

Stevan Dakić

**THE PRACTICE OF ARRANGING AND PROCESSING ARCHIVAL RECORDS
IN THE LIGHT OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLE OF NATURALNESS:
CONCRETE EXAMPLES**

Summary: This paper examines selected aspects of archival practice—above all the challenges archivists face in arranging and processing (arrangement and description of) archival records—through the lens of the principle of naturalness in the philosophies of Laozi and Heraclitus. Drawing on the concepts of *wu wei* in Taoism and *logos* in ancient Greek philosophy, the study asks to what extent contemporary archival approaches follow or disrupt the “natural” image of the flow of history as reflected in archival materials. It therefore explores the extent to which applied methods of arrangement and processing may, often unconsciously, align with philosophical principles of naturalness, thereby enabling a faithful representation of the context, role, and function of the records creator (juridical or natural person) in a given time and historical setting. The paper also considers how departures from the principle of naturalness can fragment the integrated picture of the creating entity, obscure its historical significance, and lead to a loss of meaning, coherence, and narrative flow within its archival records. Building on this historical–philosophical groundwork, the analysis illustrates these phenomena with concrete cases from practice. The aim is not to promote either Eastern or Western philosophy within archival science, but to highlight the compatibility of modern archival principles with selected Heraclitean and Taoist insights and, through practical examples, to indicate the risks of neglecting the principle of naturalness.

Keywords: archival fonds (record group), archival records, arrangement and description (processing), Heraclitus, Laozi (Lao Tzu), Taoism, *logos*, *wu wei*

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