and theoretical foundation of the study [3].

## 3. Result

The history of the development of archival activities in the Navoi region can be examined from a chronological perspective and divided into two periods:

1. Archival work during the Soviet era[4];
2. Archival work during the years of independence.

Primary sources for researching Uzbekistan’s history during the Soviet era are archival materials. There are currently more than 1.2 million archival units in the Uzbek National Archive, most of which are directly related to the Soviet period. These historical records serve as an invaluable resource for shedding light on the Uzbek SSR’s past, offering crucial information for studying the political, social, and economic facets of Soviet governance, comprehending the actual nature of historical processes, and carrying out unbiased assessments [5].

In Navoiy Region as well, the establishment and functioning of archival activities during the Soviet period followed a distinct historical trajectory. Based on Decree No. 2247-X of April 20, 1982, issued by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, and Resolution No. 3304 of 1982 by the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR, Navoiy Region and its regional institutions were officially established [6]. On the basis of this decree, on October 15 of the same year, the Executive Committee of the Council of People’s Deputies of Navoiy Region adopted Decision No. 249/7, approving the Regulation on the Regional State Archive and its branches. This regulation aimed to develop and improve archival work in the region, ensure the preservation of documents from the USSR State Fund, organize their storage within the Regional State Archive and its branches, and establish procedures for the collection and use of archival materials, thereby formally introducing the “Regulation on the Regional State Archive” [7]. Additionally, the Navoiy Regional Archive Administration planned to have all required instruments and equipment by December 1982. Beginning in January 1983, the Regional Finance Department assigned staffing positions equal to four units for archive personnel at the Qiziltepa, Konimex, and Xatirchi branches. The administration was also entrusted with continuously improving the professional qualifications of its employees and providing methodological guidance for archival activities in its branches [8]. To enhance the efficiency of archival operations and to continuously monitor the preservation quality of

archival documents, the Navoiy Regional Executive Committee, by order of the Archive Administration, established the Methodological Commission of the Navoiy Regional State Archive [9]. The Commission was tasked with addressing scientific and methodological issues arising in the process of preparing normative documents, scholarly-methodological studies, and methodological guidelines necessary to support the main directions of archival activities. Its responsibilities also included ensuring and enhancing the quality at all stages of preparing these normative-legal documents, scholarly-methodological materials, and methodological guidelines, facilitating their implementation, and providing relevant recommendations [10]. The development of the “Regulations on the Regional State Archive” and the establishment of the Commission overseeing archival activities in Navoiy Region laid the foundational framework for the emergence of archival work in the region. Consequently, for the first time, regional archival operations were formally initiated in Navoiy Region.

By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR dated September 6, 1988, Navoiy Region was merged with Samarkand Region, and Navoiy city was incorporated into the territory of Samarkand Region. Consequently, the operations of the Navoiy Regional Archive were reorganized in accordance with this decree, reflecting the administrative restructuring of Navoiy and Samarkand Regions by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR on the same date [11].

The documents compiled by the Navoiy Regional Archive between 1986 and 1988 were incorporated into the “29<sup>th</sup> Archive Department” fund and are also preserved at the Navoiy Regional State Archive [12]. Pursuant to the order of the Navoiy Regional Archive Department dated December 30, 1988, a list of personnel transferred to the Samarkand Regional Archive was compiled. In accordance with Resolution No. 41/2 of the Samarkand Executive Committee of the Council of People’s Deputies dated February 13, 1989, and Order No. 3-P of the Samarkand Regional Archive Department dated February 28, 1989, the operations of the Navoiy Regional State Archive were officially terminated. On May 16, 1989, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR adopted a decree concerning the partial transfer of the borders of Samarkand Region. Based on Resolution No. F-148 of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR dated May 19, 1989, the border districts of Samarkand Region, Nurota, Xatirchi, and Qiziltepa, were transferred to Bukhara Region. Consequently, the city of Navoiy, along with its border units, was incorporated into Bukhara Region. According to Order No. 14 dated May 31, 1989, the employees of the former Navoiy regional economic group, previously accounted for in the bookkeeping of the Samarkand Regional Archive, were transferred to the Bukhara Regional Archive, where they continued their activities under the Navoiy branch of the Navoiy Regional State Archive without receiving a salary.

According to Decision No. 600/21 of the Navoiy Regional Executive Committee dated October 19, 1989, an independent economic group was established based on the Bukhara Regional branch in Navoiy. This group was assigned its own bank account, and salaries began to be paid from November 1989. Consequently, the employees of the economic group transferred from Samarkand Region received their wages for the period of July to October 1989 [13]. As a result, 47 items (partially covering the years 1982–1991) were included in the collection of historical fonds, which included work plans, accounting documents, schedules, payroll-related materials, and a list of records to be permanently preserved. Personal files belonging to archive staff from 1982 to March 1989 were kept under the Navoiy Regional Archive and included in “Fund 29” (the Navoiy Regional Executive Committee’s archival division). These documents are currently preserved in the Navoiy Regional Archive [14].

Following Uzbekistan’s attainment of independence, particular attention was directed toward reorganizing the archival system, placing documents under state protection, and improving the mechanisms for their preservation. In this context, the archival system of Navoiy region also entered a new phase of development. As a result of the region’s reestablishment in 1992, the organizational and legal foundations of the archival sector were newly formulated.

In accordance with Resolution No. 188 dated 27 February 1992 of the Cabinet of Ministers under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Organizational Measures Related to the Reestablishment of Navoiy Region”, the Executive Committee of the People’s Deputies Council of Navoiy Region, by its Resolution No. K-01/3 dated 7 January 1993, established the Navoiy Regional State Archive [15].

Pursuant to this resolution, the Navoiy Regional State Archive was designated as an institution operating within the system of the Navoiy Regional Administration. In addition to the districts of Qiziltepa, Konimex, Tomdi, Nurota, and Xatirchi, the archive also included branches in the cities of Navoiy and Zarafshon. As a result, the region’s archiving system was unified under a single administrative structure.

The first technical and scientific processing of archival records was completed on August 31, 1993, by Decision No. 7 of the Archive Department’s Expertise Commission under the Navoiy Regional Administration. Administrative records from 1982 to 1991 were therefore gathered and sent to the state for preservation. These records, which made up 47 storage units in all, were important resource that provided insight into the social and economic life of the area.

A significant position in the Republic of Uzbekistan’s post-independence history is held by the establishment and growth of archive activity in the Navoiy Region. The archival system had extensive revisions throughout the years of independence, marking the beginning of a new era in document preservation, technical and scientific processing, and governmental custody protection. The 1992–1993 government resolutions made it possible to integrate regional archive efforts into a single system and reinforced the legal underpinnings for planning archival work in the area.

The study’s analysis of archival sources shows that the Navoiy Regional State Archive organised institutional documents, applied scientific classification to them, and introduced contemporary preservation techniques as part of its establishment process. As a result, documents reflecting the economic, social, and cultural life of the 1980s and 1990s were systematically consolidated, thereby enhancing their historical significance.

#### 4. Conclusion and Recommendation

Overall, the establishment of archival institutions and the practice of document preservation in Navoiy Region constitute a distinct stage not only within the regional context but also in the broader history of the development of archival work in Uzbekistan. This process, on the one hand, served to safeguard the historical memory of the independent state, and on the other hand, represents a significant historical phenomenon that enriched the national experience in the field of archival science.

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